

One Day National Dialogue on Tribal Heroes in India's Freedom Struggle held

State Government would be ready to recognize every unsung hero who had fought against the British colonialism - CM

IT News
Imphal, Sept 29:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh assured that the State Government would be ready to recognize every unsung hero who had fought against the British colonialism and were involved in the freedom struggle as martyrs. He added that everyone who had contributed to achieve our freedom should be honoured.

The Chief Minister was speaking as chief guest at the One Day National Dialogue on Tribal Heroes in India's Freedom Struggle organized by National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) today as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at the Centenary Hall of Manipur University, Canchipur.

N. Biren Singh continued that after Narendra Modi became India's Prime Minister in 2014, the Central Government had taken up initiative at micro level to recognize all the unsung heroes of India's Freedom Struggle. Everyone who had contributed in attaining freedom, fighting against British colonialism are now being honoured, he added. Mentioning that an Indian Coast



Guard Ship was named after the State's freedom fighter Rani Gaidinliu, the Chief Minister stated that it was the right time to research and bring up the name of every unsung hero who took part in the freedom struggle and honour them.

Maintaining that by choosing a tribal woman for the post of the President of India, the current Union Government under Narendra Modi had shown that every commu-

nity had contributed to the freedom struggle. As such, he appealed to everyone to continue to be a part of One India Movement.

It may be mentioned that the National Dialogue on Tribal Heroes in India's Freedom Struggle is being organized across the Country in 125 Universities to remember the unforgettable contribution of tribal heroes in the freedom struggle. Its purpose is also to introduce the tribal youth

to the contributions and sacrifices of the tribal community in the freedom struggle.

Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University Prof. N. Lokendra Singh, Joint Secretary (NCST) Konhang Touthang, Professor, Department of History, Tripura University Prof. Sukhendu Debbarma, Vaibhav Surange of Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, faculties and students of Manipur University also attended the programme among others.

MU serves show cause notice to Dr. N. Sanatomba Singh for criticizing State Government policy on liquor

IT News
Imphal, Sept 29:

Authority of the Manipur University had served a show cause notice to Dr. N. Sanatomba Singh, who is currently serving as an Assistant professor in the Manipuri Department of Manipur University to explain in writing regarding his speech that criticized Manipur government for the legalization of liquor, tourism, and other sensitive issues, while commenting on a debating competition organized by the Manipur University Students' Union (MUSU) on September 25, 2022, at the Conference hall of Manipur Institute of Management Studies.

The speech which Dr. Sanatomba delivered criticizing the lifting of the Liquor Prohibition Act went viral on social media. The MU authority felt such



speech on the mass public platform has tarnished the image of the University which prima facie appears to be highly derogatory and defamatory.

As for the show cause notice Dr. Sanatomba has been ordered to explain in writing regarding his speech

as the MU felt that he has violated the rules under Central Civil Service (Conduct) Rule, 1964. The MU authority gives 7 (seven days) time for explanation starting from September 28 as to why disciplinary action as deemed should not be taken against him.

No DC office, no Police Station in Pherzawl District

By Gita Konthoujam
Imphal, Sept 29:

Manipur's Pherzawl District, which came into existence on December 8, 2016 still is not having either the office of the Deputy Commissioner or a Police station at its district head quarter, however, the district is blessed with the opening of a branch office of All Manipur Dalit Development Association on Thursday.

The district which about 2,178 sq km and is inhabited by around 47,259 people have just one Government High School with just 4 teachers. Villagers said that of the four teacher 1 is retiring on superannuation on February and another on March next year.



Over 100 students are currently enrolled in the govt. High School, the villager said.

However two private schools are running in the district to accommodate students with quality education, another villager added.

"We have to travel 40 Km

to visit SDO office as it is located at Parbung", the villager said.

In the revenue district there is no district hospital but a PHC is open for name sake. There are no doctors nurses available in the PHC. On the other hand drinking water is

also a major problem face by the people, a villager added.

The reality face by the people of the Pherzawl district came to light when President of the All Manipur Dalit Development Association Dr. Th Rajen Ayangba and his team went to the district for opening of its branch office. The Branch office was inaugurated yesterday at Ramtha Village by Rajen Ayangba.

"The branch office of the All Manipur Dalit Development Association is being open in the district to improve the condition of the marginalized villagers", Rajen said and added that the office will create awareness to the people on various government developmental programme.

Thounaojam Romen distributes Pension to the aged people of Phubala

IT News
Imphal, Sept 29:

The Monthly Pension to the selected Old Aged Persons of Phubala, Bishnupur District for the month of September has been distributed in a solemn function held at Phubala Community Hall, Phubala, Bishnupur District this afternoon.

The Pension has been distributed under the exclusive sponsorship of Thounaojam Romen Singh, the Managing

Trustee of Thounaojam Chaoba Memorial Charitable Trust, Singjamei Thongam Leikai, Imphal West District, Manipur. The Pension has been distributed since the last one year in the different parts of the State viz., Old Age Homes, Orphanages and different Centres where Old Aged Persons are staying in. Before that the Trust has been helping in different categories that is the persons who cannot do anything for their livelihood, the children

who cannot admit themselves in schools, the persons who are suffering from illness whom they cannot admit in the hospitals for treatment because of their poverty and many more.

Distributing the Pension to the Old Aged Persons, Thounaojam Romen Singh said that the Pension has been distributed to the Old Age Homes which do not get any benefit from the Government side. Now the Pension has been started given to the se-

lected Old Aged Persons having Below Poverty Lines as they are facing a lot of hurdles in their day-to-day lives. Re-counting the different Activities taken up by the Trust, some philanthropists have advised the Trust to initiate Pension Scheme and distribute Pension to such Old Aged Persons and the down trodden persons of the State in such a way that they can be eased out the hurdles to a certain extent.

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IT News
Chandel, Sept 29:

World Suicide Prevention Day- 2022 observed at Anallon Christian Institute, Chandel today by District Health Society (DHS) and District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) Chandel under the theme "Creating hope through Action".

The Observance was graced by Dr. Serthani Serbum, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Chandel as Chief Guest, Dr. Joysin Mathew Monsang, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Chandel as functional President and Mr. L. Wolring Principal Anallon Christian Higher Secondary School Chandel as Guest of honour respectively. The Observance was attended by 100 students of class XI and XII alongwith teachers of the

school. As part of the Observance on spot quiz programme was held for the students and given prizes by the dias members.

Dr. M. Sushilkumar, Coordinator of District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) Chandel gave keynote address. He mentioned that 1.64 lac people committed suicide in India in 2021 and 450 suicide per day. In 2020 in Manipur 44 and 49 people committed suicide in 2021.

Dr. Kh. Robindro, District Nodal Officer, DMHP Chandel mentioned in his speech as resource persons for every suicide there are likely 20 other people making a suicide attempt and many more have serious thought of suicide. He also emphasised on mental health issues which may lead to suicide, use of alcohol and substance abused also one of the major factor of suicide.

Dr. Serthani Serbum, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Chandel expressed that all student should be the ambassador for creating awareness on prevention of suicide in the community. In her chief guest speech, identify those suffering from mental health in the community and to send them to hospital so that we can prevent suicide.

Dr. Joysin Mathew Monsang, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Chandel expressed that "God does not want us to commit suicide", being a Christian we should not commit suicide, and let other also not commit suicide in his presidential speech. Mr. L. Wolring Principal Anallon Christian Institute Chandel said that students must create awareness in the community that suicide is preventable in his guest of honour speech.

Online Essay Competition

Commemorating the 126th Birth Anniversary of Lamyamba Hijam Irabot, Team Imphal Times is organizing an Online Essay Competition. This is the 2nd time that the Team Imphal Times is organizing an Essay Competition. This year theme is - "Manipur's Socio-Economic Problems: System Failure or Individual Fault".

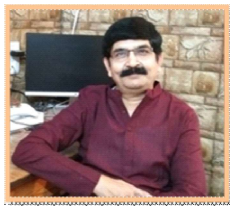
All submitted essays will be published in the Imphal Times newspaper and the name of the winners will also be published. The word count for the essay must be between 1000 and 1200 words.

1st prize Rs 5000, 2nd prize Rs 3000, and 3rd prize Rs 2000 with certificates. The competition is opened to all individuals and every submission must be accompanied by a photo/image of the candidate. The last date of submission will be 6 pm on October 30. All participants should enclose details of their identity. Father's or Mother's name, Address, Qualification, Contact No. (Cell Phone or Landline) should be enclosed at the of submitting the write up. Language medium : English.

Participant can be sent by e-mail to: imphaltimesessaycomp@gmail.com or via WhatsApp to 7005145545 in MS Word or PDF format.

Team Imphal Times

Get to the Heart of the Matter



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

29th September is celebrated as World Heart Day to spread awareness about heart disease and stroke prevention. This is the great day to quit smoking, get exercising and start eating healthy food and improving the health and well being of people the world over. Heart disease and stroke are the world's leading causes of death. The increasing incidents of heart disease and stroke claims 17.3 million lives every year. A study has shown that 2 out of 4 Indian women are at risk of

heart problems due to increasing weight. Heart failure can result in poor quality of life and early death. Early diagnosis is a key. Heart failure patients need to power their heart muscle first for longevity and better quality of life. The ever increasing burden of cardiovascular ailments among the population can only be controlled by taking preventive measures.

There are many who think heart disease occurs mostly in older people, but numerous deaths from this condition happen well before people reach the age of 75. The heart starts pounding until the time of death, it may beat more than 3.5 billion times. The center of the circulatory system is the heart. The average heart beats 100,000 times each day, pushing around 2,000 gallons of blood throughout your body. With a life span of 70-90, the heart will beat two to three billion times and circulate 50-65 million gallons of blood.

Heart disease was once considered an old-age ailment but has now become a common lifestyle concern. Statistics show that the rate of heart diseases in India is double that of the national averages of western countries. Any imbalance or blockage will manifest as dysfunctional relationships, feeling isolated, skin conditions, asthma, circulatory problems, low or high blood pressure, heart palpitations, chest pains and, in extreme cases, heart attack. A heart-healthy environment can help persons make healthy choices to reduce their risk for heart disease. Creating a heart healthy environment where you live, learn, work, and play is one way you can reduce your risk for heart disease and stroke.

Heart disease can take many forms. Stroke or heart attack is the number one cause of mortality, especially among young Indians. According to the Indian Heart Association, 50% of all heart attacks in Indian men occur under 50 years of age and 25% of all heart attacks in Indian men occur under 40 years of age.

Every citizen must make their own heart health a priority and take the vital steps necessary to reduce their risk. Keeping in mind the hectic lives we lead, we need to adopt healthy weight management as one of the key ways to improve heart health. *It's the small things that make a difference. If we make time to walk together daily for 30 minutes, it'll go a long way in protecting our hearts.*

When we see the World Heart Day as an ideal opportunity to scale up efforts at the country level within a globally led initiative, let us encourage everyone to take the road that leads to a heart healthy life.

Demand for separate State in Tribal belt of Bengal revives again

Trinamool Congress suspicious about BJP support to these groups

By: Ashis Biswas

Ever since underground leader Jiban Singha of the banned Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) reiterated the call for a separate state, there have been signs of a resumption of activity on part of its activists in Assam and North Bengal.

Northeast India media reported the arrest of two KLO activists from Kokrajhar, Assam, some days ago. Allegedly they were trying to resume their extortion-related activities and had asked for money from a local businessman who complained to the police. The reports did not make it clear whether the activists were collecting money on behalf of the proposed Kamtapur state as per the old KLO demand or functioning on their own. Despite reports of internal divisions and a shift on part of some of its cadres to other groups, the KLO has not yet ceased functioning totally, reduced as it has become.

Sources said the choice of Kokrajhar town, a major commercial/administrative centre of the tribal Bodoland autonomous area, was significant. Presumably KLO operatives sought to exploit the traditional distrust between majority Assamiyas and minority Bodo tribes people in an ethnically sensitive region.

Whether in Assam or North Bengal, the general perception is that the KLO has ceased to be a serious secessionist organisation along with the ULFA in recent years. The covid-related death some time ago of its former leader Atul Roy had affected cadre morale. However, a recently released video apparently by the KLO, showed KLO renewing call for an independent state. It went viral but did not evoke much re-

sponse from established political parties.

In it KLO strongly attacked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who firmly opposed all demands to partition West Bengal, whether by the Gorkhas or other ethnic groups. KLO reminded the Chief Minister of Coochbehar's 'independent' status even as India was being partitioned in 1947. It never formed part of West Bengal, he insisted.

However, security analysts did not ignore one part of KLO statement, wherein he claimed that his organisation had now settled its ideological differences with the greater Coochbehar Peoples Association (GCPA). Now the movement for a greater separate Coochbehar state, to be carved out of existing districts in Central/north Bengal and Southern Assam, would be resumed with the total support of the leading ethnic group of the region as a whole—the Rajbanshis.

While political leaders/parties in Assam did not comment on KLO statement, they took the views expressed by veteran north Bengal-based leader Mr. Ananta Ray, more seriously. Speaking independently of KLO chief recently, the GCPA leader whose mass following is known to be greater than others, re-endorsed the call for a separate Coochbehar state. He did not refer to the KLO.

However, observers said it could not have been a coincidence that the two non-mainstream political leaders would speak out stressing their similar tribal loyalties and demands at about the same time without prior coordination.

Evidence of this came from Assam leaders and groups expressing their firm rejection for the statehood demand for Coochbehar state. In video releases and extensive messaging on the social media, they dismissed Mr Ray as a self-styled leader based in North Bengal, with the implication that he did not enjoy much support in Assam.

Other sources however, found Mr Ray's views and claims more intriguing. He said categorically that union Home Minister Mr Amit Shah was fully apprised of existing ethnic/tribal sentiments in the sensitive Assam-North Bengal border regions and adjacent districts. Mr Shah, he claimed, had promised a sympathetic consideration of long pending Rajbanshi political demands seeking greater fairness and justice, as a marginalised community.

Assam-based politicians did not comment on this part of Mr Ray's observations. There was, however, a stronger reaction from West Bengal Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Udayan Guha based in Coochbehar itself.

Strongly attacking KLO chief for his views, Guha, often described by his political opponents as a local 'Bahubali', said people like Singha did not have any support at all in North Bengal or elsewhere. If he or his followers tried to create trouble and unrest, the state Government and common people would decisively 'crush' them.

Singha retaliated pointing out that Guha was an 'outsider' in a Rajbanshi-dominated area and only tribal permission had enabled him to settle in Coochbehar. Guha retorted that he had been living

in the district for four generations and did not need anyone's con-firmatory certification.

Present indications suggest that the tensions and agitations of ethnicity-based politics and the familiar agitational approach adopted by most local groups to highlight their old grievances in the North Bengal-Assam region, were not over yet.

Again, whether in Assam or West Bengal, no political leader could speak with any certainty as to the role of the BJP-led Central Government in the present situation. While the BJP had earlier supported the formation of smaller, separate states on the ground of effective governance, it had never categorically approved of the demand for a separate Gorkhaland, raising a number of questions on the issue. Nor had the BJP at the national level given any indication that the creation of a separate state of Coochbehar, to be carved out of Assam and West Bengal, was being considered seriously.

However, the party has given its general approval to the idea of a separate North Bengal state within West Bengal at the state party level, annoying the ruling TMC no end.

As matters stand, the new Coochbehar state would include parts of Malda, Murshidabad, Dinajpur, Darjeeling and other areas in West Bengal, along with parts of Goalpara, Dhubri, Bongaigaon, Bodoland, Chirang and other territories in Assam. At different times during earlier centuries, the independent kingdom of Coochbehar did rule over many of these and other territories, according to observers. (IPA Service)

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



By: Laimayum Bashanta Sharma

contd. from yesterday

14. Universal Health Insurance Ayushman Bharat The Health Minister informed that Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has crossed the landmark of 1 crore digitally linked health records with over 27 lakh records linked in a day. As on February 24, 2022, 17,33,69,087 Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts have been created and 10,114 doctors and 17,319 health facilities have been registered in Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. It will bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of the Healthcare ecosystem through digital highways.

15. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was initiated on 12 May 2020 by the honourable Prime Minister. The covid pandemic

triggered an unprecedented economic crisis that paved the way for this movement. It was proportionate that the self-reliant India does not advocate a self centred system. A total economic package of 20 trillion rupees was allocated to carryover the Abhiyan. Economy, Infrastructure, Technology driven system, Vibrant demography and Demand were the five pillars of the Abhiyan.

The call given by the prime minister laid a strong foundation for supporting small scale industries which makes the livelihood of millions of people in India. It led way to the collaboration of industries to the sustainable development. It supported the labourers who lost their job in this pandemic. As a citizen we should support the PM's clarion call "vocal for local" as today's local product can become tomorrow's global brand.

16. The PLI scheme or Production Linked Incentive scheme was launched in March 2020 to boost the domestic manufacturing sector. As a part of the Make in India initiative, this scheme offers an incentive to eligible firms on incremental sales for five years. This scheme works to reduce down the import bills and boost up domestic production. However, PLI Yojana invites foreign companies to set up their units in India and encourages domestic enterprises to expand their production units.

An outlay of INR 1.97 Lakh Crores for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes across 14 key sectors, to create national manufacturing champions and to create 60 lakh new jobs, and an additional production of 30 lakh crore during next 5 years.

17. PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) was launched on 13th October 2021 for providing multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones. The '100 lakh crore mega plan was launched with a digital platform to bring 16 ministries together for integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

18. PM-GKAY the PM-GKAY (Garib Kalyan Yojana) has been in effect since April 2020, making it the world's largest food security programme. So far, the government has spent over Rs. 2.60 lakh crore, with another Rs. 80,000 crore set to be invested over the next six months through September 2022, bringing the total expenditure under PM-GKAY to roughly Rs. 3.40 lakh crore. This will benefit over 80 million people across India and, like before, will be totally sponsored by the Indian government.

19. Agnipath scheme in the Indian Armed forces is a scheme wherein selected candidates (Agniveers) will be enrolled for a period of four years. After completing this period, Agniveers will be offered an opportunity to apply for enrolment in the permanent cadre.

This will not only address manpower shortfall in the armed forces but also create a skilled and disciplined workforce to cater to the demands of the private as well as public sectors. It will also gradually redress the ever increasing gigantic pension fund that is detrimental to military capital expenditure to fast track military modernisation.

20. NLP: The National Logistics Policy aims to promote seamless movement of goods and enhances the competitiveness of Indian industries. Also, it seeks to reduce the logistics cost from 16 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to a global average of 8 per cent by 2030 to make our export highly competitive in the international market and convert India into a manufacturing hub of the world as an alternative to manufacturing giant like China.

Other notable major achievements

1. Article 370 abrogation and integration of Kashmir to India. The decision of the Centre to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution that gave special status to the state of Jammu & Kashmir was the biggest achievement of PM Modi. History has proved that the aim of the special status was separatism and not integration. A mission impossible made possible under the leadership of Hon. PM Modi and Hon. Home Minister Amit Shah.

2. Surgical Strike in Myanmar and Pakistan & Air Surgical Strike. India had never pursue a

proactive policy against terrorists that operated from across the border. In 26/11 Mumbai attack the then UPA government indulged in dossier diplomacy against Pakistan. However, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi India retaliated militarily against the perpetrators of terror attacks against Indian security forces from terror hideouts based in neighbouring Pakistan and Myanmar.

3. The CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) was passed to provide Indian citizenship to persecuted immigrants who entered India on or before 31st December 2014. The Act was passed for persecuted minority immigrants of six different religions such as Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

4. Ram Mandir and reclaiming past glory:

It was in 1991 the less known Narendra Modi vowed to not visit Ayodhya until the construction of Ram Mandir begins. The foundational stone of the historic Ram Mandir was laid by the Prime Minister himself on 5th of August 2020. It marked the end of years of injustice meted out to Hindus. A historic error has finally been corrected. The nation stands united and PM Modi has played a huge role in fulfilling the dream of billion+ Indians.

5. Foreign Policy- a paradigm shift:

Under the stewardship of PM Modi the paradigm shift from outdated and insignificant none

align movement (NAM) to all alignment foreign policy whether with the western bloc or BRIC or SCO whichever serves the national interest has happened for the first time. India had the political will to retaliate firmly against expansionist bully China, convinced the US administration from imposing Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) sanction for buying S-400 air defence system from Russia.

6. Vaccine Maitri (English: Vaccine Friendship) is a humanitarian initiative undertaken by the Indian government to provide COVID-19 vaccines to countries around the world. The government started providing vaccines from 20 January 2021. It was being done in keeping with India's stated commitment to using India's vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all of the human fight the Covid pandemic.

The never ending list of achievements (many important ones are left out due to word constraints) is mind boggling or hard to believe for many hardcore critics of the prime minister especially those representing the opposition political parties. Without proper verification of the government data they would resort to dry argument using their favourite logical fallacy to target the Prime Minister. Whether they live in perpetual denial or dismissive mode, the world recognises brand Modi.

(The author is a Spokesperson, BJP Manipur Pradesh)

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Lt General Anil Chauhan appointed new Chief of Defence Staff

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Sept 29:

The Defence Ministry announced that Lt General Anil Chauhan (Retired) has been appointed as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and he will also function as Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Military Affairs, on Wednesday.

CDS
The mandate of the CDS, as the primary military advisor to the government, includes acting as a link among the armed forces, creating integrated theatre commands, and prioritizing capital acquisition for the modernization of forces. It was created as a dual role since the CDS was also appointed as Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs. It was touted as one of the most significant reforms in the top echelons of the military, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing the creation of the post during his Independence Day speech in 2019.

The post of CDS fell vacant on December 08, 2021, after the sudden demise of General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu on December 8, 2021. In the air crash, Rawat, his wife, and dozen others



were killed. India was left without a CDS since then. Appointed on December 31, 2019, Rawat was to have a three-year tenure until the end of this year. Lt Gen becomes the second CDS of the country.

Lt Gen Chauhan retired as the General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C) of Eastern Command in May 2021. In a career spanning over 40 years, Lt Gen held several command, staff, and instrumental appointments and had extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East India.

Born on May 18, 1961 in Uttarakhand, Lt Gen Chauhan

was commissioned into the Army's 11 Gorkha Rifles in 1981. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy in Khadakwasla (Maharashtra) and the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun (Uttarakhand).

"In the rank of Maj General, he commanded an Infantry Division in the critical Baramulla sector (Kashmir) in the Northern Command. Later as Lt General, he commanded a corps in the North East and subsequently went to become the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command from September 2019 and held the charge until he retired from the service in

May 2021. Earlier he had also served on a United Nations mission to Angola. The officer superannuated from the Indian Army on May 31, 2021. In addition to these command positions, he also held important staff appointments including the charge of Director General of Military Operations," the Ministry's statement said.

Even after he retired from the Army, he continued to contribute to national security and strategic matters. For his distinguished service in the Army, he was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal, and Vishisht Seva Medal," the Ministry said.

Appointment

In June, the Government amended service rules of the armed forces and made all serving and recently retired three-star officers. Lt General, Air Marshal, and Vice Admiral...under the age of 62 years eligible for the post. This important change in eligibility criteria facilitated the appointment of Lt Gen Anil Chauhan as CDS. His appointment comes over three months after the Government amended rules for appointment to the post of CDS.

India records 4,272 Covid cases in a day; death toll rises to 5,28,611

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 29:

India's Covid-19 case tally increased by 4,272 in a day to reach 4,45,83,360, while active cases have declined to 40,750 according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll has reached 5,28,611 with 27 more deaths, including 16 fatalities reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

Active cases comprise 0.09 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 re-

covery rate has increased to 98.72 per cent, the health ministry said.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.35 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 1.51 per cent.

Active Covid cases declined by 229 in a day while the number of people who recuperated from the disease increased to 4,40,13,999. The case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 218.17 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far un-

der the nationwide Covid-19 inoculation drive.

India's Covid-19 case tally 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.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 last year, three crore on June 23 and four crore on January 25 this year.

Three arrested on charges of illegal sale of PACL's property in Karnataka

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, Sept 29:

Three people including a lawyer, were arrested last week on charges of selling the attached property of the Pearls Agrotech Corporation Limited (PACL), based on fake documents in southern Bengaluru in Karnataka state.

The names of the arrested were given as Manjunath, a lawyer, and real-estate agents Chandramohan and Prithvin. They have been booked under the Indian Penal Code section 420 (cheating) and the Prevention of Corruption 1988 by the Hebbagodi police and remanded to police custody.

The accused illegally sold the 12.30-acre land parcel in "M Medahalli", located on Anekal taluka, in Bengaluru district, with fake documents. The gang involved in this clandestine deal included the arrested accused, a sub-registrar, the brother of a police inspector, and others, official sources said.

As a sequel to the arrest of the three accused, the police searched the house of Praveen (the Police inspector's brother) at Basavanapura. The searches were also carried out at the residences and offices of other suspects in Nagashettihalli and Vijnapura.

In addition, separate teams headed by Deputy Superintendent of Police (Anekal subdivision) Lakshmi Narayan also searched six places belonging to the absconding suspects in the hope of finding documents related to the illegal land sale.

Over a dozen land parcels located at Bengaluru (Urban) North and Benhaluru, Devanahalli in Bengaluru (rural) belonging to PACL, have been

listed for the auction sale by the Justice R M Lodha Committee (set up by the SEBI as per the Supreme Court's direction on February 02, 2016) to sell and recovered investors' money.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had notified the public that a fake authority letter (Ref. No. JRMCL/PACL/3442/2022 dated June 16) in the name of R M Lodha Committee/SEBI, authorizing one Harvinder Singh Bhargoo (Voter ID No. TJU9584804) to sell the PACL properties in Karnataka is in circulation. The SEBI had clarified that the Committee has not authorized any individual/entity to sell/ dispose of the properties of PACL Ltd, cautioning public at large.

The Lodha Committee is entrusted with the task of selling PACL's 27,138 properties spread across India to refund the money to over 5.50 crore investors, duped through an illegal collective investment scheme by Nirmal Singh Bhargoo and 16 others. One of the accused Kanwaljit Toor, died in custody in January this year. Under the scheme, the PACL offered the land at a cheaper rate to investors although the company did not possess even an inch.

Till now the committee has been able to refund Rs.831.78 crore to 18.43 lakh investors. The refundable amount which was in the region of Rs. 49, 100 crores earlier, has now swelled up to Rs 60,000 crore with accumulated interest.

Despite a ban on the sale of properties (except through auction by the Lodha Committee) the reports of the properties being sold clandestinely by the people connected with prime

accused Nirmal Singh Bhargoo continue to surface. One such property located at Juhu in North West Mumbai was sold to a third party early this year.

The boards declaring the attachment of the property are not displayed at the site and no public notice is given. Some of the other properties located in Maharashtra have also been sold clandestinely. Vishal Mhetre, Secretary of the Janhit Association said.

PACL was incorporated on February 13, 1996, in Jaipur (Rajasthan). After the scam surfaced, the SEBI asked PACL to wind up its collective investment scheme by an order dated August 22, 2014. After the action by CBI and other agencies, SEBI attached PACL's properties in 2015.

Subrata Bhattacharya bail

In another development, in view of the bail application (in Civil appeal No 13301/2015) submitted by one of the arrested accused Subrata Bhattacharya, a division bench of the SC comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli, has called for the affidavits from the states of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, and Karnataka indicating the status of the criminal proceedings against Bhattacharya, in their respective states.

The affidavits should reach the SC by September 30. The application for a grant of bail will be considered thereafter on the next date of listing. The Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate have also been permitted to file additional affidavits, the bench's order dated September 16 read.

Kerala HC asks PFI to deposit Rs 5 crore for damaging public properties during its post-raid protest

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 29:

The Kerala High Court on Thursday directed the now-banned Popular Front of India (PFI) and its state general secretary Abdul Sathar to deposit over Rs five crore for the damages caused to public properties during its protest in the state last week.

The PFI members held protests across Kerala on September 23, a day after nationwide searches were conducted against the outfit by multi-agency teams led by NIA and over 100 leaders and activists of the group were arrested.

The HC asked the PFI's Kerala general secretary to deposit Rs 5.20 crore towards

the damages estimated by the state as well as Kerala State Road Transport Corporation as arising from the destruction caused to public property following the PFI protests across Kerala.

The amount has to be deposited with the Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department within two weeks.

The court directed the state government to invoke the provisions of the Revenue Recovery Act if the amount is not deposited within two weeks and to take immediate steps to proceed against the assets of the PFI along with personal assets of its office bearers including the Secretary for the realisation of the deposit amount.

On September 22, the National Investigation Agency (NIA)-led multi-agency teams 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.

Days after the raids, the Central government declared the Islamic group and its associates or affiliates or fronts as an unlawful association for five years.

The Union Home Ministry, in a late Tuesday night notification, said that PFI and its associates and affiliates found to have been involved in serious offences, including "terrorism, its financing, targeted gruesome killings, dis-

regarding Constitutional set up of India, disturbing public order etc. prejudicial to India's integrity, security, sovereignty."

The ministry said there had been several instances of international linkages of PFI with global terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

The PFI, the notification alleged, is encouraging and trying to enforce a terror-based regressive regime, continue to propagate anti-national sentiments and radicalising a particular section of society to create disaffection against the country, aggravating activities which are detrimental to the integrity, security and sovereignty of the country.

Career Guidance

Integration of curriculum defines the way forward for education



By: Vijay GarG

Adding new chapters is not enough

Thus far, education has been about imparting knowledge in standalone subjects. NEP talks about integration of curriculum, for which just adding few chapters on the valour of brave Indian soldiers is not enough. Educa-

tors need to correlate these new chapters in History with other subjects such as Geography, Mathematics, Science and even English. Students should be made to understand that the additional chapters will not just be about new names they need to memorise but will act as a basis to understand various concepts across subjects.

Learning objectives matter

Education needs to move beyond textbooks, which should be connected with reality. CBSE has recently adopted a competency-based curriculum, the aim of which is to help students connect their course with real life. Adding chapters on the lives of brave Indian soldiers

will increase students' interest in subjects such as History. However, educators should ask students to draw upon their understanding of the chapters and elaborate upon the strategies, events, possible alternatives, and results to enhance learning.

Will benefit students

While changing the curriculum, educators must consider whether the change will benefit students' attitude, aptitude, and values. Adding chapters on brave Indian soldiers ticks all these boxes. Rani Laxmibai's story has always been a much-loved chapter in History. Adding chapters on the lives of other Indian soldiers will also be well-received. This will impart a more wholesome view on a

topic like the Armed Forces, which has little clarity till date.

Need to rewrite textbooks

For any school, helping students attain academic excellence is the ultimate objective. While adding chapters on brave Indian soldiers seems like a good idea, this would mean a lot of added work for educators as this material will have to be integrated in History textbooks without affecting the quality of academics. An example would be that we educate students on the two World Wars, but there is never any mention of the Indian contingents who were also a part of these wars. It is time to instil pride in our History by rewriting textbooks.

Akhilesh Yadav seeks BJP's removal from power as he is re-elected SP chief

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 29:

Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday asked the people to remove the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from power in the 2024 national polls and help Samajwadi Party (SP) become a national party in the next five years as he was re-elected its national president for the third time.

He said the people voted for the SP in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly polls but the BJP snatched away their govern-

ment and installed its own with malpractices and misuse of the official machinery. "They did this because the exit from Uttar Pradesh would have meant the end of the government from the Centre as well. That is why they did all that they could."

He added the Election Commission of India (ECI), an institution they had the highest faith in, also let them down. "The ECI sided with the booth in charges of the BJP. That is why now we have to become very strong at the booth level."

He vowed to continue the struggle against the BJP gov-

ernments in the state and at the Centre even if they have to fill up jails. He said democracy and the Constitution are in danger and that the governments in Delhi and Lucknow have captured the institutions.

"[We] do not fear struggle," said Yadav at the party's national convention in Lucknow after he was declared the SP national president unopposed.

Yadav spoke about unity among the socialists and Dalits, who are joining the SP in large numbers. He called BJP leaders liars and propagandists.

PPCM continues drive on price hike in essential commodities

IT News
Imphal, Sept 29:

Protection and Preservation Committee of Manipur (PPCM) continues checking the prices of consumer affairs items which are sold in the market at the heart of Imphal

city. The team is led by PPCM convenor Maibam Bisheshor yesterday inspected at the Waheng Leikai which sold the kitchenwares, utensils items and signboard of price list not found during the inspection.

In a press release, PPCM

found different rates in rice cookers, 1.2 liters, alleging that kitchenware which cost just Rs 500 were spiked and sold at around Rs 1,350/1,450 at shops in the Waheng Leikai bazaars. In this situation, the Manipur government needs to intervene.

PPCM further appealed to the shopkeepers on the eve of the Ningol Chakouba, asking all the shopkeepers not to hike prices during this festival.

The release said similar drives will be carried out across all shopkeepers to co-operate during the drive.

Nipun Bharat and Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan training programme held at Pherzawl

IT News
Pherzawl, Sept 29:

The District Samagra Shiksha under ZEO Pherzawl, organised a phase-wise training programmes on 'Nipun Bharat (Fln) & Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA)' for all the teachers working in the fields was held from September 28, 2022 at Pherzawl Govt.

H/S, Pherzawl.

Hemchandra Yumnam, ZEO Pherzawl District said the 1st phase training on Nipun Bharat will cover six Govt. Schools under Tipaimukh and Thanlon Block from 28th to 30th September. He further stated that the training programme was organised with an aim to achieve quality education in all the schools and also to pro-

mote foundational literacy and numeracy among the children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.

The training programme was imparted by four resource persons with active coordination of the ZEO, Pherzawl.

Meanwhile, a District Level Science Seminar, 2022 on the Topic, "Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development: Challenges & Prospects" was also

organised under ZEO Pherzawl on 28th September, 2022 at Pherzawl Govt. H/S for students reading in classes VIII-X. Stacy Hlimnakim Pulame, Class IX of Pherzawl Govt. High School was selected among the 17 students to represent the district at the ensuing State Level Science Seminar, 2022 at Imphal in the second week of October, 2022.

Interaction Meeting of DGFT for Development of Handicrafts Sector in Manipur

IT News
Imphal, Sept 29:

Amit Sharma, ITS Joint DGFT has visited a handicrafts cluster at Imphal East district, Manipur today. A meeting with the primary producer groups, entrepreneurs and exporters was also organized at Achanbingei, East Imphal. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) has organized the programme in association with DGFT, Kolkata.

Amit Sharma informed that specialized teams on Indian Trade Service have been constituted by DGFT, Department of Commerce, and Ministry of Commerce and Industry Govt. of India. This team would focus on identified product sectors and geographical regions for trade promotion.



The stakeholder who attended the meeting has raised various issues faced by the handicraft manufacturer, producers of the region. The issues were duly recorded, and it was discussed that these critical inputs will be providing to the government for policy action. Y. Jagyashwori Devi, Assistant Director (H)

DC (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India Shamim Ahmad Shah, ADM, Imphal East, Govt of Manipur, Ibemcha Devi, Project Manager, Handloom and Textiles, Govt of Manipur, Imphal East and Maibam Surjamala Devi, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts attended the meeting.

Unmarried woman can undergo abortion up to 24 weeks: Supreme Court

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 29:

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that all women irrespective of married or unmarried are entitled to seek abortion of their pregnancy in the term of 20-24 weeks, even if the pregnancy arises out of a consensual relationship. In its interpretation of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, the apex court said, an unmarried woman can undergo an abortion upto 24 weeks on par with that of married women as the distinction between a married woman and an unmarried woman can't be sustained.

The top court said sexual assault by husbands can take the form of rape and the meaning of rape must include the meaning of marital rape under

the MTP Act and Rules for the purposes of abortion.

The rulings came as the Supreme Court was scheduled to pronounce the judgment today on whether an unmarried woman can seek abortion of pregnancy of 20-24 weeks term in a consensual relationship.

Justice DY Chandrachud said the interpretation of the MTP act has to reflect the social realities. Social mores change and evolve as society changes and laws must not remain static and advance the cause.

"Unsafe abortions are preventable. Our understanding of mental health has to be considered in common parlance. Account must be taken of a pregnant woman's environment," the Supreme Court said.

"Married women may also form part of survivors of sexual

assault or rape. A woman may become pregnant due to a non-consensual act by the husband. Sex and gender-based violence in all its form has been part of families," Justice Chandrachud said.

"It's ultimately the prerogative of each woman to decide as per her material circumstances. Various economical, cultural or social factors play a part... The artificial distinction between married and unmarried women cannot be sustained. Women must have the autonomy to have free exercise of these rights," Justice said.

"The right to reproductive autonomy is related to bodily autonomy. The foetus relies on the woman's body to sustain. Therefore, the decision to terminate is firmly rooted in their right of bodily autonomy. If

women are prevented from this, the state would be stripping them of the long-term path they take. This would be an affront to their dignity," Justice Chandrachud said.

The case pertains to a 25-year-old woman who approached the Delhi high court seeking termination of her pregnancy of 23 weeks and 5 days stating that though her relationship with her partner was consensual, she was unmarried and her partner refused to marry her. A division bench of the Delhi high court comprising Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad observed that the pregnancy of an unmarried woman resulting from a consensual relationship was not covered under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules, 2003.

Contd. from Page 1

Thounaojam Romen distributes...

So, the Trust Initiated the Pension Scheme for the Old Aged Persons residing in different parts of the State since the last four months. He said that the Trust, first of all, had initiated the Pension Scheme for the Old Aged Persons of Phubala, Bishnupur District Manipur.

Romen Singh said that the Trust does not initiate the Pension Scheme to any kind of Old Aged Persons even though someone gives advice to initiate the Scheme. It has been done after a thorough investigation whether they are eligible for obtaining such a kind. The Trust is giving the Pension after submitting a recommendation to the Trust by the Screening Committee of the Trust. He said that the Trust is trying to initiate the Pension Scheme for the Old Aged Persons of

Sekmajin, Kakching District, Manipur in a very short period of time. For this, some philanthropists have recommended the Trust the names of a number of Old Aged Persons residing in the area. The Screening Committee is thoroughly checking it, they will be given Pension after the Screening Committee recommends the names to the Trust. The Pension Distribution of the Trust is done not to take any political mileage, but to help the down trodden people of the State, Romen commented.

Romen Singh further said that besides distributing Pension to the Old Aged Persons, the Trust is trying its best to help them in their treatment when they are suffering from different illness. For this, the Trust urged the Director of RIMS, Prof. A. Shanta Singh to help the Old Aged Persons when

they rushed the RIMS hospital for treatment. The bonafide Director, very gently, agreed the proposal of the Trust and assured to give free treatment to all the Old Aged Persons recommended by the Trust for seeking treatment. RIMS is the only hospital in the State to have more than 100 ICUs and more than 20 Operation Theatres. Many of the Old Aged Persons had been given free treatment with the World Class equipments in the Hospital. Moreover giving free treatment, Prof. A. Shanta Singh donated money and needed materials for the Old Aged Persons to a large extent. He donated four ceiling fans to Phubala Community Hall through the Trust in which the Trust distributes it just today during the Pension Distribution Ceremony. Such a Director is very thankful, Romen Singh remarked.

Sports

36th National Games to be declared open by Prime Minister at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad today

Agency
Ahmedabad, Sept 29:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 36th National Games at a grand Opening Ceremony to be held here at the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

The Prime Minister will also address athletes from across the country taking part in the National Games. The Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur and other dignitaries will also attend the opening ceremony.

"Absolutely excited quite a challenge to put this together in the time that we had. Super excited to have this opening ceremony executed to have the 36th National Games by TCM platform for Sports Authority here and in presence of honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There are a lot of things we need to take care of in terms of safety and security. We are ensuring that we put up a spectacular show. A tight packed show. So, yes



super excited," said the organizer of the Games Chanda Singh, CEO of XP&D.

National Games are being held in the state of Gujarat for the very first time. It will be

organised from 29th September to 12th October 2022. Nearly 15,000 sportspersons, coaches, and officials from across the country will be participating in 36 sports disci-

plines, making it the biggest National Games ever.

"The 36th National Games has taken over the country right now. The fact that we are doing it after many years and the fact that we are doing it in the midst of Navratri at a location which celebrates Navratri. The entire euphoria is like double right now because we are doing the opening ceremony. We have Navratri in the euphoria plus our Prime Minister has graced the occasion. So, a lot of combination of all of this which is making it a very special," explained Chanda Singh.

The sporting events will be organised in six cities of Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodra, Rajkot and Bhavnagar. Under the leadership of the then Chief Minister and the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gujarat embarked on the journey to create a robust sports infrastructure of international standards, which helped the state to prepare for the games in a very short span of time.

PM Modi congratulates Sunil Chhetri following release of series 'Captain Fantastic'

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 29:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated legendary Indian footballer Sunil Chhetri after FIFA announced the release of a series on his life and career, saying that the move will boost the popularity of football in India.

"Well done Sunil Chhetri! This will certainly boost football's popularity in India. @chhetrisunil11," tweeted PM Modi.

Indian football legend Sunil Chhetri's legendary career has got a new level of recognition in form of a series named 'Captain Fantastic', which will showcase his story in a span of three episodes.

FIFA, the governing body of the sport, announced on Tuesday that a series about the career and life of Chhetri is available on FIFA+, its streaming platform.

"You know all about Ronaldo and Messi, now get the definitive story of the third



highest scoring active men's international. Sunil Chhetri | Captain Fantastic is available on FIFA+ now," tweeted FIFA World Cup on Twitter.

It captures a lot of what is unseen and unheard about this star, be it his pre-teen anguish, his debut for India at age of 20, his romance with his future wife and his early days and peak as a football player with many awards and records under his belt.

He is the third-highest goal-scorer among active players in international football with 84 goals, only behind other legends like Lionel Messi

of Argentina (90) and Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal (117).

He is India's most-capped player and also its leading goal-scorer.

Chhetri helped India clinch the 2007, 2009, and 2012 Nehru Cup trophies and 2011, 2015, and 2021 editions of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship.

The star footballer has also been honoured with the AIFF Player of the Year award seven times, a record.

He is also the recipient of the country's highest sporting honour, the Khel Ratna Award. He won it in 2021.