

CM leads in paying tribute to Jana Neta Hijam Irawat, says Government and public working together



IT News
Imphal, Sept 30:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh led the State in paying rich tributes to Jana Neta Hijam Irawat during the state-level observance of Jana Neta Hijam

Irawat Day, 2022 held at Irawat Square, Thangmeiband Lilashing Khongnangkhang, today.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the observance, the Chief Minister said the government and the public are working to-

gether as a team and moving forward, and further assured that the government will never take up any work or policy which will harm or will be against the people of the State. He said the government will work hand in hand with the

people of the State, and added that being a democracy there will be some who will disagree but the government will work in accordance with the majority of the public.

The Chief Minister said that the real meaning of the observance will be realized when we not only offer flowers to the late leader's statue but when we are able to follow his footsteps and do some good for the society.

N. Biren Singh said Jana Neta Hijam Irawat stood for the downtrodden, poor, upliftment of the poor and believed in a united Manipur of both hills and valley. The Chief Minister also said that Jana Neta Hijam Irawat had served the society in various capacities. He was a poet, a journalist, theatre artiste, polo player, a leader and guide during the Nupi Lal of 1939.

contd. on page 4

36th National Games: Mirabai pips Sanjita for 49kg gold as Manipur opens medal account

Courtesy: EastMojo
Gandhinagar, Sept 30:

The women's 49kg weightlifting event at the 36th National Games unfolded on expected lines with a tactical battle between Mirabai Chanu and Sanjita Chanu at Exhibition Hall 1 at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on Friday.

In the end, Mirabai walked away with the gold and a total lift of 191 kgs (Snatch 84kg, Clean & Jerk 107 kgs) while Sanjita settled for the silver medal with a total lift of 187 kgs (Snatch 82kg, C&J 105kg). Odisha's Sneha Soren picked the bronze after totalling 169kg (Snatch 73kg, C&J 96kg).

In Snatch, Mirabai seized an early advantage by raising the bar to 81kgs in her very first attempt, before a clean effort of 84kg in her second



lift gave her a cushion of 3kgs over her statemate Sanjita, who could manage 80kg and 82kgs in her first two attempts. Sanjita's third attempt of lifting 84kg was adjudged a foul. Mirabai preferred to save her energy and didn't turn up for

the third attempt.

In Clean and Jerk, Sanjita lifted 95kgs in her first attempt before raising the bar to 100kg and 105kg, with all three attempts getting the green light from the judges.

contd. on page 4

Students gherao MU A-Block office against serving of show cause notice to Dr. N. Sanatomba

IT News
Imphal, Sept 30:

A large number of students today gherao the administrative block of the Manipur University, protesting the serving of show cause notice to Assistant Professor of the University Dr. N. Sanatomba for his speech against the legalisation of liquor by the state government.

The students dismantle the room of Registrar of the Manipur University demand-

ing revocation of the show cause notice.

Talking to Imphal Times, a University authority said that serving show cause notice to Dr. N. Sanatomba is against the rules of the University as there is no complaint against his speech and the Dean Committee cannot discuss such a legal matter as the Committee itself is unconstitutional.

The University source further said that there is no provision for serving the show cause

notice in the Manipur University Act. This committee has just been created to facilitate the VC in functioning to serve as an informal advisory group, the source said.

A student in state of anonymity said that being critical of the government and government policies by a university faculty is always expected and is never a crime. The autonomy of the university should not be so easily compromised for personal gains.

SOREPA to celebrate first anniversary on October 1

IT News
Imphal, Sept 30:

Armed rebel group Socialist Revolutionary Party (SOREPA), Kangleipak is celebrating its first anniversary on October 1. In connection with the first anniversary, chairman of SOREPA, Toijam Ibochouba pays revolutionary salute to all the people of WESEA.

In his statement, the chairman said that many may have questioned about the mush-

rooming of various rebel group as SOREPA is a newly form organization and questions have been asked and discussed about it. As SOREPA so far has not done any significant work, the doubt by the people with SOREPA is justified and agrees with it. SOREPA is trying hard to do a significant work and the love and support given to us, will indicate if the revolutionary movement is moving forward or

backward. If we are to involve in a revolutionary movement, the need of the hour is to have a firm stand and discipline regardless of the number of the revolutionary members.

The Chairman further said to follow the principles and way of Hijam Irawat if we are to have a successful revolutionary movement. The way how Irawat struggle to free Manipur from the clutches of colonial British is worth remembering and a light to lead us.

Online Essay Competition

Commemorating the 126th Birth Anniversary of Lamyamba Hijam Irawat, 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 False."

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 in MS Word or PDF format.

Team Imphal Times



জা নতা ইরাত দ্য, ২০২২

Jana Neta Irawat Day, 2022

30th September



Lamyamba Hijam Irawat

loved his motherland with heart and soul. A leader beloved by the people, Jana Neta, with a revolutionary zeal, fought till his last breath to bring an egalitarian, progressive and new unified society in the State.

Let us all bow our heads and pay homage to him the great leader and remember his patriotic spirit on his Birth Anniversary.

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

Policy should be a reflection of maturity, not a manifestation of ignorance and lies: Manipur Case

By: Amar Yumnam

The recent announcement of the decision to lift prohibition by the government of Manipur has definitely not served the interest of enhancing or at least retaining the image of the government. There is one Irish proverb which I keep recalling in every opportunity – Justice should not only be done; it should also appear that justice has been done. When the announcement was first made by the government I was anxiously looking forward if the State Government was going to present to the people a kind of collaborative model in development where the private roles are given a place in converging with the governance objectives. In the case of recent announcement of the decision to lift prohibition, the government has portrayed herself to be on the wrong foot instead. All the supporting statements of the government rather seem wrong. Further, the government seems to have resorted to telling lies to carry the day, but the lies themselves do not sound convincing. It is a case of where the main arguments do not carry validity, and the lies too turn out just looking as blatant lies.

Blackwell Dictionary of Modern Social Thought (2006) defines **action and agency** thus: “Someone performs an action when what he or she does can be described as intentional. Actions are practical conclusions drawn from intentions and beliefs; ‘action’ and ‘rationality’ are interrelated. Sociological action theories from the time of Max Weber build on this relation in analysing action into components and types. Social actions are always part of larger systems and of processes of inter subjective understanding, and this raises the question of the role of the acting subject (‘human agency’) in the processes by which actions are coordinated. Aristotle, in his *Nicomachean Ethics*, saw the rationality of an action as lying in the conclusion which leads from intentions or norms and from assessments of the situation and of the available means to immediate consequences in terms of action. Action is rational in so far as it follows premises which ground and justify its performance. A minimal rationality must therefore be presupposed in any action, in any bodily movement falling under this definition. A simple example of purposive-rational will formation is provided by Kant’s technical imperative, the ‘imperative of capability’, in which intentions are extended from ends to means. Someone who wants something and knows how it is to be obtained must want to obtain it by these means. Even the complex process of social will formation, coming to a decision as a consequence of collective deliberation, can be described as a process of practical inference. This involves a union of many (at least two and at most all) actors concerned with a common purpose or problem. If this union is not brought about through force, threat or propaganda, it must be through the free compulsion of argumentative inference, that is through convincing reasons.”

While announcing the decision to lift prohibition the government portrayed it as if “not brought about through force, threat or propaganda” but after consulting with Experts. But immediately after this the leadership spoke in public reflecting an absolute conceptual confusion relating pineapple to beer and thus betraying the claim of a long-term application of mind on the issues. Since prohibition of 1991 came to Manipur after a long social struggle of two decades and a struggle consequent upon social and familial crises during the 1960s and early 1970s, it is important that any decision on this should necessarily be a prudent one. In other words, the government should not have betrayed itself the initial announcement that the decision was made consequent upon consultation with the Experts. This issue is very important as the government has been consistently charging the public (what an irony that the government does so in a democracy) as opposing anything the government takes up, and the primacy of initiating something on which the public would have very little to oppose to. If the Government has at all consulted the Experts on this, the announcement should have been accompanied *inter alia* by (I) targeted resource items for production of liquor varieties; (II) the annual production targets over time; (III) the annual valuation implications for both domestic consumption and exports to outside the State; and (IV) the potential technological collaborations identified. In other words, the Experts would definitely have analysed and understood the way of scientifically behaving as Mullan and Spicker (1998) say in *Social Policy In A Changing Society*: “Understanding society is mainly done in two ways. One is to begin with observations about society, and then to try to interpret those observations—identifying patterns, trends and relationships for the information which observation makes available. The second main way is to theorise about society, suggesting ideals and then seeing to what extent the social world can be interpreted in those terms. These methods are not really different; they are two sides of the same coin.” But unfortunately, it has not turned to be so on anything. On the contrary, what we are observing today in the social media is the exchange of counter-accuses devoid of all the culture of public debate.

Any public policy cannot be without some attached values, for as Easton (1965) emphasised in *A Framework for Political Analysis*, politics is the “authoritative allocation of value.” Let me end with a quotation from Jenney Steward’s *Public Policy Values* (2009): “policy values are the valued ends embodied in, and implemented through, the collective choices we make through policy processes. Values are also functional. From a psychological perspective, they can be ‘thought of as priorities, internal compasses or springboards for action’. A policy value, therefore, can be defined as the informing principle of collective action: it is both motivator and object. A public policy constructs a sense of reality by orientating both observers and participants in a kind of emotional space. The values it represents are the mechanisms of this orientation – sometimes explicit, sometimes implicit.” Manipur is still looking for a government that surprises its sceptics, which can be done only through a rationale public policy.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to ‘Imphal Times’ can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com.

For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.



By: Vijay GarG

The choice of country and institution for higher education generally depends on the quality of life in the country concerned, the cost of studying and living, the level of education and the opinion of the students who have studied here before. We should not hesitate to admit that India cannot match the developed countries in terms of quality of life. A few days ago there was news that this year the number of students going from India to America for studies has reached a new high this year (2022). A total of about eighty-two thousand students have enrolled in US educational institutions for higher education. Students from India also go to study in other countries especially Australia, Canada, UK, New Zealand etc.

According to the figures so far, the number of Indian students studying abroad is between 11 and 12 lakhs and it is estimated that by the year 2024 it will cross eighteen lakhs. This news also needs to be seen along with other news. In August this year, the University Grants Commission (UGC) announced that universities and higher educational institutions of the country would be allowed to provide up to twenty-five percent additional seats for foreign students in their undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. No entrance test will be conducted for these seats. Certainly our country wants to attract a

Foreign students do not come to India

large number of foreign students. But the reality is that the world’s second-largest populous country, which is now claiming to be the world’s fifth-largest economy, has no access to higher education. It has not been able to make its place on the global stage. In the year 2021, only 23,439 students came to India from abroad to study.

At present, the total number of foreign students in the country does not exceed fifty thousand. The National Education Policy released in the year 2020 talks of internationalization of Indian higher education. Here the intention is to make Indian higher educational institutions the preferred centers for higher education and to increase the number of students coming from abroad. This will not only increase the income of educational institutions, the exchange will also increase. It is a matter of debate that why the number of people opting for higher education in India is so low in comparison to the number of people going out of India for studies? One reason is clear that if we leave out institutions like IITs, IIMs and Indian Institute of Science, then India’s higher education places do not have any special name in the world.

Apart from this, the path of getting admission in such institutes is also very difficult. The status of bureaucracy is also in the higher education world. Some private universities Easy access, but the quality of many of them has been questioned. This will be clear with an example. The number of such students has increased in the country who want to take admission in MBBS for medical studies and many of them also have the necessary talent for this, but due to less seats, less of these students get admission. The rest change their course or move to countries like China, Ukraine, Russia where the expenses are not very high and the entry is easy takes

away. Even in IITs and IIMs, very few students get admission in the number of people who apply. However, in the last years new centers of these institutions have also been opened. Overall, it can be said that the road to quality higher education in India is not as easy as it should be. Barring a few government institutions, higher education has now become much more expensive than before. Before India got independence and even in the decades after it, people used to go abroad from India to study. But then this number was very less.

Today the situation is totally different. Many middle class and upper middle class families dream of teaching their children abroad. Not everyone has the same approach here. For some families or students, it is a matter of fashion and social standing. Some students leave with the hope that they will get a top-class education and they will be able to make a bright future on the strength of this education. Apart from these, a large section is of those students who choose the path of study abroad because that they should get an opportunity to live and earn abroad from this. Very few of the students going from India to developed countries go back to India.

Some countries have strict policies for migrant workers and others are liberal. Nevertheless, the situation in these countries is much better than India in terms of availability of employment opportunities. At present, the students coming from outside for studies in India are from African and Arab countries in which the infrastructure of higher education is not very strong. Nearby Asian countries Nepal, Bhutan and India is also a priority country for higher education for the students of Bangladesh. But even after taking all these countries and other coun-

tries, the number of foreign students in India is less. Thus the ratio of foreign students to the students of the country is very small in the country. The choice of country and institution for higher education generally depends on the quality of life in the country concerned, the cost of studying and living, the level of education and the opinion of the students who have studied here before we hesitate to accept it.

It should not be that India cannot match the developed countries in terms of quality of life. On this basis, it can be said that those foreign students who can afford to study in countries like America etc., will hardly give preference to India for pursuing higher education. To attract foreign students, the government had announced a program named ‘Study in India’ in 2016 which was implemented in 2018. The program did not receive any expected response, just by providing additional capacity Foreign students will start coming to India, it is unlikely. For more and more foreign students to come to India to study, a comprehensive strategy has to be made and for this we have to learn from countries and institutions that have already made their mark in this matter.

Another approach says that first we should fix our higher education system for the students of our own country. Taking the liberty of using the word market for a while, we can say that the market for higher education in our country is as big as it is in foreign countries. The contribution of the students cannot add up much at the moment. If we can stop most of the number of students going out of the country to study outside, by giving them high quality education in our own country, then the country will get the benefit of their talent and foreign exchange will also be saved. At the same time, we should continue our efforts to attract foreign students.

Continuing India’s sanitation revolution – from ODF to ODF Plus

By: Vini Mahajan

In 2014, India started its unprecedented sanitation journey, as consistent and concerted efforts began to create an Open-Defecation Free (ODF) nation. Considered the largest behavior change program in the world, the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) drove every Indian village, to accomplish a massive milestone and by 2nd Oct 2019, as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary, every gram panchayat declared itself ODF with access to toilets for all. The impact is visible in terms of positive health outcomes, economic & social benefits, and gender empowerment leading to better standards of living, livelihood opportunities for women and better school attendance for girls. Independent studies have shown that diarrhoeal morbidity among children was significantly lower in ODF areas, & better nutritional status prevailed among children of ODF areas, as compared to non-ODF areas.

This year we mark 8 years of SBM; so what’s next for the sanitation movement in rural India? Hon’ble Prime Minister was clear in 2019 itself that we cannot just rest on our laurels. We, as a country must always strive to be the best and the leaders in every sphere of human development. Therefore, not stopping with the achievement of ODF status, the Govt. of India, embarked upon the journey of ODF Plus i.e. sustaining the ODF status, ensuring no one is left behind; and setting up a system of environment friendly management of solid and liquid waste. Taking bigger strides on the path of healthy behaviours, we are now working towards

achieving ‘sampoorna swachhta’. What is ODF Plus? It is about sustaining the ODF status of villages and managing the solid and liquid waste generated. There are primarily three components i.e. Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), capacity building of stakeholders and behaviour change communication aimed at all. Achieving ‘ODF plus’ status is the key goal of SBM(G) phase II, launched in early 2020. Significant progress has been made in last 2.5 years as over 1.14 lakh villages declared themselves ODF Plus in varying degrees and around 3 lakh villages have initiated SLWM works to begin their journey of becoming ODF Plus.

Going beyond toilet construction and their usage, SBM(G) phase II is assisting States and UTs in creating assets for SLWM such as community compost pits, community bio-gas plants, plastic waste collection and segregation sheds, soak pits for grey-water treatment & reuse, faecal sludge management systems including waste collection & transportation vehicles. As on date, 77,141 villages, and 90 blocks have constructed 71 Plastic Waste Management Units. A special campaign – Sujlam, was executed for grey water management and construction of more than 22 lakh soak pits (community & household pits) took place across rural India.

An unfortunate legacy in managing faecal waste has been the practise of manual scavenging of sewers and septic tanks. Towards this, SBM-G has explored technological interventions required and currently 368 faecal sludge management arrangements have been instituted across 137 districts. Further, we expanded the scope of engaging start-ups for promoting innovation in areas like mechanized desludging and other aspects of SLWM in rural areas. A Start-up Grand Challenge was organized for crowd-sourcing technologies that could support sustainable, affordable, scalable, and responsive solutions to the SLWM challenges of rural areas.

A significant challenge of managing animal waste is being addressed through ‘Waste to Wealth’ initiative – GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources). This scheme aims to utilize animal waste and bio-degradable waste generated in villages for bio-gas/ CBG as well as bio-slurry/bio-fertilizer production, to not only bring income generation avenues to rural India but also reduce our dependence on related imports!

These assets (SLWM setups) being created and made functional for making villages ODF plus, are not only ensuring cleanliness, but also generating income and empowering the people involved especially women (individual & Self Help Groups), reducing pollution by productive utilisation of farm waste, improving soil health, & recharging ground water while improving the climate. The funds available under MGNREGS, 15th Finance Commission tied grants for Water & Sanitation (Rs. 1,40,000 crore over 5 years) as well as SBM(G) funds are being converged in rural areas and utilized to good effect.

To promote behavior change & community mobilization towards

accelerating efforts of rural sanitation, since 2014 we have celebrated 15 days, from September 15th till October 2nd each year, as Swachhta Hi Sewa (SHS) – a dedicated participative cleanliness drive across the country. This year, the focus is on improving visual cleanliness and cleaning of legacy waste in villages. The response has been overwhelming with more than 9 crore people participating in various activities of SHS.

To validate the efforts and also engaging states in competitive federalism, Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) is executed annually. An independent survey agency is engaged to assess and rank all States and districts of India on quantitative & qualitative ODF plus parameters viz. direct observation of sanitation public places, citizen’s feedback using a mobile app, feedback from key influencers at village level, and service level progress on sanitation parameters. SSG 2022 is the third round and its report will be released, along with felicitation of the winners, during Swachh Bharat Diwas (SBD) scheduled for 2nd October 2022.

The aim of achieving ODF Plus India appears daunting, and ensuring sanitation and clean water will always remain an ongoing activity. But, if taken up as a collective national responsibility, India can achieve its goal of *Sampoorna Swachhta*. Let’s re-invigorate the ‘jan-andolan’ to now achieving and sustaining ODF-Plus status!

(The author is a Secretary, Deptt. of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt)

ED freezes Rs.9.82 crore of Chinese-Controlled Firms in Money Laundering Case

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Sept 30:

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday carried out a search operation and froze account balances of Rs. 9.82 crore, kept in payment gateway account, of various Chinese-controlled entities involved in operating multiple suspicious loan/other Apps to dupe gullible investors.

ED had earlier frozen Bank/Virtual account balances amounting to Rs. 46.67 crore during the searches conducted on September 14 and with Thursday's freezing the total freezing, in this case, stands at Rs. 56.49 crore an ED statement read.

The Chinese-controlled entities include Come in Network Technology Private Limited (registered office Gurgaon, Haryana), Mobicred Technology Private Limited (Bangalore, Karnataka), Magic Data Technology Private Limited (New Delhi), Baitu Technology Private Limited (Bangalore, Karnataka), Aliyeye Network Technology India Pvt Ltd (Bangalore), Wecash Technology Private Limited (Bangalore, Karnataka), Larting Private Limited (Bangalore, Karnataka), Magic Bird Technology Private Limited (Gurgaon, Haryana) and Aceper Services Private Limited (Bangalore, Karnataka). These entities were misusing the App-based token named "HPZ" and other similar applications, to cheat investors.

ED initiated a money laundering investigation based on an FIR dated October 08, 2021, filed under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, by Cyber Crime Police Station, Kohima, Nagaland, against HPZ token and others. The HPZ token promised users of large gains against investment by declaring the same as "investing in mining machines for



Account balances of nine Chinese-Controlled firms were seized by the Enforcement Directorate.

Bitcoin and other crypto currencies".

The modus-operandi of the fraudsters was to lure the victims to invest in their companies on the pretext of doubling/multiplying their investment through the "app HPZ Token" and other similar applications.

ED investigation revealed that various Chinese-controlled entities viz. Comein Network Technology Private Limited and others, in service agreements with various NBFCs, were also operating multiple suspicious loan/other Apps (such as Cashhome, Cashmart, easylon, etc.) and indulged in receiving funds from the public on the pretext of operating these Apps.

Such apps flourished during the Covid-19 pandemic since people faced financial stringency and required quick cash. During those days, these apps lent money for periods ranging from a week to 30 days with heavy interest rates and processing fees.

Gaming App E-nuggets
In another case, the ED

froze the crypto currencies, 77.62710139 Bitcoins (equivalent to US\$1573466 and Rs 12.83 crore approximately) under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, concerning an investigation being conducted against one Aamir Khan and others relating to the Mobile Gaming Application, namely E-nuggets.

ED initiated a money laundering investigation based on an FIR dated February 15, 2021, filed under various sections of IPC by Park Street Police Station, Kolkata Police, against Aamir Khan and others, based on the complaint filed by Federal Bank authorities, in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court, Kolkata.

Aamir Khan, the Son of Nesar Ahmed Khan launched a mobile gaming application namely E-Nuggets, which was designed to defraud the public. After collecting a sizable amount of money from the public, all of a sudden withdrawal from the said App was stopped on one pretext or the other. Thereafter, all data in-

cluding profile information was wiped off from the said App servers, the ED stated.

ED investigation revealed that the accused was transferring part of the amount illegally earned through the gaming app (E-Nuggets) overseas by using Crypto Currency Exchange. It was found that one such dummy account in the name of Sima Naskar [Proprietor of M/s Pixa Design] was opened in the WazirX (crypto exchange), which was used to purchase the crypto currencies/cryptos assets.

Thereafter the said crypto currencies were further transferred to another account in another Crypto Exchange namely "Binance". The balance of said transferred crypto currencies i.e. 77.62710139 Bitcoins (equivalent to the US \$1573466 (Rs 12.83 crore approximately)) at Binance crypto exchange was frozen by ED. Earlier during a search operation conducted at the premises of Aamir Khan, an amount of Rs 17.32 crore was found and seized from his residential premises.

India's Covid-19 case tally reaches 4,45,87,307 with 5,28,629 deaths

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 30:

India's COVID-19 case tally increased by 3,947 in a day to reach 4,45,87,307, while active cases declined to 39,583, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,629 with 18 more deaths, including nine 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 recovery rate increased to 98.73 per cent, the health ministry said.

The daily positivity rate

was recorded at 1.23 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 1.44 per cent.

The active Covid cases declined by 1,167 in a day while the number of people who recuperated from the disease increased to 4,40,19,095. The case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 218.52 crore total vaccine doses (94.84 crore second dose and 21.19 crore precaution dose) have been administered so far under National-wide Vaccination Drive.

The nine fatalities reported in 24 hours include two each from Maharashtra and West Bengal, one each

from Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Haryana, and Chhattisgarh. Nine deaths have been reconciled by Kerala.

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. 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.

President of India to award cleanest cities

PIB
New Delhi, Sept 30:

The stage is set to celebrate the biggest urban sanitation festival of the year, where President Droupadi Murmu will honour the cleanest States and cities of Azaadi@75 Swachh Survekshan 2022 at an event to be organised by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi, on 1st October 2022. The day will mark the first anniversary of launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 by Prime Minister on 1st Oct 2021, with its aspirational vision of creating Garbage Free cities.

The award ceremony, to be attended by a host of dignitaries including Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs, Kaushal Kishore, Minister of State, MoHUA, Urban Development Ministers and Mayors from across the country, will see over 160 awards being presented across different categories. Nearly 1,800 guests comprising state and city administrators, sector partners, subject experts, as well as youth organisations, sanitation workers, representatives from industry, Startups in sanitation and waste management sector, academic institutions, NGOs and CSOs will attend the event. Cities will also be putting up screens in prominent places to enable their citizens to view the live ceremony.

The scale of Swachh Survekshan is evidenced in the consistent increase in the number of cities over the years. From surveying 73 major cities in 2016 and 434 cities in 2017 the 7th edition of Swachh Survekshan has become the world's largest urban cleanliness survey, with 4,355 cities having participated in the survey. This year's survey with a "People First" theme captured unprecedented number of citizen feedback this year - over 9 crores, a marked increase from last year's 5 crores.

There were some crucial new aspects introduced in the SS 2022. For example, the scope of survey was expanded to cover 100% wards for sampling, as compared to 40% in previous years; priority was given to the voices of senior citizens and young adults during the feedback process, more opportunities for awards were created for smaller cities, 'City

Report Card' for citizens, based on SS 2022 survey results, has been introduced for residents to see the status of sanitation of their respective cities; 'Safai Mitra Suraksha' has been made mandatory for all cities, and respect to Azadi Movement was incorporated through Citizen-led engagement cleanliness of monuments/parks associated with freedom movement.

The award ceremony is being organised as part of the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav being conducted by MoHUA, from 17th September 2022 to 2nd October 2022 when India is celebrating eight years of accomplishments of SBM-Urban. The fortnight long celebrations included a wide range of unique initiatives aligned to the overall objectives of SBM-U 2.0. The celebrations kicked off on 17th Sept with the first-of-its-kind Indian Swachhata League where nearly half a million youth and citizens across more than 1,850 cities formed teams and competed to clean up beaches, hills, and public places. The top 70 teams will be felicitated by MoHUA on 30th Sept. On 20th Sept, MoHUA identified 30 top startups in the waste management sector through an innovative Startup Challenge, to help cities to address a variety of ground level challenges in sanitation and waste management. To sustain these efforts, an online Startup Gateway has also been launched where startups can continue to showcase their solutions, for benefit of cities. On 26th Sept, a very innovative challenge - the Swachh Toyathon - was launched by MoHUA to further the 'waste to wealth' approach, and encourage reuse of waste into toys. The two days preceding the ceremony was devoted to a capacity building initiative - 'Swachh Sheher - Samvaad and Tech Exhibition' - that comprised of technical and administrative discussions specially curated around topics related to management of municipal solid waste and liquid waste, to enable States and cities to deliberate on their strategies, best practices and challenges in their journey towards Garbage Free status.

Over the last eight years, the Mission has reached all corners of the country changing the lives of countless citizens with its 'people first' focus. The Mission has transformed the sanitation space in urban India by building over 70 lakh household, community and public toilets, thus providing safe and dignified sanitation solutions for all. SBM-U has prioritized the needs of women, transgender communities, and persons with disabilities (Divyangs). The thrust on scientific waste management is evident with waste processing in India going up by over four times from 18% in 2014 to 73% today. This has been aided through 100% door-to-door waste collection in 98% wards and source segregation of waste being practised by citizens in letter and spirit across 89% wards. More importantly, the Mission has been able to bring about a marked difference in the lives of sanitation workers and informal waste workers, by institutionalizing safety and welfare of all those workers who are engaged in cleaning of sewer and septic tank cleaning operations.

The launch of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 on 1st October 2021 has set the stage for the next phase of Swachhata focusing on sustainability of sanitation and solid waste management outcomes. The Mission is now focusing on ensuring complete access to sanitation facilities to serve additional population migrating from rural to urban areas. Complete liquid waste management in cities in less than 1 lakh population - a new component introduced under SBM-Urban 2.0, is being taken up to ensure that all wastewater is safely contained, collected, transported and treated so that no wastewater pollutes our water bodies. In the area of solid waste management, the Mission is enforcing source segregation of waste for maximum recovery of value from waste, setting up of Material Recovery Facilities, and waste processing facilities with concentrated efforts on phasing out single use plastic in every city, setting up of construction & demolition (C&D) waste processing facilities and deployment of mechanical sweepers in National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) cities. Remediation of all legacy dumpsites with the objective of making cities Garbage Free is another critical component under SBM-U 2.0.

Congress Crisis: Gehlot, Digvijaya out, Tharoor & Kharge File Papers for Prez Polls

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 30:

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Friday filed his nomination for the post of Congress president at the party headquarters here. Amid sound of drumbeats and fanfare, he made an entry at the AICC headquarters. The Thiruvananthapuram MP submitted his papers to the party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry at his office at the AICC headquarters.

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Friday announced that he will not contest the party president's election and would instead propose the candidature of his senior Mallikarjun Kharge. He said he has worked for the Congress all his life and will continue to do so. Singh had expressed his inclination to contest the top party post and had collected 10 sets of nomination papers on Thursday after Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot opted out of the race.

Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge will file his nomination for the party presidential polls after meeting interim president



Shashi Tharoor and Mallikarjun Kharge

Sonia Gandhi on Friday, the last day of filing nomination papers for the post. Earlier in the day, Congress' Digvijaya Singh met Kharge at the latter's residence after Kharge emerged as the top choice of Gandhis for the party presidential polls.

Late Thursday night, the G-23 leaders, including Manish Tewari, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Prithviraj Chavan met at Anand Sharma's residence but did not divulge details of the meeting.

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Thursday night met Sonia Gandhi and discussed the crisis in the party's Rajasthan unit, and later said the Congress chief would take "positive decisions" with regard to the state. Pilot, who spent around an hour at

Gandhi's residence where Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal was also present, said he conveyed his sentiments and gave his feedback to the party president.

Pilot's meeting with Gandhi comes days after an open rebellion by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's loyalists over a possible leadership change in the state. "I met Congress president Sonia Gandhi. She listened to me calmly. The events in Rajasthan were discussed in detail," Pilot said after the meeting.

Pilot met Gandhi hours after his bete noire Ashok Gehlot met her in the afternoon, following which the Rajasthan chief minister announced that he will opt out of the Congress president's race. Gehlot also

said the decision on whether he would remain CM would be taken by party chief Sonia Gandhi.

Speaking with reporters outside Gandhi's 10 Janpath residence, Pilot said, "I have conveyed my sentiments, given my feedback to Sonia Gandhi. We all want to win the 2023 assembly elections for which we will have to work together. Our objective is that we ensure the Congress' win in Rajasthan and other states."

"I am confident that in the next 12-13 months we will once again form a Congress government through our hard work," the former Rajasthan deputy chief minister said. He said that it has been his priority to ensure that the Congress bucks the trend of one term to it and the next to the BJP.

"I am fully confident that by hard work we can form a Congress government again. How our government is repeated is our collective priority and objective. We have discussed our strategy for that in detail with AICC leaders and the Congress president," he said. Earlier in the day, Venugopal said Gandhi will decide on the Rajasthan chief minister's post within a day or two.

'Irabot Day' celebrated across the State



IT News
Imphal, Sept 30:

The 126th birth anniversary of Jana Neta Hijam Irabot was celebrated at Thangmeiband Cheirao-Ching jointly by Thangmeiband United Club (TUC) and All Manipur United Club

Organisation (AMUCO).

The celebration was also attended by leaders of Porei Leimarol Meira Paibee Apuna Manipur, All Manipur Women's Voluntary Association (AMAWOVA) and AMUCO.

Speaking at the function, TUC President Pratap

Leisangthem said that there are statues of Hijam Irabot, Paona, Thangal, and Tikendrajit at Cheiraoching and people are praying for floral tributes to the statues on their respective observance days.

Speaking at the function, AMUCO President Nando

Luwang said Mahatma Gandhi lived for 79 years and Lamyamba Hijam Irabot lived for only 55 years. If Gandhi died at the same age as Hijam Irabot, no one would have heard of Mahatma Gandhi. He further said that Mahatma Gandhi was born into a rich family, while Lamyamba Irabot was born into a poor family.

Khongman Gram Panchayat organised the 126th Irabot Day celebration at Thangam Sanjou Memorial Community Hall in Khongman Zone-2. The function was attended by Ningombam Ibopisak, Narayan Sharam, and Naorem Samanda as praesidium members. As a part of the Irabot celebration, the organising committee felicitated Tongbaram Chandra Kala, an Indian Young National Awardee of 2022.

BJP Jiribam Mandal Office inaugurated



IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Sept 30:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jiribam Mandal office at near old Petrol pump is inaugurated today by A. Sharda Devi, President, BJP Manipur Pradesh.

The inaugural function was attended by Md. Achab Uddin, MLA, Jiribam, K. Saratkumar Singh, General Secretary, BJP Manipur Pradesh and Chairperson, Manipur Building and Other

Construction Workers Welfare Board, N. Budhachandra Singh, Social Worker, K. Jaddu Singh, President, BJP Jiribam Mandal along with other offices bearers shared the dais.

Speaking on the programme, A. Sharda Devi, President, BJP Manipur Pradesh said the BJP works on Sampark and Sambad. "As a National political Party, the party also works on the discipline and constitution", she added

She said, since 2014 when

the party came to the government it's works without discriminating caste, creed and religion. As there are many schemes launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government for the development of the country and the residents, which shows the marks of Service (Seva) for the people of India. She also appealed to all BJP karyakarta of Jiribam Mandal to give their services with sacrifice for the larger interest of party and the people of Jiribam.

District Administration Thoubal organises Mega Social Service Camp at Khongjom War Memorial Complex

IT News
Imphal, Sept 30:

In connection with celebration of Jananeta Hijam Irawat Day, 2022, the District Administration Thoubal today organised mega social service camp at Khongjom War Memorial Complex. Deputy Commissioner, Thoubal A. Subhash Singh IAS led the officials, staffs and volunteers at the mega social service camp.

Speaking to the media persons, Deputy Commissioner said under the initiative of District Administration the mega social service camp was organised to keep the historical site of Khongjom War Memorial neat and clean. During the camp beautification and painting of railings, grass cutting, trimming of bushes were done by the participants to facelift the memorial complex. He also expressed happiness at the large number of turnout from all Government Departments in the district during the



social service which began from 7am. He further said that if there is cooperation amongst everyone during any kind of work then success can be definitely achieved.

Later, Wangjing Tentha MLA P. Brojen also visited the site. He thanked the District Administration for conducting such mega social service camp. He said it will give a new look

to this historical site.

Around 500 staffs and volunteers of different departments and organizations including Red Cross Society, Chamber of Commerce, Mega Tourism Co-operative Society Ltd, took part in the mega social service camp.

SP Thoubal Jogeshchandra Haobijam also encouraged the participants for their service in the camp. Many participants expressed happiness stating that the social service has brought together all the people to work jointly for a common cause and has increased the feeling of togetherness and oneness.

Today's mega social service camp was participated by Fire Service, CMO, Social Welfare, District Police, PWD, PHED, Water Resources, Forest, Minor Irrigation, MSPDCL, Municipal Council Thoubal, Municipal Council Wangjing, Municipal Council Siphong Sekmai, Office of the District Information Officer and others.

Contd. from Page 1

CM leads in paying tribute.....

Speaking on issues related to student bodies' election, the Chief Minister appealed to all concerned that all students' related issues be left free and fair. We should all maintain and honour the liberty and freedom of students and after proper consideration, their elections should be held at the earliest in a free and fair manner, he added.

The Chief Minister further highlighted that the Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Press also have a limit of decency and morality. He said we are all bound under the

Constitution and cannot act beyond that.

N. Biren Singh called on senior police officers of the State police to launch a mass drive against sale of illegal liquor as the government prepares for implementation of liquor legalization in the State.

What political advantage can the government gain by legalizing or not legalizing liquor, the Chief Minister asked adding that everything including revenue collection are secondary, the primary concern of the government is to save lives.

Power, Forest, Environ-

ment and Climate Change, Agriculture, Science & Tech. Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh said it is time to understand why we are observing the day.

Jana Neta Hijam Irawat believed in a strong and united Manipur, he said adding that our younger generation should follow and imbibe Jana Neta Hijam Irawat's ideals of unity and eradicating inequality amongst the people.

The Minister also highlighted the late leader's various services for the society.

Today's observance was also attended by Minister

Govindas Konhoujam, Minister L. Susindro Meitei, Minister Kashim Vashum, Minister H. Dingo, MLAs, Adhyakshas, Zilla Parishad Members, Pradhans, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, civil officials, police officials, students, among others.

As part of the observance, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh led a wreath laying ceremony at the statue of the Jana Neta Hijam Irawat. Artists of the Shri Shri Bal Mukunda Dev Government Music College, palace Compound performed the opening and closing songs.

Mirabai pips Sanjita for 49kg gold....

All eyes were pinned on Mirabai, greeted with a thunderous applause from the crowd, especially from the Manipur contingent. The Birmingham Commonwealth Games gold medalist successfully lifted 103 in her first attempt before returning to lift 107kg and confirming the cen-

tre spot on the podium. She didn't bother to return for the third attempt.

Elated after confirming the first medals for the state, the two Manipur weightlifters joined the rest of the members of the contingent. A visibly emotional Sanjita, considering the mental demons she had

overcome for the silver, told EastMojo, "This is a special moment, congratulations to Mirabai. She deserves all the praises and accolades for the brilliant effort. It feels great to compete at the National Games, and represent my state. The last time (in Kerala 2015) I won the gold in a lower

weight category, but after seven years, the level of competition definitely goes up."

Weightlifting Women 49 kg class: 1. Mirabai Chanu (Manipur) Snatch 84kg, Clean & Jerk 107kg, Total 191kg; 2. Sanjita Chanu (Manipur) 82, 105, 187; 3. Sneha Soren (Odisha) 73, 96, 169.

KYKL bans Slopeland Public School

IT News
Imphal, Sept 30:

Proscribed group Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) has banned the Slopeland Public School, Salt Village Kongiom of Thoubal district over failure to pay annual tax to the organization.

A statement by A. Yaiphaba, Secretary, Publicity and Research, KYKL said that an insurgency movement initiated by a group of people in pursuit of their inalienable rights has been recognized as a political act by international law and the organizations and people associated with the movement are also recognized by the same law.

Justifying the ban, the KYKL stated that launching a liberation movement costs a lot of money, much like running a government. The state levies taxes on the general public to generate the funds required to maintain a government. The 'Lallup kaba' of Kanglei history is also a form of tax that people paid in the form of service. Similarly, a revolutionary government levies taxes on the people.

It said unlike making a donation, paying taxes is not something that one does in

accordance with their preferences and that the tax rate is not set by the taxpayers. Tax is something that no one can avoid paying, and the rate is determined by those who collect the tax, not the taxpayers. If the rate seems excessive, it is possible to negotiate it, but it is impossible to avoid paying any tax at all. Tax evaders must face consequences for their actions. Any government, whether it be a state government or a revolutionary government, is governed by such a law.

The statement said that in the past four years, KYKL has requested the Salt Village Public School, Khongjom, Thoubal District, an affiliate of CBSE, to provide an annual tax to the organization. A few years back, while the KYKL taking up the ONK movement, the organization urged the institution to comply with certain principles and norms in order to save the ever-deteriorating education in Manipur and stop using unfair means in KYKL in examinations.

The statement added that the Slopeland Public School ignored and did not care about it. Later, when asked to pay a tax to the organization, it did not listen to the request either.

They refused to allow our representatives to meet, did not receive our letters, and did not answer our calls. This means that the principal and authority of the school stand against KYKL and the liberation struggle it spearheads while viewing KYKL as flimsy and powerless.

"We have therefore resolved to ban the functioning of the school starting with 2023-2024 academic session. We humbly and respectfully beg that the parents and guardians of the students at this school transfer their children to other schools within the next three months. Our organization has never taken a decision without giving it careful consideration and acquiring all the required information. And our actions speak for themselves. We have declared this after discussing for more than a year. Therefore, we ask that parents and guardians not consider the ban we have imposed here to be a trivial matter. These days, opening schools, colleges, and other institutions in Manipur is entirely commercial. There is simply no aspect of social work involved in establishing them", the KYKL said.

AR honours bravehearts

IT News
Imphal, Sept 30:

Modi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised wreath laying ceremony today to pay tribute to Late Rtn Martoba AO.

Rtn Martina laid down his life in the line of duty and attained martyrdom on 30 Sep 2007 during an encounter firing.

Modi Battalion also reached out to the Next of Kin of the Braveheart and the unit representatives presented them with a memento as token of remembrance.

Assam Rifles organised awareness lecture on Hygiene and Sanitation

IT News
Imphal, Sept 30:

Phundrei Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organized an awareness lecture on Hygiene and Sanitation today.

The Awareness camp was focused to educate villagers regarding importance of hygiene and sanitation and to make them aware to prevent the spread of illness and diseases. Also it's importance for personal, social, psychological, health. Hence villagers were educated to adopt various practices of hygiene and sanitation for a healthy life.

The villagers expressed their gratitude for organizing the lecture. A total of 24 individuals attended the lecture.