

CM launches 1st Batch Trainees of SIHM Manipur, interacts with trainees of ITES



IT News
Imphal, Sept 23:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh maintained that Manipur is going forward in every field of development and no one can deny it. With access to advanced technology, we can now see what is happening in different parts of the world and as such we should put all efforts to bring up Manipur in the world platform, he added.

The Chief Minister was addressing the gathering at the

launch programme of the 1st Batch Trainees of the State Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition (SIHM), Manipur and Interaction of Chief Minister, Manipur through video conferencing with trainees of "Industry Link Training Programme of 2000 Trainees for ITES" held at City Convention Centre today. The programme was organized by the Department of Tourism and Department of Information & Technology, Government of

Manipur.

Continuing his speech, N. Biren Singh stated that the State's future lies in the tourism sector and so the State Government has been putting in every effort to bring positive change in the State. Mentioning that the State's scenic beauty, its climate and the decency of people are praised by many tourists, he added that the State Government has started developing many tourist spots including Sangai Ethnic Park at Moirang Khunou,

Loktak Lake, INA Memorial and the 120 feet tall Sagol Kangjei statue at Marjing. Apprising the idea of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to let the world know what we are, N. Biren stressed the need to promote our own culture and traditions.

Speaking on the recent lifting of prohibition on sale and consumption of liquor from the State, the Chief Minister stated that the Cabinet decision was taken after holding thorough discussion and taking recommendation from committees formed earlier in this regard. Elaborating on the matter he stated that some communities have been producing local liquor as part of their custom and as such the Government hadn't been able to ban such production. Therefore, a team from outside the State had been engaged to check the process of the production in such places and to bring up to a certain level of standard so that the liquors could be exported outside the State.

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Minister Biswajit attends 2 Days National Conference at Gujarat

IT News
Imphal, Sept 23:

Manipur Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Thongam Bishwajit Singh, MLA Usham Deven along with Additional Chief Secretary (Forests, Environment and Climate Change) M H Khan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Dr Aditya Joshi and Joint Director (Environment and Climate Change) Dr T Dr Brajakumar are attending the two days National Conference of Ministers of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, Gujarat on September 23-24, 2022. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated the conference through



online. Union Minister (Forests, Environment and Climate Change), India Bhopender Yadav and State Minister For Environment and Climate Change, India, were also in the conference for full session.

During the conference, Minister Biswajit expressed about State Action Plan on Climate Change version 2 which is to be released as state policy document in near future.

Minister Nemcha Kipgen makes a clarion call for development through cooperatives



IT News
Imphal, Sept 23:

Minister for Cooperation, Nemcha Kipgen while highlighting that Manipur has over 12,000 Cooperative Societies, makes a clarion call for development in the state by strengthening the cooperative sector.

This was stated by the Minister while attending the inaugural function of Bharathimanass Agriculture

Co-operative Ltd. & Bharathimanass Labour and Construction Co-operative Ltd., (MCS, Govt of India) held today at Imphal Peace Museum, Maibam Lotpa Ching.

Minister Smt Nemcha informed the gatherings that the State Government continues to strive for the improvement of the Cooperative scenario of the State. Proposals have already been submitted for the Scheme of Integrated Coop-

erative Development Project (I.C.D.P.) to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The I.C.D.P. scheme was introduced for development of the district through Cooperative efforts in the area of agriculture and allied sectors like Fishery, Poultry, Handlooms, Rural Industries, Livestock, and Consumers etc. She urged all the cooperative societies in the state to work with sheer dedication and sincerity for successful implementation of the schemes.

Nemcha further appealed all to join hands to make Manipur, a model Cooperative State with an objective to improve the economy of the State through cooperative sectors.

Registrar of Cooperative, A. Valentina and concerned officials also attended the function.

3rd District Hill Leaders' Day & Meeyamgi Numit held at Parbung

IT News
Pherzawl, Sept 23:

To ensure wider coverage and its commitment towards rendering yeoman service to the people, the District Administration, Pherzawl organised the 3rd District Hill Leaders' Day & Meeyamgi Numit at Community Hall, Parbung about 30.4 km away from the District Headquarter. SP Pherzawl A. Ghaneshyam Sharma, MPS; Ch. Sachi, ADC Pherzawl; Lunzaming Tunngnung, Addl. SP Pherzawl; I. Dimesh Kumar Singh, MCS, SDO/BDO (Tipaimukh & Vangai) and other DLOs led by the DC interacted with the people to ensure that



the grievances of the people were addressed.

Observing the event with active participation of Church Leaders, Village Chief/Chairman, CSOs, and the general

public, Haulianlal Guite, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Pherzawl stresses that the 3rd Meeyamgi Numit will be focused mainly on enrollment as the grievances are related to

old age pension schemes, CMHT cards and Aadhaar Cards. Extending all necessary assistance from the Government, he assured the public the DC, SP & SDO will work and function from the District Headquarter for a whole week once in a month.

The Deputy Commissioner of Pherzawl distributed NFSA Ration Cards to seventeen beneficiaries. He also distributed free Text Books and School Uniforms along with sprayers & insecticides at subsidized rates. Altogether 3 applications pertaining to various issues and other developmental works were received today.

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RPF clarifies misreport in connection with September 17 ambush

IT News
Imphal, Sept 23:

A statement by the proscribed group Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) expressed serious concern over some media report in connection with the September 17 incident at which three cadres of its army wing PLA were ambushed and killed by Indian Security forces. Cadres of PLA identified as Captain Lucky, Captain Sanjit and Captain Ayanbha were ambushed by Indian security at a place in Kamjong district, the RPF statement issued by Roben Khuman, Deputy Secretary, Publicity RPF said.

The statement said that some media reported the incident stating that the three PLA cadres were killed in an am-

bushed by other armed rebel group of the region. However, the RPF statement said that the ambush was conducted by hostile mercenaries groomed by the 21 Para and 5 AR of the Indian Army. The ambush was a continuing activity of the Indian army to suppress the freedom struggle it added.

The RPF statement said that the Indian regime have been making all effort openly to create enmity among the various communities of the region which has been living together to suppress the armed revolutionary struggle through its various agencies. The main priority of the Indian regime is to create enmity among the various communities. Let the community fight among themselves and rule is the policy of any colonial regime, the RPF

said.

Manipur is a state which is inhabited by different communities, where people of majority community treat the people of minority communities with love and respect. Not only during the reign of King but after getting freedom from the clutches of the British empire and right upto the merging into the Union of India, communities from the hill and valley have equally took part in the administration of the state. But after the merging of Manipur into the Union of India, a divide and rule policy among the different communities of the state can be seen, implemented by India. Manipur has a composite history and the freedom struggle is also composite. Knowing this, the Indian government has repeatedly drive a

wedge among the different communities of the state in order to slow down the freedom struggle. This ridiculous attitude and action of the India government is getting clear to the people of the state with each day and will not succeed by any means.

RPF take seriously those organizations and individuals who are entrapped in this action of the Indian Government and consider them as devoid of respect for their forefathers and their roots. RPF respects each and every fellow revolutionaries of the state and are happy that the same respect is given to RPF by the other revolutionaries of the state. And appeals to stand united against any action by the Indian government and work towards in achieving freedom of the state.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas observed

IT News
Imphal, Sept 23:

On the completion of 4-years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the Jiribam District Administration celebrated Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) today at Deputy Commissioner Office, Chingdong Leikai, Jiribam.

The programme was graced by Kh. Janaki Devi, Adhyaksha, Jiribam Zilla Parishad; W. Malemnganba Chengelei, Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam and E. Okendro Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Jiribam as a Chief Guest, President and Guest of honour respectively.

During the programme prizes for painting and slogan competition for junior and intermediate category which was held on September 21 in connection with the celebration of 4 years anniversary of



Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) has been distributed to the first, second and third position holders students.

W. Malemnganba Chengelei (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam highlighted about the importance of insurance under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

He also added, the scheme was envisaged under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with a focus to provide free access to health in-

surance to the low-income group in the country.

On the speech of Chief Guest Kh. Janaki Devi, Adhyaksha Jiribam Zilla Parishad said Jiribam District is a place which is mainly dominated by below poverty line people. In such a place CMHT and PMJAY card is very essential and helpful to the people for health benefits. Such benefits of the PMJAY and CMHT card need to bring awareness among the people of Jiribam by the elected members and officials of Jiribam District.

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Manipur Education and Manipur Leadership

By: Amar Yumnam

There was a recent flutter when the Minister looking after Education in Manipur uttered about the impossibility of recovery and reforms in the most important social sector, which Education is. What I see in this is a warning to all those who have been putting constant pressure on him and behaving almost like obstinate constraints to his endeavours to do something significant for the sector. One prominent manifestation of his statement is that he has already applied his mind on the issues plaguing the school education sector. This is what Manipur needs today. We also need an Educated person to lead this sector. This is where the present Education Minister is the one we look up to for leaving a legacy behind in the education sector. Manipur today unavoidably needs something here.

Education is both a process and a product. This process aims to result into something good for the future. This process has to yield results at the individual levels whose benefits the society would collectively harvest. Further though the process has to work through individuals, the efforts have to be provided at the collective level with none leaving out. It has to create responsible citizens. This criss-crossing between the private and the public certainly needs particular attention to be provided to the parochial elements in a place like Manipur. Now this imperative to attend to the contextual (Manipur cannot as yet think of attending to the global needs) needs necessarily generates political agents who are more committed to manufacturing citizens to attend to his needs rather than the democratic citizens as outputs of the education. These political agents intending to manufacture citizens must have put maximum pressure on the Education Minister and hence his recent waver.

Let us remind ourselves that Education is something which needs constant efforts being maintained and it is never a once in a while endeavour. Introducing the perception of Plato in his *Republic*, Robin Barrow (1975) writes in *Plato, Utilitarianism and Education*: "What is particularly important about Plato is his ability to take a comprehensive view of the logical consequences for society of his ethical standpoint, and hence his ability to consider education in the context of ethical, social and political considerations rather than in isolation. Stated simply his ethical and political philosophy is based upon the principle that all men are equally entitled to happiness and that consequently provision should be made for the happiness of all men in the ideal state. This ultimate moral principle has the immediate consequence for education that its prime object should be to produce adults who may successfully contribute to the happiness of the whole community, while themselves enjoying happiness within that community. This turn leads to the view that the claims of freedom must be subordinated to the claims of happiness."

In other words, the content and orientation are paramount in education. But just this is not enough, there is the need for control and leadership. Here is where the paramountcy of state arises. But the state ultimately implies the people manning the state.

The challenge of leading a sector like education very well evident when Bertrand Russell wrote in 1926 *On Education*: "There must be in the world many parents who, like the present author, have young children whom they are anxious to educate as well as possible, but reluctant to expose to the evils of most existing educational institutions. The difficulties of such parents are not soluble by any effort on the part of isolated individuals. It is, of course, possible to bring up children at home by means of governesses and tutors, but this plan deprives them of the companionship which their nature craves, and without which some essential elements of education must be lacking. Moreover, it is extremely bad for a boy or girl to be made to feel 'odd' and different from other boys and girls; this feeling, when traced to parents as its cause, is almost certain to rouse resentment against them, leading to a love of all that they most dislike. The conscientious parent may be driven by these considerations to send his boys and girls to schools in which he sees grave defects, merely because no existing schools seem to him satisfactory — or, if any are satisfactory, they are not in his neighbourhood. Thus the cause of educational reform is forced upon conscientious parents, not only for the good of the community, but also for the good of their own children. If the parents are well-to-do, it is not necessary to the solution of their private problem that all schools should be good, but only that there should be some good school geographically available. But for wage-earning parents nothing suffices except reform in the elementary schools. As one parent will object to the reforms which another parent desires, nothing will serve except an energetic educational propaganda, which is not likely to prove effective until long after the reformer's children are grown up. Thus from love for our own children we are driven, step by step, into the wider sphere of politics and philosophy."

As Harry Brighouse emphasises in his 2006 book *On Education*: "Schools are increasingly expected to make up for the failures of other social institutions. For the first time in history, we expect schools to educate everyone, not only those whose parents were educated themselves. We expect them to do this despite keeping high proportions of children in poverty, and despite surrounding children, at ever younger ages, with fervently anti-intellectual popular culture. We expect them to deal with the emotional consequences of fractured — and evermore complex — family arrangements. Our economy demands long working hours from adults, and even when both of a child's parents live together, they frequently need to work those long hours in order to feel they are keeping up with their reference group — and in order to provide their children with the material goods they expect from watching television and observing their peers. Schools therefore deal with significant numbers of children who do not have a single adult whose life they share when they leave the school gates. Our economies are also complex and wealthy; we expect schools to train a labour force that is large and diversely skilled. At the same time schools must deal with the demands and interference of parents who feel, reasonably enough, a sense of entitlement to have a say over what happens to their children in the 15,000 hours or so they spend in school. Politicians, parents, employers, and even children, are constantly proclaiming what schools should be doing."

Well Education Policy should be framed and pursued for there is no alternative. John Dewey said: "a community or social group sustains itself through continuous self-renewal, and that this renewal takes place by means of the educational growth of its immature members of the group. By various agencies, unintentional and designed, a society transforms uninitiated and seemingly alien beings into robust trustees of its own resources and ideals. Education is thus a fostering, a nurturing, a cultivating, process."

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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Significance of Sign Language



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

World is going to celebrate "International Day of Sign Language" on 23rd September for the full realization of the hearing impaired people. Sign language is the means of communication through body movement, specially hand, finger, arm, head and facial expressions besides particular symbols developed. This practice is more older than speech.

Since conventional speaking requires sense of hearing for people to speak, Sign Language helps hearing impaired people to communicate with others as well as among themselves. This helps in social inclusion of HI people and leads to a path of their all-round development with dignity.

The history of Signs is as old as civilization itself. When there was no formal language, signs were used for communication. Initially the baby and his/her family make connect with each other through signs. Over period of time Standard Sign languages such as American Sign Language (ASL), British Sign Language (BSL), Indian Sign Language (ISL) etc. have been developed, which are playing an effective communication tool by HI personnel to survive in the world.

Sign language is used where speaking is not possible or difficult. It can be frustrating for HI people if they are not able to communicate properly with the people around them. Sign language bridges the language barriers between the Hearing Impaired and the speaking people.

Sign language is a naturally evolved language like other oral languages and is considered to be the mother-tongue of the HI people. Like other spoken languages, sign language is also used to convey feelings, thoughts and other information to the recipients. Sign language interpreters to translate the oral language

into visual-manual language to make HI people to understand the information.

According to Census 2011, there are more than 1.3 million HI people and more than ten million people having hard of hearing in India. As per the WHO report, by 2050 nearly 2.5 billion persons will have some degree of hearing loss and at least 700 million will have to be hearing rehabilitated. Hence, there is need to promote Sign language in various areas for the betterment and upliftment of the HI persons. Once the hearing-able children learn the Sign language, it will make them to intermingle with their HI counterparts which will be useful in the mainstreaming and inclusive education of such students.

Access to information through sign language is a fundamental right of the HI people. It is also essential to provide educational, vocational, social and personal guidance in sign language to HI people. Such people have to face a lot in the form of social stigma and discrimination. The lack of facilities such as unavailability of signage at public places to challenge in schools and workplaces,

makes their day-to-day life difficult.

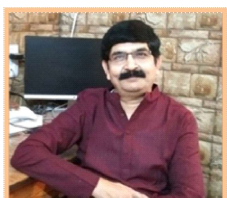
The absence of sign language interpreters in schools is an important barrier in the schooling of HI persons, which ultimately results in either such people remain uneducated or they are forced to drop out. Under Samagra Shiksha, efforts have been made to provide proper hearing equipment to the HI children, so that they could cope up with the lessons taught and remain in the mainstream.

It is the need of the hour that Sign language be promoted effectively in every walk of life not only for HI people and persons working for them, but all those members of the society and family, where such persons are living.

The awareness and sensitization activities will pave the way to change the mindset of the society as well as families, which will prove to be a milestone in the long run for mainstreaming the HI people and welfare of the country.

(The author is a technocrat & academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj)

Kashmir gets First Multiplex Cinema after 3 decades



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Kudos to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for inaugurating the Kashmir valleys the first multiplex in Sonawar area after the three-decade wait of the movie buffs to watch their favourite stars on a big screen. He has rightly pointed out that Culture is a way of life and cinema being the powerful medium of sharing thoughts and ideas reflects societal values and change. Cinema brings people together. Apart from entertainment, it gives hopes, dreams and inspiration to youth to pursue their dreams till they realise it. "The trend

of shooting movies in Jammu and Kashmir continued well into the 1970's and 1980's too, with its splendid location and locales continuing to cast their magic spell on the audiences. Several movies have been shot in this beautiful region blessed with magnificent scenic splendour, with film tourism in Jammu and Kashmir remaining as popular as ever. Several scenes from another famous movie in 1973, Bobby, was shot in a hut, with the result it was renamed Bobby Hut. Kashmir has always been a highly sought after film location in India, and has always attracted film makers, producers, directors and actors.

A big applause to Vijay Dhar who is the son of illustrious Kashmiri politician late D.P. Dhar who remained pivotal to power equations in Jammu and Kashmir because of his proximity to both late Prime Ministers — Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. The valley had seen nearly a dozen standalone cinema halls functioning till the late 1980s, but they had to wind up businesses after two militant outfits threatened the owners. The Farooq

Abdullah-led government in 1996 made efforts to reopen two cinema halls, Broadway and Neelam, but they failed to survive due to poor patronage. Kashmir has been receiving good response from film makers since the opening of tourism here in addition to the regional entertainment houses for shooting song sequences and commercial advertisements." Vikas Dhar has rightly said that "A lot of world cinema is bereft of good stories. We have phenomenal stories to tell from Kashmir. This should inspire youth to tell their own stories."

Kashmir has had a special connection with the cinema world, shooting of movies in picturesque background of Kashmir. Some of the most romantic and evergreen songs were picturized in the snow-clad hills and lush green locales of Jammu and Kashmir. In 1961, Sharmila Kapoor romanced Saira Banu in the snow-capped mountains in Srinagar as he sang "Chahe koi Mujhe jungle kahe". He immortalized the "Shikara" on the Dal Lake in the song "Tareef Karun kya uski" as he wooed a beautiful Sharmila Tagore

in Kashmir Ki Kali (1964). Filmmakers, mainly from Bollywood and Tollywood, are making a bee-line for shooting in the scenic splendour of locales of Jammu and Kashmir especially after the recent launch of the Union Territory's maiden film policy by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha. Top cinematographer and filmmaker, Ravi Varman, who had shot in Kashmir for the film Kaattru Veliyidai said that "Kashmir is one of the most beautiful places in our country. Kashmiris are very friendly and they are like south Indians a lot."

There is no doubt that the initiative taken by government will bring back the lost glory of the valley through benefits to the local artists, including dancers, fashion designers, actors, choreographers, cinematographers, sound recordists, set designers and others. Jammu and Kashmir was the most preferred among the other film tourism destinations in the past few decades, and even today, continues to remain a favourite, attracting filmmakers from all over India and across the globe.

Confluence of Subjects in Higher Education



By: Vijay GarG

The integrated model brings together knowledge of multiple disciplines and different methods of research in a single curriculum. Graduates of STEM courses should be educated about social health protection and have increased awareness of various cultural, socio-environmental and economic contexts for the potential for creative solutions. Only an integrated approach in higher education can make possible intellectual engagement, policy-based solutions and dynamism.

Academic structure around the world Driven by market values, privatization of higher education and utilitarianism. Graduates from this academic environment are expected to become part of the working population in a short span of time. There is a general perception that there are fewer business opportunities for arts and social science graduates than for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) or commerce.

The Covid pandemic has further strengthened this perception. As a result the resources of the arts and humanities faculties have been drastically cut. on a global scale Many programs and courses related to arts and humanities have also been closed. What should happen is that there should be a balance between technology and the arts and the humanities. It is worth noting in this context that the National Academy of Engineering in the US has identified major global challenges in a report, 'Grand Challenges for Engineering'.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers Strategy Vision 2030 and the National Academy of Sciences also recommend that solutions to societal challenges look beyond technical knowledge should go. Several other studies in different contexts have also reached the same conclusion. The pandemic has taught us that the solution to the world's gravest problems lies in the continued cooperation of all disciplines. We not only need subjects related to arts, sociology and humanities, but their inclusion in engineering and STEM degree courses is equally essential.

The engineering curriculum in higher education has focused so much on technical education that subjects with human values such as arts and sociology There is an indifference towards him. Usually engineering students study some subjects from the list of approved courses in arts and

humanities only to meet the requirements of education, which have no relation with each other. In countries like the US, 15-20 percent of the curriculum for a bachelor's degree in engineering is related to the arts and humanities.

At the same time, about 10 percent of the courses for bachelor's degree in Indian Institute of Technology is IIT are related to arts and humanities. National technology in institutes is less than three percent, whereas in many engineering colleges in different states, arts and humanities courses are not available at all. There can be some exceptions. Huge progress has been made in the technical field in the last few decades.

In this dynamic, evolving environment, there is a special need for the graduates to be able to communicate their ideas clearly, to solve unexpected problems or to work well in a group to enable them to be present and future. From such an education in which tomorrow Thoughtfully integrated into the engineering curriculum, education and humanities courses enhance the capacity for critical review, the ability to interact, the ability to work together, and the potential for lifelong learning. Hence, we need education beyond technical training to graduates to meet the challenges of the future, which integrates various disciplines like arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, engineering and mathematics. This integrated model of education provides a wide range of knowledge and re-

search across multiple disciplines in a single curriculum.

Brings together ways where students can understand the interrelationship between these disciplines and enrich their learning by successful use and experimentation. Ability to recognize ethical and professional responsibilities and make informed decisions in challenging situations. Also be able to provide appropriate engineering solutions considering their impact in global economic, environmental and social contexts. Some research indicates that the integration of the arts, humanities, and engineering into higher education has a positive impact.

A results have been found. It develops a number of skills such as critical thinking process, ethical decision making, problem-solving and mutual cooperation, which increase employability. This integrated approach also enhances the participation of women and marginalized sections as a social-reform tool. Graduates of STEM courses must be educated about social health, safety and have increased awareness of various cultural, social, environmental and economic contexts to have the potential for creative solutions. High only an integrated approach to education can make possible intellectual engagement, policy-based solutions and dynamism. The integrated curriculum calls for a fresh-minded global initiative, in which institutions and academia will have to come forward.

Neiphiu Rio hopes latest rounds of Naga peace talks will bring positive results

Agency
Dimapur, Sept 23:

Welcoming the resumption of Naga peace talks, Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio expressed hope that this latest round of talks will bear positive results.

Participating in a special discussion on the Naga political issue on the last day of the two-day 12th session of the 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly on Thursday, Rio appealed to the Naga negotiating parties and the Centre to address the contentious issues and undertake discussions on the competencies so that the talks can be expedited and a solution can be reached at the earliest possible.

He affirmed that the Nagaland Assembly is united in "our common aspiration" for achieving lasting peace. "As

facilitators, we will continue to put forward our best efforts within the given possibilities for a final solution and genuine peace," he said.

He said the present state government formed an opposition-less United Democratic Alliance (UDA) government with the singular motive to facilitate the peace process so that the aspiration of achieving genuine peace through a negotiated political solution that is honourable, acceptable and inclusive is achieved.

Rio reiterated appreciation to the signatories of the Framework Agreement and the Agreed Position for exhibiting sincere commitment in "our collective efforts" to resolve the decades-old political imbroglio.

He added that the ruling dispensation and the political parties in the UDA have made

it clear in their respective manifestoes to pave the way in the event of a solution that is honourable, acceptable and inclusive.

He said there is an overwhelming cry for a final solution amongst all sections of the people.

"The present ceasefire and talks have been going on for more than two decades, and we feel that it is more than enough time for all sides to understand and appreciate each other in a manner that we are able to reach the desired conclusion by achieving a settlement," he said.

According to Rio, a political issue that has stretched for several decades and involves the longest standing insurgency in the entire region needs a mature approach.

Noting that the Nagas have been impacted for de-

acades by the political conflict and the unresolved Indo-Naga political issue, he said the leaders of today's Naga society cannot afford to let the present and future generations inherit the continuation of conflict and violence.

The CM concluded by making the appeal of the house to all the sections of the Naga society and to the negotiating parties of the political dialogue to rise above "all else", so that "we work in unison for the common good of all Nagas".

"Let us unite as one Naga family and let us all put our best possible efforts towards achieving a solution that is honourable, inclusive and acceptable, and thereby begin a new era of peace, progress and development, wherein Nagas increase our contributions towards the forward march of this great nation," he added.

Stones thrown, petrol bomb hurled in Kerala as PFI stages hartal after arrest of 106 members



Agency
Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 23:

Sporadic incidents of violence were reported in various parts of Kerala as the dawn-to-dusk hartal called by radical Islamic outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) was underway in the southern state on Friday.

The hartal was called by the PFI to protest against the raids in the offices and residences of its leaders and their subsequent arrests on Thursday by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and other agencies for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country.

Stones were pelted at Kerala State Road Transport Corporation buses (KSRTC) in various districts including Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kozhikode, Wayanad, and Alappuzha.

Local media reported that a petrol bomb was hurled at a vehicle which was carrying newspapers for distribution at Narayanpara in Kannur in the

morning.

In Alappuzha, KSRTC buses, a tanker lorry and some other vehicles got damaged in the stone pelting allegedly by those supporting the hartal call.

A 15-year-old girl and an auto-rickshaw driver suffered minor injuries in the stone pelting allegedly by PFI activists in Kozhikode and Kannur respectively.

Meanwhile, Kerala police beefed up security in the state and issued directions to the district police chiefs to ensure law and order after the PFI called for a day-long state-wide hartal.

A statement issued by the police said stern action will be taken against those who violate the law.

"All the policemen in the state will be deployed for the maintenance of law and order," the statement said.

The PFI on Thursday had said a hartal will be observed in the state today "against the RSS-controlled fascist government's attempt to silence dissenting voices using

the central agencies".

The hartal would be held from 6 AM to 6 PM, A Abdul Sathar, state general secretary, PFI, had said in the statement.

On Thursday, PFI workers had taken out marches to the places where raids were carried out and raised slogans against the Centre and its investigating agencies. However, central forces were already deployed in all such places as part of strengthening the security.

Multi-agency teams spearheaded by the NIA had arrested 106 functionaries of the PFI on Thursday in near simultaneous raids at 93 locations in 15 states for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country.

Kerala, where PFI has some strong pockets, accounted for the maximum number of 22 arrests, officials said.

PFI state president C P Mohammed Basheer, national chairman O M A Salam, national secretary Nasaruddin Elamaram, former chairman E Abubacker and others were among those arrested.

Active Covid cases in country decline to 45,281

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 23:

With 5,383 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,45,58,425, while the active cases declined to 45,281, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,449 with 20 fatalities which include eight deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data

updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.10 percent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.71 percent, the ministry said.

A decline of 1,061 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.68 percent while weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.70 percent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,39,84,695, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 percent.

According to the ministry, 217.26 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on

September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year. It crossed the four crore mark on January 25 this year.

The 12 fatalities reported in the last 24 hours include three from Maharashtra and one each from Chhattisgarh, Goa and Gujarat.

Two Diving Support Vessels of the Indian Navy launched



The Diving Support Vessel Nistar at HSL, Visakhapatnam. (Inset: CNS Admiral R Hari Kumar).

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Sept 23

Two Diving Support Vessels (DSV)-Nistar and Nipun, being built by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL), located at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh were launched by Kala Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), who presided the ceremony as Chief Guest, on Thursday.

Kala Hari Kumar, President of the Navy Wives Welfare Association (NWWA) performed the traditional honour and named these ships. The ships received a thunderous cheer from a jubilant gathering as they embraced the welcoming waters of the Bay of Bengal.

Vice Admiral RB Pandit, Commanding-in-Chief, Strategic Forces Command, Vice Admiral Dasgupta, Flag Officer, Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, Controller Warship Production and Acquisition, and other senior officers from the

Indian Navy and Ministry of Defence and others attended the launching ceremony.

Indigenously designed and built at HSL, these ships are a true testament to "Aatmanirbharta" (self-reliance). They are self-sustaining platforms that can operate at sea for prolonged durations, an Indian Navy statement said.

DSVs equipped with an array of complex Diving Support systems and Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) will be deployed for deep sea diving and submarine rescue operations. Furthermore, the ships will be capable of conducting Search and Rescue operations and carrying out Helicopter Operations at sea.

This project is being executed with support from the Indian industry primarily MSME firms who have supplied Yard material, equipment, and services. The shipyard is extensively using the Government e-Market (GeM) portal for procuring material and services for the project. More than 120

MSME vendors across India have actively participated in the Project.

"Nistar" and "Nipun" were launched by achieving approx 80% indigenous content, a major step towards 'Self-Reliance'. DSV project has generated local employment opportunities and promoted indigenization which will boost India's economy.

Addressing the gathering, CNS Hari Kumar said that these sophisticated and key platforms, once commissioned, will serve as INS Nipun and INS Nistar. They would not only herald a new era in our deep ocean diving operations but also enhance the Indian Navy's stature as a credible force & First Responder to undertake critical operations such as submarine rescue operations in the Indian Ocean Region.

"I want to particularly complement HSL for remaining a profitable Shipyard since 2016. Completion of projects on time or even ahead of time has been a notable achievement of the

HSL", Hari Kumar stated.

In its previous avatar as a Submarine Rescue Vessel, "INS Nistar" was commissioned in 1971 and played an instrumental role in conducting diving operations on the Pakistan Navy submarine, "Ghazi", which sank outside Vishakhapatnam harbour during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

The induction of these versatile ships will not only boost our Search and Rescue capabilities but also serve as a powerful tool in support of India's Deep Ocean Mission. The niche capabilities offered by these platforms reassure our stature as the 'First Responder' to partners and Friendly Foreign Countries across Indian Ocean Region and are aligned with the Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR - Security And Growth for All in the Region, Hari Kumar said.

The major recipient of the Navy's capital budget investment is Indian shipyards. Of the 45 ships and submarines presently under construction, 43 are being built at shipyards across the country. In addition to direct economic 'pilot-back', these indigenous shipbuilding projects also act as a catalyst for significant employment generation and skill development, since a sizable number of people get employment also outside the shipyard.

Approximately 80% of the DSV project's equipment is indigenously sourced from more than 120 MSMEs across India. This is another step towards the Navy becoming 100% Aatmanirbhar (Self-dependant) by 2047 - an aim we have set for ourselves, Hari Kumar sated.

Mizoram CM Zoramthanga discusses Myanmar refugee issue with HM Amit Shah

Agency
Aizawl, Sept 23:

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga on Thursday called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi over the Myanmar political crisis and influx of refugees from the neighbouring country.

"I have met Union Home Minister on Thursday and discussed with him the Myanmar political crisis and refugees from the neighbouring country," the Chief Minister said on his official Instagram handle.

He said that the Union Minister also took stock of the situation in Myanmar and the Myanmar refugees in India.

Official sources said that over 30,000 Myanmar nationals have taken shelter in different parts of Mizoram since the military junta seized power in the neighbouring country in February last year.

The refugees mostly from Chin state are lodging at relief camps, while some others rented houses and also live with their local relatives.

They are being provided with food and other reliefs by the government, NGOs, churches and village authorities.



Zoramthanga also said that the Union Minister would visit Mizoram in November to open the Assam Rifles base at Zokhawasang, about 15 km from Aizawl.

"I ask the Union Minister to visit Mizoram to inaugurate Assam Rifles headquarters at Zokhawasang. Although he agreed to my request, he is yet to fix the date," Zoramthanga

said. The Mizo National Front (MNF) government led by Zoramthanga has been demanding the relocation of the Assam Rifles base from the heart of Aizawl to Zokhawasang.

Zoramthanga, who is currently in the national capital, will leave for Mizoram on Saturday, official sources said.

Certificate Lost

I have lost my original certificate issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur, bearing Roll No. 13963 of 1980 on the way between RIMS and Langol Game Village on 20th of September 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Lairenmayum Manjubala Devi
Game village-Zone IV, Langol, Quarter No. B3
Mobile No. 9366856165

PM inaugurates the National Conference of Environment Ministers of all States

PIB
New Delhi, Sept 23:

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Conference of Environment Ministers in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat via video conferencing today.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed one and all to Ekta Nagar and the National Conference of Environment Ministers. The Prime Minister highlighted that the conference is being held when India is setting new goals for the next 25 years. Talking about the significance, the Prime Minister said that the holistic development of Ekta Nagar is a prime example of an environmental pilgrimage when it comes to forests, water conservation, tourism and our tribal brothers and sisters.

Giving examples of the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and LiFE movement, the Prime Minister remarked that India is not just taking huge strides in the field of renewable energy, but also guiding other nations of the world. The Prime Minister said, "Today's new India is moving ahead with new thinking, new approach." The Prime Minister further went on to add that India is a rapidly developing economy, and it is continuously strengthening its ecology as well. "Our forest cover has increased and wetlands are also expanding rapidly", he added.

The Prime Minister remarked that today the world is joining India because of its track record of fulfilling its commitments. "Gir lions, tigers, elephants, one-horned rhinos and leopards have in-



creased in numbers over the years. New excitement has returned from the homecoming of Cheetah in Madhya Pradesh a few days ago", the Prime Minister added.

Drawing everyone's attention to the net zero target for the year 2070, the Prime Minister said that the focus of the country is on green growth and green jobs. He stressed the need to maintain equilibrium with nature. He also highlighted the role of the environment ministries of the states in achieving these goals. The Prime Minister said, "I urge all environment ministers to promote a circular economy as much as possible in the states." Modi supplemented his statement by mentioning that it will significantly strengthen the Solid Waste Management campaign and will free us from the clutches of single use plastic.

Continuing with the role of the environment ministries, the Prime Minister said that this role should not be seen in a restricted manner. He lamented the fact that for a long time the Environment Ministries got shaped more as a regulator. However, the Prime Minister said, "I think that the role of

the Environment Ministry is more as a promoter of the environment rather than as a regulator." He asked the states to own the measures like Vehicle Scrapping policy, and biofuel measures like ethanol blending and strengthen them on the ground. He asked for healthy competition as well as collaboration among the states to promote these measures.

Throwing light on the groundwater issues, the Prime Minister said that the states with abundant water are also facing water shortages nowa-

days. The Prime Minister remarked that the challenges and measures like chemical-free natural farming, Amrit Sarovar and water security, are not limited to the individual departments and the environment department will also have to consider these as an equally pressing challenge. "It is critical to work with a participative and integrated approach by the environment ministries. When the vision of the environment ministries changes, I am sure, nature will also be benefitted."

Foundation day celebration held

IT News
Imphal, Sept 23:

The 9th Foundation day celebration of SHEISHAKKOL- Bedabati Khunung Eshei Sheidamshang is held today at Heirangothong Community Hall.

Laishram Yaikul Singh, Principal Leishemba Maheikol preside this function and Ajit Das, Chairman, Ranganiketan present this function as Chief Guest and Khumanthem

Sundari Devi, President, Kanglei Sheishaklon Shindamshang Guest Faculty, MUC, Manipur State Kala Awardee joined this foundation day celebration as Guest of Honour.

Guest of Honour this Function, Khumanthem Sundari Devi said that there is need to develop many institution for Khunung Eshei because it bring our Khunung Eshei in special position in today society.

Sports

Roger Federer ahead of Last Match at Laver Cup: Tennis will withstand big-name retirements

Agency
London, Sept 23:

Roger Federer was paying attention right along with everybody else when Serena Williams played what is expected to be her last match three weeks ago at the US Open.

"Not surprised. Just very similar to me, in many ways. We were expecting it to come at some point," Federer told The Associated Press. "You don't ever want players like Serena to ever retire. ... I just thought, 'What a great career.'"

He recognizes that their back-to-back exits after about a quarter-century each in tennis — he is 41 and leaves with 20 Grand Slam titles and she turns 41 on Monday and has 23 major singles championships — will spur some fans to move on from the sport.

Federer insists, though, that plenty will stick around.

"I mean, look, it's going to leave some fans with not the same taste for the game. We might lose some, because they



say, 'OK, well that chapter for me closes, and I'll move on to another sport or another athlete,'" Federer said in an interview Wednesday at the Laver Cup, where the final match of his stellar career will be in doubles alongside rival Rafael Nadal for Team Europe on Friday night.

"And some will stay with the game forever, because tennis is just a sport (that), once you're in it, you're normally in it. That's why I don't believe a lot of people will leave," he continued. "But they will not maybe wake up at 3 in the morning anymore for the Australian Open. Or they might not use their vacation time to go travel to a place. Maybe they say for a few years, 'OK, let me go with a friend of mine and do a good

adventure trip somewhere,' until they find their way back in." He and Williams — along with Nadal, a 36-year-old who has a men's-record 22 Slam titles, and Novak Djokovic, a 35-year-old with 21 titles — helped create a golden era in the sport, drawing new viewers and inspiring new players.

"Serena and Roger probably have more fans than anybody in tennis," said Taylor Fritz, a 24-year-old Californian who is the highest-ranked American man at No. 12 and a part of Team World in London. "It's tough to replace two people as iconic as them, but I still think there is a lot of exciting times ahead."

Still, what happens after they leave?

"These two players are ir-

replaceable. I don't think there is any question about that," said John McEnroe, who won seven major trophies from 1979 to 1984. He added this caveat: "The sport goes on, no matter what, and we have witnessed that in every sport over time."

Which is why Federer is among those optimistic about the future.

"I'm a big believer, always, that tennis is bigger than anybody," he said, "and it will always create new superstars."

Federer thinks highlight-reel shots that make their way around on social media can help. So can the telling of each new top player's "captivating story."

McEnroe mentioned the sport's need to do better marketing of fresh faces. Someone Federer believes could fit the "superstar" category is Carlos Alcaraz, the 19-year-old from Spain who won the U.S. Open and became the youngest man at No. 1 in the history of the ATP computerized rankings, which date to 1973.

Federer watched — on TV — some of Alcaraz's epic quarterfinal in Flushing Meadows against Jannik Sinner, a 21-year-old from Italy. It lasted 5 hours, 15 minutes, ending at 2:50 a.m. in New York — that's 8:50 a.m. in Federer's home country of Switzerland, so the

Contd. from Page 1

CM launches 1st Batch Trainees...

N. Biren further stated that the Government is planning to establish a beer factory in the State using locally produced raw ingredients like pineapple and ginger. He continued that as people from outside the State are becoming fond of our horticulture products, our local brews could be exported outside. This would also encourage those people who had earlier carried poppy plantations to replace it with alternative crops like pineapple and ginger. The Chief Minister also informed that there would be certain regulations on sale of liquor regarding place of sale, age regulation etc.

Expressing that the State Government has taken the step not only for earning revenue but also considering the health of people, he informed that the Government is drafting a rule in this regard and sought suggestions from Civil Society Organisations and experts.

The Chief Minister also informed that the State Government had completed recruitment and announcement of the result of 4,500 posts of Government services in the last five years out of 12,500 vacant posts of various Departments of the State. Results for around 5,500 posts are yet to be announced. The Government is working to fill various other vacant posts, he added.

N. Biren expressed happiness on learning that staff appointed for functioning of the State Institute of Hotel Man-

agement are from the State itself and that students from different parts of the State are pursuing the course. Wishing all the students in their future endeavours, he appealed to the youths to work for the service of the State adding that the future of Manipur lies with the youths.

Chairman, Tourism Corporation of Manipur Ltd. Karam Shyam stated that youths should take a bigger role in taking the State towards development. Stating that tourism sectors hold a crucial state in development, he urged youths to showcase beautiful places of the State harnessing the advanced technology.

Mentioning that improved law and order is important for development of the tourism sector in the State, Karam Shyam added that Manipur Tourism will take a key role in shaping the youths of the State. He also appealed to the public to share only valuable knowledge and information about the State to attract more tourists.

Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, while delivering the keynote address, stated that the day was historic in the State so far as skilling and employment is concerned as two important sectors including Tourism and Information Technology had come together in the programme. This shows that the State was serious in harnessing the potentials of skill, IT manpower and people in hospitality industries, he added.

He continued that the State Institute of Hotel Management

has 60 seats for Degree Course and can go up to 240 students for Diploma Course per year. The institute will give the much-needed platform for getting good job opportunities, he added. He was also hopeful that the institute would provide trained manpower for the domestic tourism industry within the State. He informed that the State Government is taking up an ambitious ADB funded Loktak Mega Eco-Tourism Project and the project would most likely be sanctioned by May next year. With this, the State will have a world class eco-tourism destination, he added.

During the programme, a video on State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM) and a testimonial video of ITES students sponsored by the Department of Information & Technology, Government of Manipur were shown. The Chief Minister also distributed study materials to SIHM students.

Later, N. Biren Singh had a virtual interaction with ITES students in Jaipur and Guwahati.

Health Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan, Education Minister Thounaojam Basanta Kumar, Transport Minister Khassim Vashum, Administrative Secretaries, officials of Department of Tourism, Department of Information & Technology, students and staff of SIHM also attended the programme among others.

3rd District Hill Leaders' Day...

Public Welfare Services including enrollment of Aadhaar, Health & Ration cards by SDO/OSC/CDPO, distribution of saplings & career guidance by Forest Dept., inauguration of School Nutrition Garden at Parbung Hr. Sec. School under ZEO, War on Drugs 2.0 campaign by Police Department, awareness campaign to students on domestic violence by OSC, Financial Literacy & Social Security Schemes campaign by

LDM/DSC, vaccination of livestock by Vety Dept. and water-testing together with organizing village-wide social cleanliness drive by PHED are some of the highlight of today's event. Besides providing other healthcare related services as well as onsite enrollment of PMJAY/CMHT, the CMO Teams administered Covid vaccinations on the spot.

Seventeen stalls of different departments were opened

to meet the demand of the public.

Mentioned may be made that District Hill Leaders' Day & Meeyangmi Nimit will be held every 4th Friday for Pherzawl district whereas if the 4th Friday falls on a general holiday then it will be held on the 4th Thursday of the month. The outreach programme of the State Govt. is to bring about transparency and efficiency in the implementation of various welfare schemes.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas observed

At Churachandpur, Ayushman Bharat Diwas, 2022 (celebration of 4 years of AB-PMJAY) was held today at DTC Hall, Tuibong. The event is organized by the District Administration, Churachandpur.

Speaking on the occasion as the Chief Guest, Sarath Chandra Arojo, Deputy Commissioner of the district congratulated the achievements of the district regarding Ayushman Bharat. Stating that PMJAY provides health cover up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalization, the entitlement base scheme covers poor and vulnerable families based on deprivation and occupational criteria as per the SECC database, he added. Acknowledging the achievement of the medical department, the DC urged the people for their support in the implementation of the scheme for maximum benefit.

PMJAY provides cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service in any (both public and private) empanelled hospitals across India. In other words, a beneficiary from one State can avail of benefits

from an empanelled Hospital anywhere in the Country.

Chief Medical Officer of the district Dr. Kim Simte stated that 8059 persons have benefited from the scheme in the district which translated to Rs. 10,19,86,830.00. Churachandpur and Pherzawl district together has 2,05,434 eligible beneficiaries out of which 70,144 beneficiaries have been verified and 1,35,290 are yet to be verified. The verified percentage of the two districts stands at 34% she added.

Distribution of prizes and certificates to winners of district-level painting and slogan writing competition held yesterday, sharing of successful stories and taking of pledge in support of Ayushman Bharat marked the observation.

S. Khaikhopau Ngaihte, ADC and District Nodal Officer, CMHT/PMJAY, Churachandpur, Yumnam Nelson, ADC, DLOs from different departments, CMHT/PMJAY beneficiaries, students and medical staffs attended the event.

In another development, Free Health & Awareness Camp with Dr. Rajukumar

Prakash, MS Mch (Surgical Oncology) will be organized by Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Guwahati on 27th & 28th September, 2022 at Palliative Care Unit, District Hospital. Dr. Kirngaihching Simte, CMO urged any type of known Cancer patients who are recently diagnosed or are undergoing cancer treatment to attend the health camp and avail the service.

Ayushman Bharat Diwas Celebration to mark the 4th year anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) was celebrated at Jubilee Standard School, Parbung. A district level slogan writing & Painting competition on the theme "Health Care System vis-à-vis Covid 19 Pandemic" was organised. A short video clips of 5 Beneficiary Success Stories was also screen during the event.

Altogether 56 students from three different schools took part in the event. The competition was categorized to Junior (Class V-VII) and Intermediate (Class VIII-X). The District Administration awarded cash incentives and certificates to the winners.