

## Governor interacts with Deputy Commissioners of all districts in Manipur



IT News  
Imphal, Sept 21:

Governor of Manipur & West Bengal, La. Ganesan today virtually interacted with all the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of Manipur. During the interaction, Governor enquired about law & order situations and other major issues in all the districts.

Interacting with the DCs, Governor said, the main purpose of his visits to the

districts is to know the issues and grievances faced by the people. He said, visiting all sub-divisions means is to cover all the Assembly Constituencies in the State and interact with people to know their issues pertaining to their welfare. Representatives of local bodies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and district level officers should be present during meetings so that grievances and appropriate

steps to address the same can be taken up. MLAs should also be invited to attend meetings during his visits to their respective Constituencies, if possible, Governor added.

Emphasizing the need to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB), Governor asked the DCs to take appropriate steps in this regard. He further said that the Centre has set 2025 as the target of eradicating TB, some years ahead of the tar-

get set by World Health Organisation (WHO). Therefore, all stakeholders should work to meet the target. Although, COVID-19 is going out, we should be very careful and appropriate behaviors should be followed, he added.

Earlier, the DCs made brief accounts on law & order and other major issues in their districts. No major law & order issues were reported except with some minor issues in Bishnupur, Kakching, Jiribam and Ukhrul districts. They also informed the Governor about the arrangements which are being made for his proposed visits to their districts in the coming months.

Governor also thanked the DCs for their efforts in maintaining law & order and handling administrative works smoothly. Secretary to Governor Bobby Waikhom also attended the meeting.

## Colonial mindset of the people still exist among the people – Prof. MC Arun



IT News  
Imphal, Sept 21:

The Lamyamba Irabot Ningsing Thouram observation committee (LINTOC) observed Lamyamba Irabot Ningsing thouram at the theme “Phurupshing mari amasung manipurigi tungchamchhat” under the aegis of the Protection and Preservation Committee (PPCM) at Singjam community hall.

During the observance, Prof. MC Arun expressed that enmities among the various communities were the outcome of the British colonial rule who were connected after 7 years of devastation in Manipur. The colonial mindset was injected by the British. This mindset has changed the thinking process of each community, making each and every person assume that “the grass is greener on the other side.”

The idea of Lamgi Sanna Machi Sangee (the grass is greener on the other side) was groomed among our community after the coming of the British colonial rule in the past 7 years of devastation in Manipur.

What matters is that the colonial mindset of the time has not been de-colonized. It does not matter if one artificially merges Manipur into another; it is also everybody's right to make sure that we have a democratically elected government. But what needs to be pondered is how to remove the colonial mindset from each of us. This was because the colonial mindset had taught us that we were not the owners of our own land. People have almost been hypnotised to accept the idea that they have the right to think freely and act accordingly for the good of society.

Weightage is given to those various forms outside

the state. Many today blame Santidas Gosai, but how many Shantidas Gosai are there? Today, we have lost our courage to question this, and this has led all of us to consider our neighbours as enemies.

Khonthoujam Thoiba, Convenor PPCM, told the media that he remembered the work of Irabot, the memorial of Hijam Irabot, and its constituent organisations for many years. Irabot stands out alone as the one and only leader who fought for the toiling, oppressed mass. He was a poet, a dramatist, a journalist, and a revolutionary to the core. In the modern politics of Manipur, Irabot is a legend. A leader had waged a political war against British colonial rule and then, later, against the feudalistic nature of the Maharajah and the ruling capitalist class of Manipur and later against the Union of India.

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## Union Minister RK Ranjan inaugurates first-ever floating photo exhibition

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 21:

The first ever “floating” photo exhibition in Manipur organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Central Bureau of Communication Regional Office, Imphal, Manipur kicked off at the Loktak Lake today. The novel exhibition is housed on a specially constructed floating platform on the Lake, and can be accessed by a wooden causeway from the shore. This is the first-time that such an arrangement has been attempted by the Central Bureau of Communication in its history of over 50 years. Cultural items by departmental artists and private



troupes of CBC, RO, Imphal were also performed on a floating stage constructed specially for the event. In addition, a dance by actual fishermen and fisherwomen of the communities around the lake, on boats, was performed.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Education Dr RK Ranjan inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of B Narayanan, Director General (NEZ), Guwahati of Ministry of Information & Broadcast-

ing, Government of India and Tongbram Robindro Singh, chairman of MSPDCL, Government of Manipur, Bhuvan Chandra Joshi IG BSF and Hima Joshi President Rastriya Hindu Vahini among other dignitaries.

As many as 88 Manipuri language creatives of “Eight years of Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan” and around creatives of 11 unsung Manipuri freedom fighters are being displayed in the exhibition, which is open to the public till Friday evening.

In his speech, the Union Minister said that the exhibition showcasing the mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will probably be the first ever floating exhibition in the globe.

Dr Ranjan said such an exhibition will be able to inspire all while highlighting various achievements during the eight years tenure of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of the country.

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## One NSCN-IM cadre joined ZUF

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 21:

One cadre of the NSCN-IM has joined the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF).

According to a press release issued by John Pamei, Secretary of Information and Publicity, Zeliangrong United Front, the ZUF is well pleased to acknowledge the joining of a cadre from NSCN-IM by the name of Capt. Joy Gomei with arms to the fold and family of Zeliangrong United Front. His bold and right decision to come out clear and accept the root cause of Zeliangrong people's movement is highly appreciated.

The Front opens its doors wide for those sincere youth and cadres from other factions who are thinking of joining the genuine cause of the Zeliangrong political movement.

## Total statewide bandh partially affects normalcy in Manipur

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 21:

Many parts of the Imphal valley were a deserted look and normal life was partially disturbed due to bandh called by a proscribed outfit National Revolutionary Front of Manipur (NRFM). The NRFM called total statewide bandh in opposition to the Manipur Merger Agreement of September 21, 1949.

Almost all shops and private establishment remained closed in Imphal valley. And the streets witnessed only few vehicles.

The NRFM had issued the bandh call on September 18, stating that “all the rights of Manipur were forfeited” on September 21, 1949.

No untoward incidents were reported so far and the bandh was peaceful till the filing of this report.

Business establishments

and shops remained closed, while few private vehicles were seen on the roads.

Schools remained closed and government offices registered thin attendance.

No untoward incident has been reported till 2.30 pm, police said.

Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, and Bishnupur districts lie in the Imphal valley.

The impact of the bandh is less in the hill areas of the state.

## RPF announces capital punishment to two rapists

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 19:

Proscribed group Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) has announced capital punishment to two rapists.

A statement by Assistant Secretary, Publicity of the RPF, Bankim said that the RPF is shocked on the news report appeared on September 20 at media in connection with the rape of young girl at gun point in front of her father at Takhel Sanjenbam in Imphal East. The RPF statement said that the rapist Khangembam Sanjoy Singh @ Athoi @ Pambei (28 yrs) S/O Kh. Manglemba Singh, Kumbi Setapur, Maning Leikai had approached the RPF three months back to enroll himself as a cadre. Before taking him the said person has been closely monitored. On one



occasion due to security problem a 9 mm pistol of the RPF cadre was handed over to him.

On the other hand, Leishangthem Khomei (53yrs), S/O (late) L. Bidhu Singh Haraorok Mayai Lekai, Imphal East, who was detained in connection with a rape case of 2018 was not re-

lated with the RPF or its armed wing PLA.

Both the accused of the rape crime had not only ruined the life of two young girls but also maligned the image of the RPF. As per the law of the RPF both the rapists will be awarded capital punishment, the RPF vows.

## Doctors, Nurses and staffs protest intimidation by gunman

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 19:

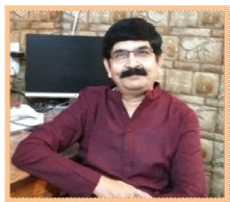
The Teachers and Medical Officers Association, RIMS, Imphal strongly condemned the manner in which the healthcare providers of Casualty, RIMS Hospital were intimidated by a

patient party using a small firearm on the evening of September 20, 2022.

While the medical community of the whole country has been appealing to all to make hospitals a violence-free zone, the occurrence of such violence in a tertiary care hospital in the

state is very unfortunate. The association appeals to all to make RIMS Hospital a violence-free zone and book the culprit under the “The Manipur Medicare Service Personnel and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2015”.

## Spread awareness about the brain tumour



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

There are lots of myths and misconception about brain tumor among the general population and we take this opportunity to discuss some basic facts. The goal of the German Brain Tumour Association is to find a cure for tumours of the brain. The association supports science and research especially in the field of neuro-oncology and facilitates the international transfer of knowledge. As most of the brain tumor initially present with very non-specific complaints, early diagnosis by a neurosurgeon or neuro physician helps plan further management in initial stages of the disease. A brain tumour can be a life-threatening disease but completely treatable. Some of the common treatments of brain tumour include surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, anti-seizure medication, steroid treatment, etc. Heredity also plays a role in the development of tumour. If a person's relatives have a history of cancer, then that person has a higher risk of developing tumour. Genetic variations, particularly those influencing how the body responds to carcinogens, may create a greater vulnerability to cancer.

The incidence and prevalence of brain tumour is growing in India. According to a study on childhood cancer, brain tumour is commonest in girls and even in both sexes in adults although there is some variation amongst states. The brain tumours may produce symptoms that vary depending on the part of the brain they begin. Some common symptoms are headaches, seizures, problem with vision, vomiting, and mental changes. Patient may feel headache and vomiting in the morning. More specific problems may include difficulty in walking, speaking and sensation.

Government of India has introduced National Cancer Control Programme with the objectives of prevention, screening, early detection, diagnosis and treatment including palliative care in end stage.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has suggested limiting mobile phone use and encourages the use of a hand-free headset for both adults and children to limit the risk of developing a brain tumour. Brain health is about keeping your mind active, feeding it plenty of nutrients and oxygen, and reducing risk factors that can harm the brain. Chronic conditions that affect our overall physical health – like diabetes, heart disease or high blood pressure, can affect our brain health. Cutting out bad habits like smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, eating a healthy balanced diet and getting plenty of physical activity can all help to boost our brain health and potentially reduce our risk of dementia and other conditions in the long-term.

Right treatment for brain tumor, however, needs a multi-disciplinary approach including intensive rehabilitation and post operative care, which is rarely available under a single roof.

## The Universe is Constantly Expanding



By: Vijay GarG

In this era of advanced technology, research and discovery about the earth and the universe has been going on for many decades. Despite this, scientists say that there is much that remains to be discovered. Meanwhile, scientists know a lot about their world, but now they have gradually become convinced of a world which is completely opposite to our world. About fourteen billion years ago there was no universe, only darkness. Suddenly a point arose. Then that point started rolling in. This explosion started inside the point itself. Then due to the mutual collision of protons inside, immense energy was created.

The explosion turned into a big blast. The universe continued to be created from these great explosions. Even today, great explosions keep happening in the universe. In this way the universe is continuously expanding. This is the Big Bang theory. The universe is constantly expanding and the speed of its expansion is accelerating. All the planets and stars and galaxies are moving away from each other. This mystery has been unsolved for the last two decades as to what is it that has led to this expansion. It continues and its pace is accelerating. Scientists are trying to understand the speed of this expansion in a number of ways, which can help them find answers to many unresolved questions such as the age, structure and expansion of the universe. Astronomers at the University of Chicago have suggested a new method for understanding the evolution of the universe called spectral sirens, in which they can understand the ancient universe through the collision of black holes. It is said about the black hole that it is a place where information also disappears, yet scientists have found many through these indirect methods, it has been successful in extracting such information, which can be known about the history of the universe.

In a new study, two astronomers have developed a method by which pairs of colliding black holes can be used to measure the speed of the expansion of the universe. This will allow us to know from where our universe evolved, from what it was formed and where it is going. What is the rate of expansion of the universe, this remains the biggest question and the subject of debate. It is defined by the Hubble constant is calculated, but different methods are used for its calculation, resulting in different quantities. Scientists are also looking for alternative ways to resolve this dispute. The accuracy of this number can answer questions about the age of the universe, its history and structures. The new study proposes a new method of this calculation, in which the celestial vibrations produced by the collision of black holes can be measured by special detectors. When two black holes collide, they everywhere in the universe, a vibration spreads in the 'Akasha-Kaal'.

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## Women Empowerment through Skills Development

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

*"You can tell the condition of a Nation by looking at the status of its women" – Pandit Nehru*

According to Brigham (1801-1877), if you educate a man, you educate that man only but if you educate women then you educate a generation. The Indian Constitution provides same platform for both male and female. Article 14 of the Indian Constitution views that state shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection by the laws within the territory of India. Women form a significant proportion of work force in India. The census 2011, counts women population @ 48.5% of the total population in India. In the changing dynamics of the society women empowerment is much relevant and very important. Equal opportunities and facilities are available to all. But in reality all women do not get equal status. Women empowerment is largely depend on three factors i.e., their economic, social and political identity. Women can be truly empowered only when all these three factors are made positive and compatible to each other. Again all these three factors are correlated with skill development. Various awareness programmes among the women for development are taken by India government and other social workers in this field for which present picture has become better. According to the Annual Report for the year ended 2017 which was issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, total number of establishment owned and managed by women entrepreneurs were 8.05 million and 34.3% out of such establishment belong to agricultural activities. Women entrepreneurship can be upgraded by increasing their skill and promoting their entrepreneurial qualities.

Women participation and empowerment are fundamental women's rights to enabling women to have control over their lives and put forth influence in society. Women often face discrimination and gender inequalities, with some women experiencing multiple discrimination and exclusion because of factors such as background and caste. Skill is the bridge between job and workforce.

Women often have different training needs than men. Since they are more likely to work as contributing family workers, subsistence farmers, home-based micro entrepreneurs or low-paid seasonal laborers, in addition to handling their domestic work and care responsibilities. Skill development is a key to improving household productivity, employability and income-earning opportunities for women and also for enhancing sustainable rural development and livelihoods.

The key strategy for women's empowerment and gender equality is to combine policy and institutions at the local level. Empowerment of women is necessary for socio-economic development of any country. Women helps in better development of children and hence an increase in their literacy rate among them is the need of the hour. Women if given the opportunities and the right exposure can excel themselves in any field. Since girls and women represent 50% of the world population, enabling them to participate in their local economics help broaden the employment pool. The aim of skill development, particularly in case of women, is not only to prepare them for jobs, but also to improve the performance of women workers by enhancing the quality of work in which they are engaged. There are few major challenges, which need to be addressed for building a conducive ecosystem, of skill development for the women workforce. It has become very important to ensure women empowerment through skill development in the development programmes and thereby strive to have a conducting atmosphere for their effective participation.

India's demographic curve arches towards the young. In developed countries, the working population is decreasing due to ageing factors. However, India's median age is merely 28 years. Viewed from an economic lens, a younger workforce translates to an advantage, energizing fast-paced development and growth. But even as a section of India's youth propels the country towards becoming a global power, many are left behind in the process.

The participation of women in the country's workforce has been woefully inadequate, and this need to change for India to reap its demographic dividend. Capacitating our women is also the key to generational social transformation. While 37.1% of youth are in the labour force, there is a large difference between the participation rate of men (57.1%) and that of women (12.7%). India's jagged labour structure and gender disparity means that 3 out of every 4 women do not take part in any recognized economic activity. In such a scenario, when more than half of our youth do not participate in the formal labour force, it is difficult to realize India's demographic advantage. One solution to narrow the gender gap in India's labour force is to focus on the country's 253 million youth, of which 48.5 per cent are young women. Why is this mandate? Because, women in the workforce not only means a more powerful economy, but also lasting social change and welfare. Gender equity and the consequent "opportunity to work" trickles down to eradicating injustice, disparities and deep-seated disadvantages of women in Indian homes. Here lies the root to a better future for all.

**Empowerment of women is a critical part of a nation's development and it is a balanced equation of her education, health, employability and decision-making power.** Availability of agency and removal of constraints faced by women is imperative for sustainable and equitable development of both the community as well as the nation. India needs to adopt a gendered lens in education and skill development to overcome the challenges of an under represented section of youth in the workforce, as well as support women in securing and retaining jobs. An increasing number of women hold degrees, but still have no jobs. Women unemployment rates increased to 65 per cent in 2018 from 46 per cent in 2005. This suggests that there are other issues to be addressed – literacy does not translate into relevant skills for employment and there exist social, historical and cultural hindrances. Empower-

ment of women, which can, to an extent be addressed by integrating life skills coaching into skilling programs, and interfacing with their families and communities to change backward mindsets - are critical aspects of helping women reach their potential. One of the most common obstacles for women to enter employment is the stereotypical gender biases, which put women at a disadvantage compared to men. Covid further exacerbated this situation, having a disproportionate impact on working women. The convergence of gender, poverty and marginalisation has played out during the pandemic, to render women, and specific categories amongst them, especially weakened.

Innovative thinking and social restructuring needs to be undertaken to make a shift by bringing young females to formal education and training programmes and, thereby, workforce. Raising women participation in the labour force can boost India's GDP by 27 per cent (WEF). The use of technology, promotion of incubation space, funding opportunities and setting up of up skilling centers would nudge women to participate in the ongoing fourth industrial revolution. However, as data exposes, only 35 per cent of Indian women are active internet users. It should be taken into consideration that skilling programs today need to enable access and include digital training, aiming to become equalisers bridging the digital divide. In addition to vocational training, foundational and 21st-century skills are crucial to empower women in building a strong base for employment. Programmes such as those by NSDC, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Sewa Bharat, 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign and TheNudge Centre for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (CSDE) take such a holistic approach to skilling and employment. Empowerment of women requires strong efforts on multiple fronts for true financial and social inclusion.

(Writer can be reached to: [sjgugeshwor7@gmail.com](mailto:sjgugeshwor7@gmail.com))

## International Day of Peace and Environmental Conservation



By: N. Munal Meitei

The 21st September is the International Day of Peace since 1981 with this year's theme, 'End Racism. Build Peace'. This day dedicates to strengthen the ideals of peace through non-violence and cease-fire. The United Nations also wants to address against the hate speech and violence directed at racial minorities and to strengthen the peace around the world.

The first and most serious tragedy of any armed conflict is its direct effects with heavy burden of civilian and military casualties. Along with the victims directly caused by firearms, there are all those who suffer from the indirect effects of war, refugees escaping the war, impoverishment of disputed areas with ensuing increases in unemployment, malnutrition, mortality rates and the collapse of institutions and all related services - from security to education and health. Despite less attention, there are also environmental consequences, ranging from pollution due to materials contained in weaponry to the abandon-

ment of sites that become themselves dangerous. In reality, these indirect consequences often cause more deaths in the long run than the war itself and the climatic and environmental effects of any conflict is least highlighted.

The war is also a multiplier of environmental disasters. But above all, there is unfortunately the jewel in the crown of environmental issues; the climate crisis. It could be said that global warming is both the cause and consequence of wars. It is a cause because the deterioration in climate issues acts as the origin of conflicts, increasing disputes over water, arable land and hydrocarbons. It is also a consequence because the global military is a giant pollution emitter.

According to the Environmental Performance Index, even before the Russian invasion launched in February 2022, Ukraine ranked low on environmental indicators like air quality, biodiversity richness and ecosystem health. So after the war the environmental situation in Ukraine will probably be worse than ever. In this war, as per the UN High Commission for Human Rights, among 5827 civilians casualties, 375 are children and 8,421 injured as on 11, 2022 from the military activities. The use of explosive weapons in populated areas also creates pollution from building materials including asbestos, metals and combustion products. Targeting these places provokes a lot of waste which can lead to soil and groundwater pollution and in turn to health problems for humans.

Now, we face a planetary emergency. A compound environmental crisis and a darkening security horizon are feeding each other in dangerous ways. Further these crises deepen and intertwine, the harder they will be to solve. In addition to these problems the weapons used during this war will raise the carbon footprint in the region. It will lock more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere putting us at a higher risk of climate change and related disasters.

At the same time the urgently needed transition to a zero carbon green economy is fraught with risks.

Indicators of insecurity such as the number of conflicts, the number of hungry people and military expenditure are rising; so are indicators of environmental decline, climate change, biodiversity, pollution and other areas. In combination, the security and environmental crises are creating compound, cascading, emergent, systemic and existential risks.

This fundamental change is seen clearly in the character of victims. It had been estimated that during the First World War, more than 85% of the dead were soldiers. But in our times, 90% of those who die are civilians – more frequently women and children caught in the crossfire between fighting forces whose ultimate goal is no longer territorial conquest but rather societal disruption. This suggests that despite the best efforts of politicians and humanitarian groups, war and public health remain inherently at odds affecting humans and natural habitat.

Due to arms conflicts in Manipur, there are about 20,000 gun windows in the state. The burden of armed conflicts also often carries the places where the environment is already under a great deal of stress. The use of bombs, chemical and biological weapons as well as the use of depleted uranium, leaves its marks to the infrastructure, agriculture, forests and biodiversity as well as to the lives of the people living in the stage of those events for a long period of time.

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# Ratan Tata, former SC judge among newly appointed trustees of PM CARES Fund

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 21:

Eminent personalities, including industrialist and TATA Sons chairman emeritus Ratan Tata, former Supreme Court judge KT Thomas, and former deputy Lok Sabha speaker Kariya Munda have been nominated as trustees of the PM CARES Fund, the government said in an official statement on Wednesday.

The announcement came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the board of trustees meeting that was attended by the newly appointed members, along with Union home minister Amit Shah and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"Prime Minister welcomed the trustees for becoming an integral part of the PM CARES Fund," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement. Sitharaman and Shah are the other trustees.

Former Comptroller and Auditor General Rajiv Mehrishi, former Infosys



Foundation chairperson Sudha Murthy and Teach for India co-founder Anand Shah have been nominated into the advisory board of the Fund.

"Prime Minister said that participation of new trustees and advisors will provide wider perspectives to the functioning of the PM CARES Fund," the statement said.

The trustees acknowledged the contribution made by the fund during crucial

times, including the PM CARES for Children scheme that supports 4,345 kids.

"It was discussed that PM CARES has a larger vision on effectively responding to emergency and distress situations, not only through relief assistance, but also taking mitigation measures and capacity building," it added.

The PM CARES Fund was created as part of emergency relief measures during the

Covid-19 pandemic that broke out in 2020. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson and all contributions are fully exempt from income tax.

Among its initiatives are the PM CARES for Children, launched on May 29 last year to support children who lost both their parents, legal guardians, adoptive parents or surviving parents to the Covid-19 outbreak between 11 March 2020 and 28 February 2022.

# India logs 4,510 fresh Covid-19 infections, Active caseload in country declines to 46,216

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 21:

India reported 4,510 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, according to an update by the Union health ministry on Wednesday. As a result, active cases currently stand at 46,216. The active caseload comprise 0.10 per cent of the total infections.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.33% while the weekly positivity rate was at 1.80%.

The country conducted 3,39,994 Covid tests in the last 24 hours, with the total number of tests conducted so far at 89.23 crore.

The data shows that 5,640 recoveries were recorded in the last 24 hours, taking the tally of recoveries so far since the onset of the pandemic in early 2020

to 4,39,72,980. The recovery rate currently stands at 98.71%.

Under the nationwide vaccination drive, India's cumulative vaccination coverage has exceeded 216.95 crore. Of all the doses administered, 94.70 crore were second doses and 19.81 crore precautionary.

The central government has provided more than 203.29 crore (2,03,29,46,125) vaccine doses have been provided to States/UTs so far through Government of India free of cost channel and through direct state procurement category.

As per the Ministry, more than 3.64 crore (3,64,25,100) balance and unutilized Covid vaccine doses are still available with the States/UTs to be administered.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that the coronavirus pandemic

remains a global emergency, however, it said, the end of it could be in sight. It also stated that the end could be of Covid-19 could be nearer if countries use the tools at their disposal.

The statement from the WHO came after US President Joe Biden declared "the pandemic is over" in an interview aired on Sunday.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had also announced that the World Health Organization is releasing six short policy briefs that outline the key actions that all governments must take now to "finish the race".

The policy briefs are a summary, based on the evidence and experience of the last 32 months, outlining what works best to save lives, protect health systems, and avoid social and economic disruption.

# NIA arrests senior CPI (Maoist) from West Bengal

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Sept 21:

CPI (Maoist) activist Samrat Chakraborty (37) alias "Nilkamal Sikdar" was arrested by the Guwahati wing of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from Sodepur near Kolkata in West Bengal, in a case related to setting up units of the outlawed group in Assam. NIA said in a statement on Tuesday.

The CPI (Maoist) has been designated as a terrorist organisation in India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act since 2009.

Chakraborty, a resident of Seth Bagan Road, North 24 Parganas district, was arrested from Mahispatha, near



Senior Maoist leader was arrested by the NIA from Kolkata. (Inset: Samrat Chakraborty).

Narayana School on the Kalyani Expressway. He was known by many aliases such as "Amit, Argha, Nirmal, and Nirman". The arrest was made following a lead that he was camping somewhere in the Nadia district.

Samrat was shifting from Nadia to North 24-Parganas for the last few days and his phone was switched off frequently, making it difficult for officials to zero in on him. On Monday, the NIA officials tracked him down to a godown on Kalyani Expressway, an artery that connects Kalyani in Nadia to Birati in North 24 Parganas, and arrested him, officials sources said.

He was entrusted with the responsibility of spreading the network in districts like Calcutta, Nadia, Murshidabad, and Malda of West Bengal in 2011. In 2016 he shifted to Assam. But he returned to WB and took shelter in parts of Nadia and North 24-Parganas. His role was restricted to grooming young recruits and preparing them for an armed rebellion.

Samrat again went to Assam to spread the network, particularly in the tea gardens of the northeastern states. His area included the pockets of Cachar, Karimganj, Dibrugarh, and Dhubri districts in Assam and he used to work in tandem with veteran Maoist leader Arun Kumar Bhattacharjee (alias "Jyotish", "Kabir, "Kanak" and "Kanchan da"). After Bhattacharjee was arrested, Samrat returned to Kolkata early this year and went into hiding.

The NIA said the case (No RC-01/2022/NIA/GUW) is related to the arrest of Bhattacharjee who was a central committee member, and an ideologue and strategist of the CPI (Maoist). He was assigned the task to establish CPI (Maoist) organization in Assam and to further spread the roots of the group in the state in general and the north-east in particular. The NIA on September 02, filed a charge sheet against six arrested accused, including Bhattacharjee, in the special NIA court in Guwahati.

"Further investigations in the case revealed that accused Chakraborty was an active member of CPI (Maoist) organization based in West Bengal. He was a linkman in clandestine communication between the top hierarchy of CPI (Maoist) organization and Bhattacharjee, who was operating from his hideout in Assam," the NIA stated.

## Passport Lost

I have lost my Passport, bearing No. J9546874, issued on 31/05/2012 and Expired on 30/05/2022 the way between Thoubal Bazar to Wanging on 16th September, 2022.

Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Nongthombam Nirmala Devi  
Thoubal Sabantongba Mayai Leikai  
#8787382816.

# NPF leader asks for resumption of oil exploration in Nagaland state

Agency  
Kohima, Sept 21:

Naga People's Front (NPF) Kuzholuzo Nieniu leader has urged for resumption of petroleum exploration in Nagaland.

On the first day of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) session, on Tuesday, Nieniu said the special status that Nagaland enjoys under Article 371A has led to conflicts between land own-

ers, civil societies, the state government, oil companies and even the Government of India (GoI).

He recalled a resolution passed by the NLA in 2010, conferring itself with the power to make laws and regulations concerning the oil and gas sector. Narrating the events in chronological order, Nieniu said the Nagaland Petroleum and Natural Gas, Rules and Regulations (NPNRGR) was passed by the NLA in 2012

wherein the Nagaland government issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) for 11 oil and gas blocks in Nagaland.

However, the Centre termed the NPNRGR 2012 as unconstitutional and invalid, citing that the oil and gas sector comes under the Union List.

"Nevertheless, the government of Nagaland awarded the Champo block to the MOGP, an oil company, which resulted in the Lotha Hoho filing a PIL

in the Kohima Bench of the Guwahati High Court," he said.

The matter between the state government and the Lotha Hoho was then resolved with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Nieniu said that since November 2018, when the Kohima Bench of the Guwahati High Court filed a Suo Moto Case against NPNRGR 2012, all hope of exploration and production activities of oil and gas in the state stopped.

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# International Day of Peace and Environmental....

Military machinery and the use of explosives causes deforestation. Due to the conflicts in Cambodia, 35% of the country's forests had been destroyed. Bombing in

Vietnam destroyed over 2 million acres of forests. This year as a result of Russia-Ukraine war both countries lost more than 27,000 ha of forests. Ukraine take 35% of Europe's Biodiversity and there are over 70,000 rare

and endangered flora and fauna. 16% of Ukraine is covered by Forests and now 20,000 ha have been lost by bombing causing carbon footprints.

During armed conflicts the ecosystem services are often the least thing in people's minds. However, history has repeatedly shown that deterioration of the nature could also be a catalyst for war. It can bring people together to solve a com-

mon problem for the benefit of everybody. Instead of fighting over scarce natural resources and worsening the current situation, people can collaborate each other to improve the quality of the environment and reap the harvest of their efforts.

Communities and nations can build confidence with each other through joint effort to improve the state and management of natural resources. En-

vironmental co-operation can thereby act as an important tool for preventing conflicts and war and promoting peace between communities and countries.

In conclusion, it is clear that wars never bring good things. It only brings a huge amount of deaths, broken dreams, destroyed cities and nature. And it also brings a huge impact on the global climate crisis. The war leads to potentially poison-

ous water, soil where humans used to grow plants unsafe to use, air full of toxic gases and particles and destroying huge areas of natural forests. Yet, beyond that the most immediate need is for wars to be stopped because it is taking us, humans and our environment, to a deadly destruction.

(The author is a Environmentalist, Email: nmunall@yahoo.in)

# The Universe is Constantly....

On Earth, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in the US and the Vargo Observatory in Italy can capture these vibrations, which are called gravitational waves. Over the years, LIGO and Vargo have collected data on collisions of about ten black hole pairs. The information about the mass of the black hole is hidden in these waves. But due to the expansion of the universe, the properties of these waves change along the way. If scientists can measure the change in these waves so they can also find out the rate of expansion of the universe. Yet there is a problem here as to how to know how much the signal has changed originally. In the new paper, Jose Maria Iziaga and Daniel Holz suggest that they can base new information on the entire population of black holes

and compare them to future changes to determine the rate of expansion of the universe. This method will reveal the age of the universe when the so-called 'dark matter' started dominating the universe. This information Scientists have a special interest in the study of time. As more information is obtained from the black hole, the accuracy of this method will also increase.

For this we need thousands of signals, which may take a couple of decades, and by then this method will become a very powerful tool for learning about the universe. In addition to black holes, rapid research is also going on dark matter and anti-matter. But they still remain mysterious. Whatever is visible is matter. Matter means matter. Antimatter is believed to be vis-

ible, but dark is the power of matter. Scientists are still engaged in the discovery of what dark matter is. It is believed that ninety-five percent of space is made up of dark matter and dark energy. Dark matter acts as an attractive force, a kind of cosmic mortar, that holds our world together. This is because dark matter interacts with gravity, yet does not reflect, absorb or emit light. Dark energy is a repulsive force, a type of anti-gravity, which slows down the expansion of the universe. It is estimated that about twenty-three percent is dark matter. Antimatter has no power at all, but dark matter is everywhere.

According to scientists, dark matter and dark energy are the only link, which has tied this entire universe in an orderly manner. Dark matter is made up

of substances that neither emit, absorb, or reflect light. For this reason it has not been possible to see it yet. Chasing stars in search of galaxies. Scientists discovered dark matter. But they could never gather correct information about it. It turned out that all the galaxy's planets, stars and constellations are stable due to the binding force of gravity. But on calculation it was found that the gravitational force is not enough to hold the galaxy. Meaning there is some other unknown thing, which is holding them. Otherwise, the gravitational force would have weakened by now and all the planets, constellations, stars would have deviated from their orbits. This thinking gave strength to the concept of dark matter. Dark matter itself giving mass to this universe.

In this era of advanced tech-

nology, research and discovery about the earth and the universe has been going on for many decades. Despite this, scientists say that there is much that remains to be discovered. Meanwhile, scientists know a lot about their world, but now they have gradually become convinced of a world which is completely opposite to our world. This theory is explained in detail in the journal Annals of Physics. Researchers also say that in this world the neutrons would be moving from the right side. To prove the point of this world, scientists are testing mass neutrons. If they succeed in this project, then it will be proved to be a thing of the other world. Scientists also do not rule out the possibility that like our world, there is a world where the wheel of time moves in reverse.

# Health minister laid foundation stone for the construction of 50-Bedded Sub-District Hospital, Trauma Centre and Amusement Park

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 21:

Health & IPR Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh has laid foundation stone for the construction of a Trauma Centre at CHC, Nungba, a 50-Bedded Sub-District Hospital and an Amusement Park at Rangpang, Longmai in Noney District, yesterday.

Speaking as Chief Guest, Minister Ranjan said that primary health care system needs to be focused and improved. Without strengthening primary health care, tertiary health care system will hardly be able to be improved. The government is trying to improve overall health care system in the state. All the sections under medical department need to join hands and work with dedication for bringing a change in this sector, he informed.

Minister maintained that the government has launched many health care schemes at the state



and central level. TB Mukh Bharat, PMJAY, Ayushman Bharat Abhiyan, Chief Minister's Hakshel for All, CMHA etc. are some of the examples which may be cited. The government has set 2025 as target for complete elimination of TB disease from the country which is five years ahead of the WHO target, he added.

Minister also assured for the construction of buildings at those areas where there is no physical building at Primary Health Centres in Noney Dis-

tricts. He also assured that required machines and equipment of the CHC and PHCs in Noney District will be provided on priority basis, he added.

He appealed to all the concerned medical professionals and staffs to serve the public with dedication and sincerity. Minister also advised to maintain and keep the hospital and its surroundings need and clean. He also added that the staffs need to have the sense of belongingness.

Chairman Hills Area Commit-

tee, MLA Dipu Gangmei, Director, Health Services Manipur, Dr. Kh. Sasheekumar Mangang, Director NHM, Manipur Dr. Somorjit Ningombam graced the occasion as President and Guests of Honour respectively. Officials and staffs of Medical Directorate and NHM, Manipur, CSOs of Noney Districts and others also attended the occasion.

Later, Minister inspected the present status of the CHC, Noney and also interacted with the staffs.

# One day training programme held by Relief and Disaster Management department at Senapati

IT News  
Senapati, Sept 21:

The Directorate of Relief and Disaster Management, Government of Manipur has successfully organised one day programme on Disaster Management, Basic Search & Rescue, First Aid, Fire Fighting and Landslide etc. at Multipurpose Hall near DC Office,

Senapati.

In today's programme, Makakmayum Riyazul Haque, District Coordinator, Dr. Bankimchandra Thokchom, Indian Red Cross Society, Secretary, Imphal West and 2 persons from SDRF teams were the resource person. During the programme, they highlighted on basic concept of Disaster Management and

demonstrated with hand on training were given on First-aid, CPR, Ropes & Bandages, Emergency Method of Rescue and Fire Safety measures so that immediate action may be taken in any circumstances.

The training was actively participated by various DLO's and its staffs, police personnel, Youth volunteers and various organisation leaders.

# SFs apprehends one Self Styled Major of PLA

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 21:

Loktak Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police apprehended one active Self

Styled Major of PLA from Moirang, Bishnupur district, on September 20, 2022.

Based on specific input, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched a joint operation which led to the

apprehension.

The insurgent was reportedly involved in various anti national activities to include recruitment of youths, IED threats to Security Forces and extortion from local populace in the region.

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# Union Minister RK Ranjan....

India producing two vaccines against COVID-19 within nine months was one of the significant achievements of the country under the leadership of the Prime Minister, he stated.

Besides, India is the country having the highest number of people vaccinated against COVID-19. The country is also supplying the vaccines free of cost to the neighbouring countries, the Union Minister added.

The Union minister said that the freedom struggle history of the country will not be a complete one without includ-

ing the contributions of the unsung heroes of the freedom struggle.

Keeping this in mind, the Central government is working on a composite history of freedom struggle, not a dynasty-based history and the Centre would like to include names of at least 100 freedom fighters from the northeast region of the country, he said.

Delivering his speech as guest of honour of the inaugural function, MSPDCL chairman T. Robinro Singh thanked the Union ministry of information & broadcasting for

organizing the exhibition. The exhibition will remind the people of the history of the freedom struggle. Organizing such an exhibition will help instill the spirit of patriotism to the youths, he said.

Director General (NEZ) B Narayanan, informed that the floating exhibition inaugurated today is aimed at attracting the youth with its novelty and innovativeness. The DG also said that more unsung heroes of the freedom struggle from Manipur will be displayed in the upcoming exhibition under the initiative of the bureau.

# Colonial mindset of the people....

The observation was attended by Maibam Bisheor, convener PPCM, Khonthoujam Thoiaba, convener of the Lamyanba Irabot ningsing thouram observation committee (LINTOC), Kh Gopen Luwang, co-convener (LINTOC),

Ashang Kasar, President Indigenous Peoples Forum, Ahmang Serto, President Komaren Union Manipur, and Alhal Anshad Besheimayum, co-convener of the Maipak Ningthou committee as praesidium members. During the observance, Prof Mc Arun, De-

partment of Anthropology, Manipur University, Dr Thiyam Bhorot, Associate Professor (CSSEIP) , Kakchingtabam Gunachandra, Consultant Irabot Foundation Manipur, and Prof N Joykumar, Retd Prof, Department of History, Manipur University, as resource persons.

# NSCN-IM to resume peace talks with Centre

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 21:

Insurgent group NSCN-IM and government representatives will resume their peace talks here on Wednesday to find a permanent solution to the Naga issue.

A day before resuming dialogue with the government, NSCN-IM said the outfit stands by its demand for unification of Naga inhabited areas and a separate flag, and these are "non-negotiable".

In an editorial in its mouthpiece 'Nagalim Voice', the NSCN-IM also said it is "ironic" to point out that

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "who loves to advertise" his achievements, is expected to take the Naga issue to a logical conclusion as the stalled Indo-Naga talks pick up the threads with a focus on the Framework Agreement (FA) and formulated papers.

The editorial said seven years ago, when Modi took the initiative to supervise the "high-profile" FA signing ceremony on August 3, 2015 at his residence, it generated much hype and hope going by the tone of his highly enchanting speech.

The prime minister took

pride in announcing to all political leaders who mattered that he has solved the longest surviving insurgency in Southeast Asia. Going beyond that, the ceremony was telecast live all over the world to put on record his achievement in solving the Naga issue, it said.

"Modi cannot simply shy away from the Naga issue but have a relook through the prism of the Framework Agreement at his own political brainchild. The credit he has taken in bringing about the FA should be unerringly interpreted to take forward in solving the Naga issue," the editorial said.

rial said.

The stand of the NSCN-IM on the FA has been distinctly stated time and again. The May 31, 2022 decision of the (Naga) "National Assembly" and the solemn declaration (resolution) adopted on August 26, 2022 by the Naga National Workers of NSCN from Nagaland reaffirming "one people, one nation" and to stand by the FA is on record, it said.

"The unifying principle of 'one people, one nation' symbolised by god-given Naga Nation Flag is non-negotiable in the name of Naga political solution," it said.

# Sports

# Introspection over, time to start afresh and work on shortcomings: Sushila Chanu

Courtesy: News18  
Bengaluru, Sept 21:

Introspection already done, senior Indian women's hockey team midfielder Sushila Chanu on Wednesday said the need of the hour is to start with a fresh perspective and work on the grey areas that came to light in their last two tournaments.

India finished a disappointing ninth in this year's FIH Women's World Cup in July but bagged their first medal at Commonwealth Games in 16 years by winning a bronze in Birmingham.

The Indian women are currently training at the national camp here ahead of their next big assignment — the inaugural FIH Nations Cup to be held in Valencia, Spain from December 10 to 17.

"We have had a lot of time here in SAI to introspect on our performances in the previous tournaments — FIH Women's World Cup and the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games," Sushila said in a Hockey India release.

"We are training with a



fresh perspective now and with focus on areas in which we fell short during these two outings."

In the Nations Cup, a qualifying tournament for 2023-24 FIH Pro League, India are placed in Pool B along side Canada, Japan and South Af-

rica while Ireland, Italy, Korea and Spain are in Pool A.

The 30-year-old player from Manipur is a veteran of 220 international caps and was also captain of the side in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Despite being a stalwart, Sushila knows it would be a

big mistake to take her place for granted in the side with a host of young players making their presence felt in the pitch off late.

"There are a bunch of youngsters who are giving their 100 per cent in training every day and it is good to see them push us to do well too. Certainly, as seniors we can't take our place in the team for granted as we also need to show that we are in the reckoning to play big tournaments."

"I feel this internal competition is good for the team and we are moving in the right direction," she said.

Sushila also emphasised on the importance of fitness in modern day hockey.

"Working on fitness and speed has been a priority for us and it remains our main focus in this camp as well."

"Playing with good speed and optimal fitness level was our plus point during the Olympic Games, which helped us in getting good results. Fitness will continue to be the key to our performance when we play back-to-back matches in Nations Cup," she signed off.

# Indian team announced for Hung Thinh Tournament, Coach Igor Stimac upbeat

Agency  
Kolkata, Sept 21:

Fresh from the Durand Cup triumph with Bengaluru FC, veteran Sunil Chhetri will lead the Indian attack in the upcoming Hung Thinh friendly football tournament in Vietnam, as coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday named a 23-member squad.

The Indian football team will play against hosts Vietnam and Singapore in two friendlies in Ho Chi Minh City. The squad left for Vietnam on Tuesday.

Head coach Igor Stimac is upbeat about India's chances in the two matches.

"We are definitely capable of winning the tournament, but I think it's the small things that will decide who wins it," said Stimac.

"Obviously, Vietnam have a lot of momentum with their performances in the last couple of years. They have a good team and are playing at home, which is why they are probably the favourites, but we also have a good chance as we have a young

squad.

"I think we have enough quality to match them, and if we stay positive and play with a good mindset, we can do it," he added.

While the confidence in the squad is high, Stimac was wary of the fact that most of his players are still in a pre-season mode right now, and that rotation would be the order of the day for the Blue Tigers.

"It's a good challenge for us, though we need to make sure that we combine and rotate our players in a proper way. We need to make sure that nobody gets injured, because most of the players we have are still in pre-season mode, and they need to be nurtured," said Stimac.

"We need to be careful because we are facing two sides that are in full swing competitions."

However, the Indian team has enough momentum to not be too worried about that at the moment, feels the 55-year-old.

While there are a couple of new faces in the Blue Tigers

squad, the head coach has not closed the doors on any player that is not with the team currently. It is more a matter of trying out various systems with a pool of around 40 players, in preparation for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

The 23-player list is as follows:

Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem and Amrinder Singh.

Defenders: Sandesh Jhingan, Roshan Singh Naorem, Anwar Ali, Akash Mishra, Chinglensana Singh Konsham, Harmanjot Singh Khabra and Narendar.

Midfielders: Liston Colaco, Muhammed Ashique Kuruniyan, Vikram Partap Singh, Udanta Singh Kumam, Anirudh Thapa, Brandon Fernandes, Yasir Mohammad, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Sahal Abdul Samad, Rahul Kannolya Praveen and Lallianzuala Chhangte.

Forwards: Sunil Chhetri and Ishan Pandita.