

## State celebrates World Tourism Day Government is developing more tourist circuits across the State so as to attract tourists - Chief Minister



IT News  
Imphal, Sept 27:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said 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.

This was stated by him at the celebration of World Tourism Day held at Maibam Lotpa Ching, Nambol Bishnupur district today. The celebration was organized by Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur under the theme "Rethinking Tourism".

Addressing the gathering, N. Biren Singh said that the

government is developing more tourist circuits across the State so as to attract tourists. Mentioning that the State's uniqueness in terms of scenic beauty, climatic conditions, culture, tradition etc., he added that the State Government has started developing many tourist spots including Sangai Ethnic Park at Moirang Khunou, the 120 feet tall Sagol Kangjei statue at Marjing, Heritage site at Makhel, Rani Gaidinliu Museum, Cultural Centre at Behiang, Amusement parks at various places etc. Kangkhui cave and Tharon cave will be opened for tourists soon. The government is constructing a

5-star hotel at the Old High Court Complex in partnership with Tata group, he added.

N. Biren Singh highlighted that with an aim to promote the traditional 'Sagol Kangjei' and encourage Sagol Kangjei players and pony breeders, the government will organise Chief Minister's Sagol Kangjei Tournament in the upcoming Sangai Festival 2022.

Stating that it is the responsibility of the government to work for the welfare and well-being of the people, the Chief Minister said that the government has taken up various initiatives such as improving air and surface

connectivity in the last 5 years to boost the tourism sector. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, North East India has been transformed and has become India's growth engine. The Central government has withdrawn the special allowances to All India Services officers working in Northeastern region recently. Such step shows that the law and order situation has been improved and peace has been restored in the region, he added.

The Chief Minister further said that the government has tied up with Samsung Company for establishing a world class training facility for sportspersons. Under the initiative, a virtual training zone will be developed for disciplines like football, boxing, judo, badminton, hockey and archery in the first phase, he added. He hoped that such initiative will help further towards producing many world class athletes.

Minister for Education Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, Chairman, Tourism Corporation of Manipur Limited Karam Shyam, MLAs Y. Radheshyam, Sapam Kunjakeswor, Chairman LDA M. Anisikumar, Administrative Secretaries and officials of Tourism Department attended the function.

## State Level National Deworming Day 2nd round 2022 launched

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 27:

The State Level National Deworming Day 2nd Round 2022 was launched today at Wangkhei High School, Wangkhei Keithel Ashangbi, Imphal East. The launching programme was organized by National Health Mission (NHM), Manipur.

Speaking at the function as chief guest, Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly, Thokchom Satyabrata Singh, expressed that organizing such a programme in collaboration with the important departments will definitely lead to accomplishment. He added that the deworming programme has been taken up in platforms of schools and anganwadi centres and it is necessary to discuss on the steps of deworming the children who are not covered in these platforms.

Stating that all necessary help will be extended to the steps and policies taken up by the concerned departments to make the deworming programme a success in Manipur, Speaker appealed to all the stakeholders to provide the children a disease free and a healthy future. Speaker also appealed the official of the education department to extend support in providing necessary infrastructures to Wangkhei High School which is a model school in the state.

Health & Family Welfare Minister, Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh said that the health department organized many programme to deliver health



care services from grassroots level to the masses. He said follow up of the programme organized by the department are very important to sustain the programme. The Deworming programme organized in convergence of the three major departments i.e., Social Welfare, Education and Health Departments will surely reach the targeted beneficiaries which comes under these three departments.

Stating that the pandemic has provided an opportunity to maintain cleanliness among the masses, Minister said that the most effective way of spreading awareness on maintaining a clean and healthy lifestyle starts from peer groups and relatives. The students should take it as a part of education besides the classroom activities and should try to spread the message for a good cause from the knowledge gained after attending such programme, he added.

Minister said that the gov-

ernment has taken up many programme for the welfare of the people of the state and one such mission is the Deworming Day programme which will help the children to maintain a healthy future. Minister appealed the students to take home the message and spread awareness to make a disease free and healthy society.

It may be mentioned that National Deworming Day (NDD) was launched in 2015. It is a flagship program of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and is implemented as a biannual single day programme. This is one of the largest public health programs reaching large number of children during a short period. The programme is implemented through the platforms of schools and anganwadi centres to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life.

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## State Textiles Minister inaugurates Common Facility Centre

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 27:

Textiles, Commerce & Industry Minister, Nemcha Kipgen today inaugurated Common Facility Centre of Haorang Sabal Block Level Cluster and IDPH Projects of Imphal West at Salam Village. The newly inaugurated CFC is funded by the Development Commissioner for Handloom & Handicrafts and Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

During the inaugural function, Minister for Textiles, Nemcha announced the "Pre-



paratory Support Scheme" which will be available in this newly inaugurated CFC at Salam Village from 2nd October, 2022 onwards with an ob-

jective to support the handloom weavers. She further informed a component of new programme to provide the following benefit to handloom

weavers exclusively at CFC namely weft beam at 50 percent on the cost yarn, pinn with weft yarn at 50 percent on the cost yarn and Bobbins with warp yarn at 50 percent on the cost yarn.

Nemcha mentioned the skillfulness of Manipur's weavers and artisans and their contribution in the economy of the State. She asserted that the State Government under the leadership of CM N. Biren Singh is giving all efforts to further develop the handloom and handicrafts sectors in Manipur.

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## YFPHR submits memorandum to Governor of Manipur to investigate the planting of Bomb by a SF at Kambiron area

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 27:

Youth's Forum for Protection of Human Rights (YFPHR) has submitted a memorandum to the Governor of Manipur, La. Ganesan urging him for investigation against CRPF Personnel. Commanding officer and military personnel of 39 Assam Rifle for planting bomb at Puiwaan (Kambiron) under Nungba Sub Division,

Tamenglong District and also to communicate with the Union Minister Government of India to repeal AFSPA from Manipur and other North East State of India.

In the memorandum the Forum showed serious concern to the September 24 incident at which one CRPF personnel identified as Thiyam Ashok Singh was apprehended by local while planting bomb near

Jadonang Memorial site at Puiwaan Village under Nungba Sub Division.

The Forum said that the bomb was handed to CRPF personnel by the 39th Assam Rifle Nungba COB post Commander on night of the 23rd September, 2022.

"Planting a bomb in village where civilian are residing by a military force who are meant to protect civilian is an act of crime against hu-

manity and war crime which could take life of many innocent civilian. We also strongly condemn such impunity created by Central Military Forces and we have serious doubt that many of the bomb blast which took place in various parts of Manipur are done by the Central Armed Forces and needs serious attention", the statement by YFPHR said.

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## Assam Rifles unhappy to news article published at some media

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 27:

"News article published by certain sections of media based on press release of proscribed group in Manipur intended to malign the reputation of Assam Rifles", a statement by the IGAR (S) said.

The statement added that the Assam Rifles have rendered yeoman service in the North East guarding the Indo Myanmar Borders, conducting people friendly counter insurgency operations & more importantly pro-

viding succor & relief to the people of North East in times of need over the years.

"Regrettably, certain sections of media have aired allegations, against this very force, which incidentally have been levied by a proscribed group in Manipur whose sole purpose is to malign the image of Assam Rifles as also disturb peace & harmony in the region", the statement said and added that the News Articles have been published with uncorroborated facts stated by the proscribed group & the same is strongly

rebutted. It is also submitted that indicators of normalcy in North East & consequent removal of AFSPA is a welcome step, not acceptable to the proscribed groups, which was a result of improved security situation brought in by the desire of the people to bring lasting peace in North East.

"The Assam Rifles strongly deny undertaking any activity against the interests of local populace and remains committed to the security and well-being of the people of North East", the statement added.

## Is the government advertising for a surrender drama actor - Prepak(Pro)

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 27:

A statement by the Media Coordinator of proscribed group PREPAK (Pro) said that two person that the police stated to have been arrested identified as Moirangthem Sanjaoba Meitei and Takkhellaambam Johnson (32) may have been left own while trying to portray as actors of the Surrender Drama.

The statement said that there should be an FIR for any case of Surrender. There have been cases of Judge not accepting 7 surrendered person accused of criminal activities as no FIR had been lodge against them in Bangalore.

The police are using revolutionary cadres who have already retired to demand monetary assistance so that an FIR can be filed against them. They're also used in surrender

dramas, where they promise government benefits. Those who leave the party and continue to live their normal lives at home are ineligible to file an FIR because they are unrelated to the party. Because ordinary citizens are unable to file an FIR, the government stated that those who surrender would not face charges.

This was the truth of surrender drama, the statement stated.

# Moonlighting puzzles the IT sector

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



With the passage of time new terminology comes into play. What was earlier called your own business is now termed a Startup. Startup means the initial stage of a company. When one or more entrepreneurs start a company or project realizing the demand for a product or service, it is called a startup. One such startup with a billion-dollar value is called a Unicorn. Moonlighting is another new word being talked about in the corporate world these days. Its literal meaning is the light of the moon, but its actual meaning is also something similar. Moonlighting is the practice of working for an external paid project while being full-time on the rolls of a company. Most companies have stringent rules that prohibit employees from taking up external work, except with mutual agreement. However, new age companies like Swiggy and Cred have no problem with such behavior of their workers.

However, moonlighting can be existing anywhere, but the issue is more prevalent in IT companies. The problem came into the limelight when Wipro recently fired 300 of its full-time employees just because they were found indulging in the practice of moonlighting. Not only this, Wipro Executive Chairman Rishad Premji alleged that those Wipro employees were working part-time for the main rival companies, which is a morally unfair practice. During the Covid pandemic period, when business was at a standstill and people were being fired from jobs, many of them had to work in two or more places to earn their livelihood. It was a time for work from home (WFH) and people had enough privacy to work for anyone anytime. From there the practice of moonlighting started, which is now emerging as a big problem in the industry.

In the old times also, one had to search for a side income or a part-time job to increase the household income and it was not taken seriously. Now it's just given a fancy name - Moonlighting. Since it is a time to show off, they started calling a side income job moonlighting, which looks like a very glamorous thing. There is a debate going on in the corporate world regarding moonlighting whether it is a wrong trend or the right step to pursue a moonlighting job. While Wipro's Rishad Premji considers it a 'criminal act', Mohandas Pai, former Infosys director, feels what is not wrong if someone takes up some other work in his or her spare time to increase income. He asked - "If I want extra income, I will work on Saturday. They can't stop me from doing this."

Rishad Premji said in an event of All India Management Association (AIMA) in New Delhi recently that employees can have a transparent dialogue with the company for their second or weekend work, but working secretly for our rival companies cannot be tolerated. In one of his tweets, he called Moonlighting outright fraud with the parent company. He wrote in the tweet - Moonlighting is cheating - plain and simple. Earlier, Infosys had sent a warning email to its employees that those found indulging in moonlighting would be severely punished and could even be fired. N Ganapathy Subramaniam, COO of Tata Group's largest software services company, TCS, has opined that moonlighting can cause huge losses to IT companies in the long term. That is why this practice is ethically wrong.

# Navratri symbolises people's cultural, social and religious aspirations



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

India could well be called the land of festivals. The amalgamation of difference cultures, languages and religions ensures that there is a festival being celebrated in some part of India almost every week. One of the more popular festivals which is celebrated all over Gujarat is NAVRATRI. It is one of the most colourful festival of Gujarat. In Gujarat, people eagerly wait for the 9 nights (NAVRATRI) when they worship goddess Durga/Amba Mata through the traditional dance of Garba.

NAVRATRI (the word literally means "nine nights") is one of the holy festivals of Hinduism. It is a festival of nine nights, during which we worship goddess of Shakti. NAVRATRI festival is observed twice a year, once in the month of Chaitra and then in Aswayuja. It lasts for nine days in honour of the nine manifestations of Durga. During NAVRATRI devotees of Durga observe a fast. Brahmins are fed and prayers are offered for the protection of health and prosperity. The 9 nights festival of NAVRATRI begins on the first day of Ashvina of the bright fortnight. The festival of nine nights in October, preceding the Dussera is a special feature of Gujarat when people assemble in village squares and temple compounds and sing and dance till the wee hours in the morning. They worship the mother goddess and her numerous manifestations during the festival. The three aspects viz. Durga, Lakshmi or Sarawati of the Divine Mother are worshipped during Devi NAVRATRI puja, the nine nights. She is also known as in her destructive, protective, and knowledge giving roles respectively. The NAVRATRI festival is closely followed by the Sharad Purnima, the full moon night in the Ashvina month, when under the moon light people partake of prasid rice and milk. Durga/Amba mata or the destructive aspect of the divine mother is worshipped during the first three nights. On the succeeding three nights, her protective aspect of Lakshmi and on the last three nights, her knowledge aspect or Saraswati are worshipped.

The most characteristic dances of Gujarat during NAVRATRI are the Rasa and Garba dances which are performed at all levels of society by men and women. The leader of the group sings the first line of the song while the rest repeat it in chorus, the beat being produced clapping hands or striking sticks in unison. The origin of the Rasa is traced back to the legends connected with the life of Lord Krishna. The Rasa is performed in Gujarat on Navaratra; and other important festivals associated with harvest and crops.

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# Manipur: Heaven of Tourist in N.E.

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Since 1980, the United Nations World Tourism Organization has celebrated World Tourism Day as International observances on September 27. This date was chosen as, on that day in 1970, the Statutes of UNWTO were adopted. The adoption of these Statutes is considered a milestone in global tourism. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide. This day is celebrated with a specific theme each year. This year's theme is 'Re-thinking Tourism' and the official function of this day will be celebrated in Bali, Indonesia on 27 September, highlighting the shift towards tourism being organized as a crucial pillar of development.

On this auspicious day of World Tourism Day, let's see how Manipur is a heaven for tourist which is unknown to many. Manipur a stunning and beautiful destination in India that can swoon, baffle and vivify travelers. Beautifully carpeted with lush green dense forests, majestic and enchanting hills, and utmost pleasure, peace, and serenity all around. Manipur can leave its visitors spellbound with its amazing hospitality. From scrumptious cuisines and distinct classical dance to that traditional aura and sacred atmosphere, everything is more than perfect in Manipur. This beautiful destination has some super amazing tourist places that are loved by people from all over the world and hence so many of them flock here to witness them. And this blog will work as an ultimate travel guide to Manipur by listing out some must-visit tourist places in Manipur. Manipur is known for its rich culture, beautiful hill stations, and extraordinary flora and fauna. As this state is located in the far east of the country, not many tourists know a lot about Manipur. However, given the offbeat nature of this state, this state is free from the relentless crowd of tourists. So, if you want to spend your vacation away from crowded hill stations, you should definitely visit Manipur. Now that you know the uniqueness of Manipur. Manipur is one of the best tourist destinations that many tourists don't know. Because of its off-

beat nature, your trip to Manipur can be very peaceful and quiet, which is ideal when you are trying to unwind. Manipur also has layers of incredible human architecture combined with majestic natural views. Overall, your experience of visiting Manipur can be very unique based on how you plan your trip. As you are visiting one of the easternmost states of India, planning is essential in ensuring the best experience on your journey. So, make sure you follow this guide to learn about and plan your trip accordingly to have the best trip to Manipur possible. Here are the best Manipur tourist places that you can visit to make the most out of your trip.

When it comes to tourist places to visit in Manipur, we know Imphal is obvious. This in fact is one of the most famous places to visit in North-east India. Imphal is located in the heart of Manipur, flaunting the beauty of hilltops and foothills in all their glory. Head to the valleys and behold the panoramic views of the surrounding, including important landmarks like Manipur State Museum, Palace of Kangla and Polo Ground. One of the greatest Manipur destinations, Imphal is jeweled with glittering lakes and waterfalls you'll stumble across as you take a tour. It is also a great place to be a part of various Manipur festivals. There are numerous amazing things to do in Imphal. Attractions in Imphal are Kangla Fort, Manipur State Museum, Manipur Zoological Gardens, Matai Garden, Khonghampat Orchidarium and Shree Govindajee Temple, Ison Mani Mandir and Langthabai. Located in close proximity with Imphal, Andro is a small village which indeed is one of the most stunning places to visit in Manipur. The pottery craftsmanship of this place is something which has always caught the attention of the visitors which is what makes it one of the best tourist places in Manipur. In fact not just the artistry, you also get to take a peek at the history of it, when you're in Andro Gramshang. If you're a keen traveler, you'd love getting your hands on pottery too. The museum displays a variety of traditional pots, such as Walom, Pudong Makhong, Yukhum and Ngangkha. Andro

Shantheil Natural Park, Andro Gramshang, Selloi Langmai Ecological Park, Gwarok Mahadeva Yairipok and Kaina Temple are the places of attraction in Andro.

Thoubal, one of the Manipur's famous places, is a preferred destination for the trekkers who like getting lost amidst lush environs. Beautified with lakes and rivers, the roads here are enveloped with banyan trees. Even locals seem to love planting, as you will come across fruit-bearing plants in the verandah of the houses. Alongside verdant greenery, you also get to enjoy local culture while touring landmarks like People's Museum. This blend of nature and culture make it among the best places to visit in Manipur. Attractions in Thoubal are People's Museum, Imphal River, Waitouh Lake, Ikop Lake, Khongjom War Memorial, Lousi Lake and Thoubal Bazar. A place that pays a tribute to the military, Khongjom is one of the best Manipur destinations. Right here, the revered major general, Paona Brajabashi with his troops fought with British during their reign. The was known as Anglo-Manipur War. Today there is a memorial built in remembrance of the brave fighters, which holds historical importance. The place is perfect for an Indian patriot, or anyone with interest in military and the history of wars. Khongjom War Memorial is worth to visit. An important commercial hub of the state, Kachching is among the best places to visit in Manipur. Thanks to ease of access and relatively more amenities, this is a travelers' favorite. To get a better insight to local culture, come over during the celebration of Haraoba Festival; in which locals enact the story of the creation of universe, dressed as deities. You have markets, gardens, theme park and more to visit when here. People's Museum, Haraoba Festival, Kachching Garden, and Adam Eco Park are main tourist spots in Kachching. Chandel, the gateway to Myanmar, is bestowed with nature's bounty. Not just that, the place boasts of a diverse cultural scenario as well and is one of the most stunning places to see in Manipur. So, you get the best of both worlds in this paradise, which is also one of the most beautiful Manipur attrac-

tions. An early morning trek here is a pure retreat, as the mist-laden grasslands and subtle sunshine greets you along the way. While exploring the denser regions, you may spot a number of rare animals and birds, so keep your camera ready at all times. Attractions in Chandel are Yangpoukpi-Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary, Tengnoupal and Moreh.

Manipur has a bounty of picturesque waterfalls one of which is Leimaram Waterfall. It has become a tourist hotspot because of its enchanting views and tranquil surroundings. There is not just one but three waterfalls to greet you in their glory. Enjoy the refreshing sprinkle of water as you gear near the falls. It is one of the best places to visit in Manipur, India that you ought to visit. You can also have a glimpse of Red Hill or Japanese War Memorial at Maibam Lotpa-ching on the way to Bishnupur. Bishnupur, where the infamous Vishnu Temple and Louko Pat is on the way to Moirang and Loktak Lake. Moirang is in the Bishnupur district of Manipur where the Loktak Lake is located; apart from the incredible lake, this district has other incredible tourist attractions as well. For starters, Moirang is the place where for the first time, the Indian tricolor was hosted in 1944, which, as you can imagine, is pre-independence. It was done by the then Indian National Army led by Colonel Shaikat Malik. Other than this tidbit of history, you will find many other incredible places of great relevance in Moirang, both historically and culturally. The natural beauty of the Sendra hill station is also unbelievable, with exotic views all around you wherever you look. Overall, Moirang is one of the first places in Manipur you should visit as it hosts some of the best tourist attractions in Manipur. You can also enjoy various activities in Moirang to make your visit/stay even better. Moirang and Imphal are separated by a distance of only 45 km. You can easily get across this distance using public transport like cabs and buses within an hour. Loktak Lake is the premier tourist destination in Manipur. It is the largest freshwater lake in India, which was also known to be an ancient super volcanic caldera.

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# Narendra Modi: the man behind the new confident, self-reliant, and powerful India



By: Laimayum Bashanta Sharma

Shri Narendra Damodar Das Modi was born on 17th September, 1950 to Shri Damodar Das Mulchand Modi and Smt. Hiraben Damodardas Modi, in a small town in northern Gujarat, Vadnagar (Mehsana District). A post graduate from Gujarat University, Ahmedabad and married to Smt. Jashodaben Modi but he left family life in service to the nation.

Early life: His father traded oil and ran a tea shop, where Narendra, as he has narrated, served customers as a child. He joined the local branch of the RSS at the age of eight, as it was the only extracurricular activity in town. He became a permanent member of the RSS in the late 1960s and went to live in the Hedgewar Bhawan (regional RSS headquarters) in Maninagar, an area of Ahmedabad. He worked there as assistant to the prant pracharak Lakshmanrao Inamdar. Modi viewed

him as his mentor. Modi was made a pracharak in 1972. The following year, he became involved in the Navnirman protest movement, a movement against corruption started by students in Gujarat. He took part in the movement after the RSS deputed him to the local branch of the ABVP, its student union. In 1975, he went underground to escape the Emergency declared by Indira Gandhi, which had landed a good number of RSS cadres in prison. Throughout the emergency he operated under the secret identity of Prakash. His task, in addition to distributing anti government tracts under cover, involved looking after the families of RSS prisoners and soliciting aid from Gujaratis who had emigrated abroad.

It was L. K. Advani who enlisted Modi's services for the party. Modi was thus deputed to the BJP in 1987, taking up the key post of sangathan mantri (organization secretary) at the head of the party's Gujarat branch. He became a prominent figure during the Ekta Yatra (unity pilgrimage), led by the new BJP president Murlu Manohar Joshi, in 1991. Modi was elevated to the post of national organizer, in charge of a procession that departed from Kanyakumari (southern tip of India) to Srinagar in the north to demonstrate the unity of the Indian nation. It was during

the last leg of the Ekta Yatra, he waved the tricolor national flag at Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Kashmir and sang the national anthem in open defiance of the death threat issued by terrorists. He won the heart and mind of the people of India with this daring act. Long story short Swargiya Atal Bihari Vajpayee offered to have him replace Keshubhai Patel, whose popularity was on the wane, he answered, "That is not my work. I have been away from Gujarat for six long years. I am not familiar with the issues. What will I do there? It is not a field of my liking. I don't know anyone." Modi did not like politics - as is appropriate for many RSS cadres who consider politics dirty and politicians morally corrupt. While Modi did not see himself as a political figure, he nevertheless agreed to replace Patel as chief minister of Gujarat in the fall of 2001. The rest we all know is history.

## His vision of a new India from my perspective

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's famous slogan "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas Sabka Prayas" An all inclusive growth and development of the nation with everyone's trust and everyone's efforts is the most powerful manifestation of the spirit of the Constitution said PM Modi. This is the vision of PM Modi.

Addressing the nation on 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a call for "Sabka Prayas" (everyone's efforts) along with "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" for building a self-reliant India.

Speaking from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi, PM Modi said, "Amrit Kaal is 25 years away, but we don't have to wait till then. We must start the change now to build a new India to celebrate the 100 years of Independence. With sabka saath, sabka vikas and everyone's effort, we will achieve our goal."

"We have to ensure we meet our goal of building Aatmanirbhar Bharat when we celebrate 100 years of India's Independence," he added.

PM Narendra Modi also drew the blueprint for the 100 years of Independence. He said, "Our goal for the 100th year is that together, we make prosperity, good governance, discipline, building an ideal India, an India that runs with the world."

The list of major achievements below may be inadequate however attempt is being made to cover important mega government schemes, national security, geo-political and independent foreign policy related strategic moves undertaken by PM Modi that enhances India's reputation as a global power.

to be continued

# More than 90 alleged PFI activists held in raids across six states

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 27:

More than 90 people allegedly linked with the Popular Front of India (PFI) were detained or arrested in raids across six states on Tuesday, the crackdown coming five days after similar pan India searches against the group often accused of being linked to radical Islam.

Conducted mostly by state police teams, the raids were spread across Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi, Maharashtra, Assam and Madhya Pradesh.

On September 22, multi-agency teams spearheaded by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested 106 leaders and activists of the PFI in 15 states for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country. The NIA is investigating 19 cases involving the PFI.

As police teams fanned out across their respective states on Tuesday, seemingly synchronised, the action was swift. While 25 people were

arrested in Assam, four were arrested in Maharashtra and 30 detained in Delhi, officials said. The count of those detained in Madhya Pradesh was 21, followed by 10 in Gujarat. Besides, several people were also arrested in Karnataka.

According to officials in Assam, of the 25 PFI activists arrested in the fresh crackdown, 10 were held in Goalpara. Besides, five were nabbed in Kamrup (Rural) and three in Dhubri, followed by arrests in Barpeta, Baksa, Darrang, Udalguri and Karimganj.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had earlier said his government has been urging the Centre to ban the outfit for allegedly creating an eco-system for terror activities.

In the national capital, Delhi Police's Special Cell carried out the searches in multiple locations, including Nizamuddin and Shaheen Bagh.

"We have conducted raids at multiple locations in the national capital, including Shaheen Bagh and Nizamuddin. So far, we have detained 30 people associated with the PFI," a senior police officer said.

Paramilitary forces were deployed in several places in the city where the raids were conducted. "We have taken preventive measures and as part of it, we have deployed paramilitary forces in respective areas of the districts to ensure law and order situation and maintain peace and tranquillity in the area. This is taken as a preventive measure to ensure no untoward situation takes place," a senior police official said.

No case has been registered as the investigation is underway, police said. The operation started on Tuesday after 12.30 am continued till early morning, police said. The Madhya Pradesh Police detained 21 people from eight districts for their links with the PFI, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra said.

These people were detained on the basis of interrogation of the PFI activists arrested last week. Mishra, who is also the Madhya Pradesh government's spokesperson, said.

Formed in 2006, the PFI claims to strive for a neo-social movement ostensibly for the empowerment of marginalised sections of India. It is, however, often accused by law enforcement agencies of promoting radical Islam. The organisation was formed in Kerala and is headquartered in Delhi.

Following the mega crackdown, the PFI stares at a possible countrywide ban.

In Gujarat, at least 10 people were detained from different parts of the state in raids conducted by a joint team of the state Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the NIA.

"They have detained at least 10 people for questioning from different parts of Gujarat with the help of the state police and ATS," an official in Ahmedabad said.

# Assam government's Chintan Shivar concludes at Kaziranga



IT Correspondent  
Guwahati, Sept 27:

The widely publicised three-day Chintan Shivar held at Kaziranga, where Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, State cabinet ministers, senior bureaucrats, functionaries from the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council were participants for deliberation and discussions, came to an end on 26 September. CM Sarma, while addressing the concluding day of Chintan Shivar, declared that the government would shed its conventional role of a regulator and perform as a facilitator to help different stakeholders to bring about a paradigm shift in development of the State.

Sarma said that the Assam government is committed to work as a facilitator to assist all stakeholders to unleash their energies for the devel-

opment of the state in a time bound manner. He said that the government organized the three day Chintan Shivar to deliberate on action points where the government can work for the targeted goal in a stipulated time frame to enable the people of the state to reap rich dividends of governance.

He said that as an outcome of the Chintan Shivar, all departments would prepare certain action points indicating resources to be required to implement the points. The action points would subsequently be submitted to the government for perusal and necessary approval. After the government receives the action points from all the departments, the points would be uploaded on the government website for public viewing. Further, based on the action points, the government will take steps for their implementation in a time bound manner by 2026.

Sarma directed the departments to prepare action points highlighting their vision for Assam for 2026. After preparing the action points the departments should share them with every employee of the departments to build a strong belongingness so that everybody works together to reach the target by 2026. He also called for inter-departmental coordination and the need for looking at the government as an entity and not the department in isolation.

Spiritual Guru Ravishankar also graced the camp on its second day. On the sidelines of the camp, Sarma held a talk to a delegation of the PM's ECI led by its chairman Bibek Debroy. Besides presenting Assam, its potentials and resources that can guide the development narrative of the State, he also put forward the perennial problems which sometimes stand in the way for the expeditious growth of Assam.

Earlier in a move to draw a roadmap for holistic development of Assam and to create a blueprint for expediting its growth, Sarma along with

spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev inaugurated the camp on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, Sarma stated that Assam was once a very flourishing State and its GDP growth was more than the national average.

The per capita income of Assam was also more than the national average. Though the State is contributing greatly to growth of the nation in the last 75 years, the growth has not been as encouraging as it should have been. Referring to the devastation caused by the earthquake and subsequent floods Sarma asserted that these had a negative impact on the common psychology of the people.

However, making a turnaround, the present government in Dispur with the able guidance of the Union government has unleashed a series of activities which have given a new momentum to the development of Assam. The government has already ventured into a journey to steer the State to a robust growth trajectory, Sarma stated adding that the government is encouraging a vision which has emerged from that sense of responsibility. Sadhguru, while addressing the congregation at Chintan Shivar, emphasized on the initiative to save the soil. A memorandum of understanding was signed on the Save Soil Movement with Isha Foundation through which the government would take actions on sustainable use of soil for agricultural practices.

Sarma also unveiled three rhino statues at Mihimukh of Kaziranga National Park along with Sadhguru, which have been created using the ashes collected from burning rhino horns. It may be noted that the State government created history when a stockpile of 2479 rhino horns were consigned to flames on 22 September last year sending a strong message to the poachers and illegal horn traders that rhino horns possess no medicinal value.

# At 3,230, India records lowest daily Covid cases in 118 days

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 27:

India logged 3,230 new coronavirus infections, the lowest recorded in 118 days, taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,45,75,473, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The active cases declined to 42,358 while the death toll climbed to 5,28,562 with 32 fatalities which include 22 deaths

reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.10 per cent of the total infections, the ministry said, adding the national Covid recovery rate increased to 98.72 per cent.

A decline of 1,057 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.18 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at

1.58 per cent, according to the ministry.

According to the ministry, 217.82 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 ten fatalities reported in the last 24 hours include three from West Bengal and two from Maharashtra.

Contd. from Page 2

# Manipur: Heaven of Tourist....

The most unique feature other than the ethereal beauty of Loktak Lake is the circular swamps known as Phumdis in the local language. These Phumdis float on the surface because of the decay from the bottom. The lake has a unique ecosystem of its own that is still largely unaffected by human intervention. The Loktak Lake is also one of the listed Ramsar sites in India. The Loktak Lake supports the local population in various ways; from generating hydroelectricity to fishing, the lake is an integral part of the lives of the local population. It also has great relevance in the local folklore, which you can learn about from locals when you visit this incredibly beautiful lake on your trip to Manipur. The Loktak Lake is located 31 km from Imphal. You can easily get to and from the lake using public transport such as cabs and

buses. Keibul Lamjao National Park, the only floating park which is the home to Sangai, the only endangered deer in the World is also on the southern side of this lake.

Churachandpur, the second largest town, one of Manipur's famous places, Churachandpur or Lamka, is rich in both ethnicity and natural beauty. The district is home to tribal communities, who also found it, but there's no way we can call this a backward area, as there are many schools, dam and museum to keep the travelers hanging around. Language is not a barrier either, as English, Hindi and Manipuri are spoken and understood by many locals. Tipaimukh, Tonglen Cave, Tuibuong Tribal Museum, Ngalo Falls and Tipaimukh are the best places to visit in Churachandpur. Tamenglong also known as Land of Hornbill, Tamenglong will please

you especially if you are a bird-lover which makes it one of the most tranquil places to see in Manipur. The forests here are unexplored, hailing you with its arms open. There are waterfalls and rivers, babbling and roaring to elevate the charm of this already enchanting locale. Surely, our list of best places to see in Manipur would have been incomplete without mentioning this one. Tamenglong is home to some of the most beautiful tourist attractions in Manipur. Attractions in Tamenglong are Zeilad Wildlife Sanctuary, Buning Meadow, Zeilad Lake, Kisha Khou, and Tharon Cave. Blessed with nature's bounty, Senapati is a simple yet intriguing hideout and one of the best tourist places in Manipur. Almost 80 percent of the area here is covered in verdant forests, and the rest of it is inhabited by villagers. The hamlet makes for an

ideal escape for someone longing for a cultural insight to Manipur. You could be spending the day exploring the woodland and in the evening spend time with locals, who know may as well cook something special for you. Purul, Mao, Dzukou Valley, Yangkhullen, Makhel Cave, and Maram Khullen are the centers of attraction in Senapati. Dzukou Valley is one of the breath taking places to visit in Manipur India for nature lovers. Blooming with flowers of variegated colors, the valley is what dreams are made of. The valley is named after the rare Dzukou Lilly which is only found in this region. It is located on the border of Manipur and Nagaland and can easily be reached by a car. Attractions in Dzukou Valley are Jafpu peak, trekking trails. Known for its scenic splendor, Ukhrul is among the

best places to see in Manipur. The natural beauty is such that you could meditate for hours and find peace of mind. When planning to spend time here, just have plenty of time in your hands as you might consider an extended stay. Trekking and tea garden visit are among the most common activities in Ukhrul. It is one of the most stunning places to visit in Manipur. Attractions in Ukhrul are Nillai Tea Estate, Kachou Phung lake, Shirui Kasong Peak, Kangkhui cave and Khayang peak.

There are many other famous tourist attractions in Manipur and places to visit that'll leave you speechless apart from a few mentioned above. It is truly a heaven for nature lovers and a perfect place to visit if you are looking for a relaxing vacation.

(Writer can be reached to: [jugeshwor7@gmail.com](mailto:jugeshwor7@gmail.com))

# Navratri symbolises people's cultural, social....

The most impressive artistry of the Rasa dances of Gujarat and Saurashtra is displayed in the Dandiya Rasa by men. It is a counterpart of the Garba of the women. In Garba, at every step they gracefully bend sideways, the arms coming together in beautiful sweeping gestures, up and down, left and right, each movement ending in clap.

The Garba of Gujarat is the most popular women's folk dance of Gujarat. During

NAVRATRI, pots are ceremoniously placed attractive designs are made on the pot and a light is placed inside. Village girls bearing pots (garbis) on their heads go from door to door and dance around the respective house.

There are variations in the Garba different regions communities and dancers have involved their own style and steps. The Garba is indeed a ceremony in which everyone can take part irrespective of

caste or social position. The dances are accompanied by drums (dholak) and the vocal women. The songs of the Garba are often history and melodious and have been handed down through generations. The origins of the seem to be a tribal dance revolving around a hunt; later it was transformed into an agricultural ritual dedicated to the goddess Ambika. Today it is a social dance at all levels of society. In essence, it continues to be a fertility dance.

The day after NAVRATRI i.e. the 10th day after Ashwina, is Dussera which celebrates the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana. Ravana is burnt in effigy, often giant dummies of Ravana stuffed with fireworks are shot with arrows until they blow up before a large, applauding audience.

Ahmedabad is one of the greatest places to enjoy NAVRATRI. All kinds of Rasa-Garbhas, Dandia Raas etc. are practiced in this period, feast-

ing and fasting are important cultural aspects of this day, and various rituals are performed at temples of the 9 Goddesses of Hinduism. The atmosphere is electric and revelry is in the air.

Festivals like NAVRATRI in Gujarat symbolise people's cultural, social and religious aspirations. They help people to live a fuller and better life, remove monotony and provide healthy recreation. They promote unity, fellow-feeling, self-discipline and austerity.

## Name Change

I, the undersigned, Oinam Deepa Chanu do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Takhellambam Deepa Chanu** as I have assumed my new name **Oinam Deepa Chanu**.

Sd/-

**Oinam Deepa Chanu**  
D/o, Oinam Dilip Singh  
W/o Takhellambam Zeera Singh  
Sega Road, Takhellambam Leikai,  
Imphal West, Manipur

# ZUF clarifies news report regarding Zeliangrong Martyr's Day

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 27:

The Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) while making a clarification the a news article under the heading "Zeliangrong Martyr's Day" published as some newspaper by the merger group led by S.Kamsom causes confusion and misleading stated that the statement was null and void once and for all.

A statement signed by John Pame, Secretary, Information &

Publicity ZUF said that the Zeliangrong United front is urged to clarify the misgiving declaration of Zeliangrong Martyr's Day, on the 22nd September 2022 taking the day of the death of Late Athuan Abonmai. The said declaration was inappropriate and illogical for the unauthorised and unrepresented authority to declare any day of importance of the people. The ZUF don't object or deny, observing the death anniversary of late Athuan Abonmai. However, the day of

his death can never be taken into account to be "Zeliangrong Martyr's Day".

"However, his leadership and contribution to the people is credited, recognised and appreciated. It is pertinent to know that, if any death of a Zeliangrong whose contribution or nature of death be of martyrdom to be deservingly credited, the right body is ZCSO to declare such day of importance. Any day of martyrdom to be observed must be based on authentic and significant role of patriotism and contributions made for the cause of the people. The Self-styled S.Kamsom and his goon gang has no authority to supersede the peoples' mandatory authority to declare Zeliangrong Martyr's Day. The first ZUF martyr was accorded to Late Paule Nkuame as decided by act of resolution to observe the 5th March every year as ZUF Martyr's day since 2012. The principle decision of ZUF stands valid till date", the statement said.

nificant role of patriotism and contributions made for the cause of the people. The Self-styled S.Kamsom and his goon gang has no authority to supersede the peoples' mandatory authority to declare Zeliangrong Martyr's Day. The first ZUF martyr was accorded to Late Paule Nkuame as decided by act of resolution to observe the 5th March every year as ZUF Martyr's day since 2012. The principle decision of ZUF stands valid till date", the statement said.

# YVO Wangkhei vows to support War on Drug mission

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 27:

Local clubs and other organization continue to extend support the "War on Drug" day after another.

Young Voluntary Organization (YVO) Wangkhei, in Imphal East also vows to support the war on drug mission initiated by the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

"Our volunteers will co-operate and support the War on Drug mission", said Y Binanta, president of YVO. In a press meet held today after, Binanta said that the YVO will support the anti drug campaign of under the leadership BJYM President Barish Sharma.

Contd. from Page 1

# State Level National Deworming Day...

The Day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of deworming, mainly for children from 1 to 19 years of age. The purpose behind celebrating the day is to reduce the prevalence of Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH), commonly known as the parasitic intestinal worms, among all children and adolescents.

Deworming tablets i.e., Albendazole 400 mg tablet were

administered free of cost to control worm infections to the students. Dr. Neha Sareen, Nutrition Scientist from Vitamin Angels, Delhi donated the deworming tablets and vitamins for the Deworming Day.

L. Nandakumar Singh, IAS, Director, Education (S), Manipur; Dr. Kh. Sasheekumar Mangang, Director, Health Services, Manipur; Ng. Uttam Singh, Direc-

tor, Social Welfare, Manipur; Dr. Somorjit Ningombam, State Mission Director, NHM, Manipur were on the dais as Guest of Honors.

Dr. Sadhana Ningthoujam, SNO, Child Health, NHM; Dr. R.K. Rosy, SNO, NVHCP, IEC, officials of Health Department, teachers and students of Wangkhei High School attended the state level launching programme.

# State Textiles Minister inaugurates...

The Minister also stated that the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India approved and sanctioned for construction of 10 Common Facility Centres (CFC) under the National Handloom Development Programme and were constructed in 10 Block Level Cluster (BLC). Out of the 10 CFCs, 5 CFCs are under the Manipur Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation (CFC) under the National Handloom Development Programme and were constructed in 10 Block Level Cluster (BLC). Out of the 10 CFCs, 5 CFCs are under the Manipur Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation (CFC) under the National Handloom Development Programme and were constructed in 10 Block Level Cluster (BLC). Out of the 10 CFCs, 5 CFCs are under the Manipur Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation (CFC) under the National Handloom Development Programme and were constructed in 10 Block Level Cluster (BLC).

She continued the main objective for setting up of such CFCs at 10 Blocks is to carry out common activities of handloom, weaving and dyeing. The Ministry of Textiles with their office in Manipur has been closely monitoring the progress of construction of the CFCs, Smt Nemcha added.

The Common Facility Centre (CFC) is a centre where common activities of weavers of the surrounding area like winding, sizing, drying, warping, new design, development, etc. have

to be performed.

Deputy Chairman, State Planning Authority, S. Rajen Singh, Chairman, Manipur Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited, Kh. Ibombcha, N. Promo Devi, Zilla Parishad Member, Awang Khunou Zilla Parishad, Th. Dwijamani Singh, Pradhan, Awang Khunou Gram Panchayat, Y. Muhindro Singh, Pradhan, Khonghampat Gram Panchayat and officers and officials of the department also graced the occasion.

# NSF condemn attempt to plant bomb by SF

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 27:

The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) has expressed strong condemnation to the attempt to plant bomb at Kambiron area in Tamenglong district.

"The NSF condemn the failed attempt made by the Indian armed forces, through one of its personnel by the name of Thiyan Ashok Singh of Kongba Leikai, Imphal Manipur, a CID/GD of the 87th battalion of the CRPF of Kambiron to disrupt the peaceful and tranquil environment in the Naga home land by planting an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) at the site where the program for renovation of Jadonang Memorial was going on at Puiulang village in Tamenglong District on 24th September 2022", a statement by NSF said.

The statement further added that the admission by the accused that the IED was planted under the direction of his commander Inspector Dogra Singh of the 87th CRPF Battalion while the IED was delivered to him by the 39th Assam Rifles at Nungba reveals a new low in the sinister plot of the Indian Armed forces to hijack the hard-earned peace brought about by the ongoing political negotiation between

the Government of India and the Naga Political Groups.

The Federation is left to wonder as to how many such incidents had gone undetected in the past and how many innocent Naga souls were made to face the brunt of the armed forces atrocities for no fault of theirs. It is convinced that this incident cannot be one isolated case as the Indian armed forces will have no qualms in victimizing the innocent civilians to meet their desired goal of creating chaos and confusions through dubious means, as exposed by the Puiulang Incident, it added.

The Federation further said that the attempt to cause

death and grievous hurt was thwarted by the vigilant womenfolk's of Puiulang village.

The Federation appreciated the women folk of Puiulang for their fearless role in preventing the worst from happening to our people by unravelling the evil plot.

Further, the Federation reiterated the resolution adopted during the 2nd Federal Assembly held on 12th March 2022 at Kohima wherein the house resolved to firmly extend non-cooperation to Indian Armed forces until the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1958 is repealed from the Naga homeland.

# Sarsanghchalak of RSS Dr Mohan Bhagwat ji visited sacred mount Lum Sohpetbneng in Meghalaya

Shillong, Sept 27:

In the final leg of Shri Mohan Bhagwat ji's two day visit to Meghalaya, the RSS Sarsanghchalak joined the Seng Khasi for a prayer at the sanctum sanctorum of the sacred peak, U Lum Sohpetbneng (Navel of the Universe), for the well-being, growth and prosperity of 'Ka Mei Ri India' (Bharat Mata) and all her citizens.

The prayer was offered by the head priest of Seng Khasi, Shri Skor Jala, and culminated in rituals unique to the indigenous faith, Niam Khasi, which Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat, President of Seng Khasi Kmie and the Dolloi of Jowai took part in. Sanctified rice was distributed and the RSS chief ended the short but solemn occasion by planting a sapling within the sacred

precincts.

Seng Khasi is a socio-cultural and religious organisation formed on 23rd November 1899 by sixteen young khasi men to protect, preserve and promote the indigenous way of life and religion of the Khasis. It was 123 years later that the Seng Khasi has grown to more than 300 branches across the Khasi Hills and continues to endeavour in its cause in bringing

pride to the people by strengthening their roots and identity.

In his speech Mohan Bhagwat ji expressed his profound gratitude at having experienced today's 'darshan' and said he would carry forward the sacred message in the whole country of U Lum Sohpetbneng, that the golden bridge that connects Man and God now lives within a golden heart.

# YFPHR submits memorandum...

It added, "We have deep fear that the act of planting a bomb is to create a disturb area in Manipur so as the central authority could continue to impose AFSPA 1958 in Manipur and to other North East States. However, people of Manipur have bitter experience of extra-judicial killing under AFSPA in the name of counter insurgency killing many innocent civilian.

And people of Manipur are still under the trauma, fear psychosis due to serious human right viola-

tion committed by Military forces in many operations that have executed under the AFSPA which also violate the International Humanitarian Law. We cannot deny the fact that killing of people of Manipur under the AFSPA, 1958 Act is also an act to suppress the voice of people. Such ill treatment towards the people of Manipur having its different distinctive features of Mangoloid by central forces is considered as an act of racial discrimination towards its own citizen".

The YFPHR urge the Governor to initiate thorough investigation against the CRPF and 39th Assam Rifles who are posted in Nungba and punish according to the rule of law.

It also urged to repeal AFSPA, 1958 from Manipur and other North Eastern States and also to constitute an independent investigation team chaired by a retired Judge of the High Court of Manipur.

# Meghalaya to host 2nd edition of North East Olympics Games



Agency  
Shillong, Sept 27:

All eyes are on the government and the Meghalaya State Olympic Association (MSOA) as the state is all set to host the second edition of the North East Olympics Games 2022.

The second edition is being hosted as part of the 50th statehood day celebration.

The state government had earlier drawn flak for its failure in hosting the Meghalaya Games.

State Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, however, is optimistic about the upcoming sporting event in the state.

Responding to a query on the success of the event, the Chief Minister said he is confident that the event will be a big success. "The state government, MSOA and the stakeholders concerned have been taking all the necessary measures to successfully organise the mega sporting event. I am quite positive about the event as thinking negatively will bring negative results."

"The fact that the North East Olympics Games is being organised in the state is itself a very big step. The Olympic Association of Meghalaya and the sports department must be congratulated for taking all the necessary

steps to host the event," said Sangma.

Concerning the challenges, Sangma said, "Challenges will always be there, but that cannot dissuade or stop us from trying. It's a very big game. Over 3,000 athletes are going to come and Meghalaya has not hosted such mega events for a very long time. Hence, multiple problems and challenges will be there but we are ready for it."

Sangma further urged all the citizens to support and help in every way possible. He also assured that the association and the departments concerned would leave no stone unturned to make the event a grand success.

# Masters Athletic Association players facilitated

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 27:

The Imphal East District Masters Athletic Association participated in the sports event were facilitated with certificates and gifts were presented, and honours were accorded to those medal winners in the first Imphal East District Masters Athletic Meet.

The function was held at the youth hostel of the Khuman Lampak sports complex. The function was attended by MLA Sapam Kunjakshor of Patsoi Assembly Constituency, President of Imphal East District Masters Athletic Association Th Rajnikanta, Women's Welfare Association president Waikhom Bormani Leima, Master Manipur Athletic Association executive R.K Chourajit, Herojit Jewellery Works proprietor L Herojit Meitei and ISCOM chief editor N Phillips, who attended the ceremony as chief guest, president and guest of honour respectively.

# India U-17 women's team suffers 1-3 defeat against Sweden



Agency  
Girona (Spain), Sept 27:

The India U-17 women's team suffered a 1-3 defeat against Sweden in their first match of the exposure tour in the run-up to the FIFA U-17 World Cup. The match was played at Girona in Spain.

It was the first match of the exposure tour for the Indian girls ahead of the age-group showpiece, which India is hosting in October-November. Sudha Tirkey (622) scored the

only goal for India after Sweden U-17 girls took a comfortable 3-0 lead through Ida Gramfors (442) Sara Frigeren (522) and Selma Astrom (542). India, however, looked promising at the start as they competed on equal terms in an intense midfield battle that saw winger Anita Kumari get an early shot at the rival goal, which was saved.

Minutes later, Nitu Linda tried her luck to take a shot from the edge of the Swedish penalty area, but was blocked.

India earned a free kick in the 19th minute and Anita once again made an attempt at the rival goal, this time a header, but the Swedish custodian Elin Ekmark saved it with ease.

A few minutes later Sweden striker Maja Jarsvensvius tried a longer ranger, which went over the bar. Both Anita and India goalkeeper Anjali enjoyed a good first half. The former made a few inroads around the half-hour mark, while the latter made a few worthy saves to keep her side in the game.