

Guv' and CM greets people on Anant Chaturdashi

IT News
Imphal, Sept 8:

Manipur Governor La. Ganesan and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh have greeted the people of the state on occasion of the Anant Chaturdashi.

"I extend my heartfelt greetings on the auspicious occasion of Anant Chaturdashi on September 9, 2022," Governor La Ganesan wrote.

Anant Chaturdashi is a special festival, observed and celebrated among the Jain and Hindu communities across the world on the 14th day of the fortnight of Shukla Paksha of the Bhado month. Let this year's Anant Chaturdashi be celebrated with pomp and gaiety with vegetarian foods. And seek forgiveness from the elders for any intentional or unintentional mistakes which might have hurt them.

Let the attainment of nirvana of Lord Vasupujya, the 12th Tirthankara be a reminder to live a life free from material attachment, self realization and meditation to bring love and compassion to the fore.

I, once again, convey my best wishes to all on this auspicious occasion, the Governor wrote.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh wrote "I convey my warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Manipur, especially our Jain brothers and sisters on the occasion of Anant Chaturdashi, which is being observed as 'Vegetarian Day'".

The chief Minister further stated that Lord Mahavira, the founder of Jainism led an austere life of Ahimsa and had a firm belief that no harm should be caused to any living creature. As such, his followers are one of the greatest advocates of vegetarianism and follow the dietary customs of self-control and purity of mind and spirit.

Vegetarianism is the limitation of one's diet to only plants, vegetables, grains, and fruits, generally for ethical, ascetic, or nutritional reasons. Although diet is a personal choice derived from one's custom, tradition, personal taste and habit, it is a fact that vegetarian diets are amongst the healthiest diets for man's physical, mental and spiritual development. In today's modern and progressive society, more and more people are turning to vegetarian diets.

I once again warmly greet the people of the State on 'Vegetarian Day'

Students hold rally protesting lack of teachers in Heirok



IT News
Imphal, Sept 8:

Students of Heirok Higher Secondary School came out in the street, skipping class to protest the lack of a sufficient number of teachers in the school. The government school, which has a strength of around 1200 students from class VI to XII, is currently being taught by 40 teachers.

The students who are not happy with the current teacher shortage in the school came out of their respective classes at around 11:00 am today and started the protest at the school campus. Later, the students who were furious about not getting proper education came out into the streets till Heirok Keithel and led a huge protest procession.

The students hold placards protesting the current condition of the school. Various placards like "Let us study properly," "No Education without teacher," "No teacher no future" can be seen.

Abujam Lenin, a student of Class-XII of the same school said, "There are more than 1000 students currently studying in the Heirok Higher Secondary School. Out of the total requirements of 90 teachers, only 40 teachers are currently engaged in the school. In the past few months, 16 teachers who were earlier posted in the school were transferred to some other places as per directives of the government, and not a single replacement has been sent so far. Also, 8 teachers have retired, and no new teachers have been as-

signed to the school. Complaints have been sent to concerned authorities repeatedly about the lack of teachers in the school. However, no action has been taken up so far despite the repeated complaints."

Lenin lamented how students can learn properly without teachers in a school and urged concerned authorities to look into the matter at the earliest.

M Tomba, a guardian of a student studying in the school, said, "Most of the students studying in the Heirok Higher Secondary School are from poor families. Most of their wards are being sent to Government school, as the cost of studying in private schools are very costly nowadays. We as guardians are deeply pained to see the students unable to get proper education due to lack of teachers."

It may be mentioned that Heirok Higher Secondary School has the highest pass percentage among Government schools in the whole Thoubal District. It is very painful to witness the students protesting in the scorching sun and urged the Education department to solve the issue at the earliest, Tomba added.

CM Biren condole the demise of Khollao Deben; AMWJU pays tribute



IT News
Imphal, Sept 8:

Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh condole the demise of noted journalist Nongmaithem Deben Singh popularly known as Khollao Deben.

CM Biren, in a press release said, "I am deeply aggrieved to learn about the sad demise of veteran journalist Nongmaithem Deben Singh at his private residence, Keishampat, this morning. Popularly known as Khollao

Deben, he had served as a noted journalist in different newspapers in different capacities during his career spanning around four decades since the 1970s. He was also one of the founding members of the All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) and Manipur Press Club. Till his last breath, he worked tirelessly for the cause of the media fraternity. In his death, our State and the media fraternity lost an upright journalist. I deeply condole his demise and share

grief with the bereaved family. May the Almighty give them the strength to withstand this loss."

Meanwhile, members of the All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) paid their last tribute to the veteran journalist at the premises of Manipur Press Club, Majorkhul. It may be mentioned that Khollao Deben was one of the founding members of the AMWJU and Manipur Press Club and worked for the welfare of the media in Manipur.

Bomb at Singjamei; disposed safely



IT News
Imphal, Sept 8:

A powerful bomb with a timer was found in front of the Ward Development Committee at Singjamei Chingamaka Maisnam Leikai today. The whereabouts of the bomb were sent to the corporator of

Ward no 16, Thokhom Ongbi Eliza via Whatsapp, who inform the police. A team of Imphal West Commando rushed to the spot along with Manipur Police Bomb Squad and searched for the said bomb.

The entire area had to be cordoned off, and vehicles

were stopped to ensure the safety of people. The bomb squad exploded the bomb at the same spot; no one was injured. The Manipur Bomb Squad took around 3 hours to detonate the bomb without any casualties safely.

Police said it was not yet known who was responsible for planting the bomb. A probe was initiated by the police. In the meantime, locals sit-in protest against planting the bomb in residential areas.

Local MLA of Singjamei AC Yumnam Khemchand also rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation.

As per a source, the bomb may have been placed by one particular insurgent organisation that demanded Rs.10 lakhs each from the 27 corporators of Imphal Municipal Corporation.

Maisnam Lalini conferred Shilp Guru Award

IT News
Imphal, Sept 8:

Ministry of Textile, Government of India has selected Maisnam Lalini Devi from Wangkhei Yonglan Leirak, Imphal East for its annual National Award for the year 2019.

Lalini Devi has been working hard to promote the indigenous "Shaphee Lanphee" as an artisan. The Ministry of Textile has given the prestigious award in recognition for her work to promote it.

Kholep Youth Club conferred outstanding Youth Club Award

IT News
Imphal, Sept 8:

The Kholep Youth Club of Kholep Village, Saitu Gamphazol Block, Kangpokpi District, was declared the Outstanding Youth Club Award of Kangpokpi District for the year 2021-22 in recognition of its outstanding voluntary work rendered in the field of environment preservation, health care, early childhood care, and education, women empowerment, skill development of youths, national integration, and social harmony and development by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, one of

the largest youth organisations in the world established in the year 1972 with the objective of providing rural youth avenues to take part in the process of nation building as well as providing opportunities for the development of their personality and skill.

The certificate of honour was bestowed by Giniakmuan Tombing, District Youth Officer, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Kangpokpi at its office in Kangpokpi on 7th September 2022 to S Thangkhanlen Haokip, Joint Secretary-Kholep Youth Club and Dr. Lamthinang Haokip, Advisor-Kholep Youth Club.

Minister Nemcha Kipgen attends National Conference of State Cooperation Ministers

IT News
New Delhi, Sept 8:

Minister for Cooperation, Manipur, Nemcha Kipgen attended a National Conference of State Cooperation Ministers at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Government of India, Amit Shah graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Minister of State for Cooperation, Government of India B.L. Vema was also present.

During the conference, State Cooperation Minister, Nemcha Kipgen highlighted the various achievements and initiatives taken up by the Depart-

ment of Cooperation, Manipur. She informed that Manipur is on the path of development in the Cooperative sector under the keen guidance and leadership of Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh.

The Minister further stated that with new initiatives, strong support and necessary assistance from the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, the Department of Cooperation, Manipur are making efforts to boost the functioning of the Cooperative Societies in the State and make them function on the lines of the Cooperative principles, and help in the financial upliftment of a major chunk of the population, particularly



the rural population, to boost to the economy of the State.

While highlighting the various achievements and activities of the Department, the State Minister for Cooperation informed there are more than 12,000 Cooperative Societies in the State of Manipur. She further stated that the Model bye-law for multi-dimensional Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS) will be considered to make our weak PACS more viable and vibrant. Making the PACS multi dimensional will also make PACS more effective and dynamic to meet the needs of the changing times, she asserted.

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A Strive for Inclusive Education



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

The National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes the importance of creating enabling mechanisms for providing Children With Special Needs (CWSN) or Divyang, the same opportunities of obtaining quality education as any other child.

UN convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities, 2006 accentuates the need of effective access to free and compulsory primary and secondary education for children with disabilities. The National Curriculum Framework on school education (NCF-2005) recommends for making the curriculum flexible and appropriate to accommodate the diversity of school children including those with disabilities in both cognitive and non-cognitive areas.

The Right of Children to free and compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009 provides for children's right to an education of equitable quality based on principles of equity and non-discrimination. It mandates inclusion of children with special needs (CWSN). The amendment of RTE Act (in June 2012) has included the children with multiple disabilities and severe disability with the right to opt for Home Based Education (HBE).

Given the shift in the approach to development of school education from input based to outcome based central sector interventions as envisaged in the document entitled, India : Three Year Action Agenda, 2017-18 to 2019-20 (NITI Aayog, 2017), a "paradigm shift" is envisaged in the approach to central sector spending on school education. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education states that "By 2030, ensure equal access to all levels of education & vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities".

The "Samagra Shiksha", a centrally sponsored educational scheme, aims to look at education of all children including children with special needs (CWSN), studying in Government, local body and Government-aided schools, in a continuum from pre-nursery to class XII.

The scheme covers all children with special needs with one or more out of 21 disabilities as mentioned in schedule of The Right of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, namely:- (1) Locomotor Disability, (2) Leprosy Cured person, (3) Cerebral Palsy, (4) Dwarfism, (5) Muscular Dystrophy, (6) Acid Attack victims, (7) Blindness, (8) Low-vision, (9) Hearing Impairment (Deaf), (10) Hard of Hearing, (11) Speech and Language Disability, (12) Intellectual Disability, (13) Specific Learning Disabilities, (14) Autism Spectrum Disorder, (15) Mental Illness, (16) Chronic Neurological conditions, (17) Multiple Sclerosis, (18) Parkinson's disease, (19) Haemophilia, (20) Thalassemia, (21) Sickle Cell Disease, and Multiple Disabilities.

The scheme stresses on working in convergence with all the line Departments/Ministries and intends to provide relevant holistic support for effective and appropriate services.

Objectives of the scheme:-

- (1) Identification of children with disabilities at the school level and assessment of her/his educational needs,
- (2) Provision of aids and appliances, assistive devices, to the children with special needs as per requirement,
- (3) Removal of architectural barriers in schools so that students with disability have access to classrooms, laboratories, libraries and toilets in the school,
- (4) Supplying appropriate teaching learning materials, medical facilities, vocational training support, guidance & counselling services and therapeutic services to children with special needs as per his/her requirement in convergence with line departments.
- (5) Sensitisation & training of General school teachers to teach and involve children with special needs in the general classroom. For existing special educators, capacity building programmes will be undertaken.
- (6) CWSN will have access to support services through special educators, establishment of resource rooms, vocational education, therapeutic services and counselling.

Major Issues:-

- (1) Training of general teachers in the field of disability to enable them to cater the needs of all category of CWSN & use of ICT.
- (2) Surgical correction of different categories of CWSN.
- (3) Provision of school readiness and skill development programme for MR, HI, VI & SI.
- (4) Provision of low vision devices.
- (5) Provision of all sorts of equipment to Resource Centre & Day Care Centre.
- (6) Provision for maintenance of Resource Centre & Day Care Centre.
- (7) Provision of Braille Books to all enrolled CWVI
- (8) Provision of Large Print Books for CWLV.
- (9) Provision of scholarship to girls CWSN.
- (10) Provision of reader/writer allowances.
- (11) Provision of support to HBE.
- (12) Girls with disabilities will receive special focus and efforts would be made under the scheme to help them gain access to schools, as also to provide motivation and guidance for developing their potential.

Financial Norms :-

Provision of up to Rs. 3500/- per child, per year have been made for children with special needs studying in government, government aided and local body schools as per specific proposal. This will include aids and appliances, teaching material, etc.

For providing resource support to CWSN, provision of special educators as per requirement would be done. The special educators should be qualified and registered with the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). These educators should mandatorily be available for all CWSNs including the children with high support needs as well. The educators may be posted at the school, cluster or block level as per the requirement and can operate in an itinerant mode, covering a group of schools where children with special needs are enrolled. Provision of stipend for CWSN girls @ Rs. 200/- per month for 10 months, for pre-primary to senior secondary would be made.

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International Literacy Day and our Environment



By: N. Munal Meitei

International Literacy Day is observed on 8th September since 1967 with this years theme, "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces." Literacy is a key lever of change and a practical tool of empowerment on pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental protection. It provides us with a sense of self-worth and dignity. The theme also gives importance of literacy learning spaces to build resilience and ensure quality, equitable, human rights, environment and inclusive education for all people, communities and societies.

Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with 771 million illiterate people around the world, most of whom women, who still lack basic reading and writing skills and are faced with increased vulnerability. The global literacy rate for women is

81% and 89% for men. This includes children as well without a basic understanding of how to read and write even in their mother tongue. Not to forget, India has the largest population of 287 million illiterate adults. It is equal to 37% of the world's total population.

This is the reason why celebrating International Literacy Day is important for us. It is no secret that education can open multiple doors of opportunity for people and is one of the most powerful tools for eliminating poverty, ensuring the prosperity, improvement of the environment and progress of the society.

Lack of literacy skills restricts social participation at all ages, preventing adults and children from fully participating in society and contributing to its progress. Reading, writing and working with numbers on a daily basis maintains brain cells healthy as we age, reducing the risk of Alzheimer's and dementia later in life, according to studies.

The most illiterate regions of the world are often at the highest-risk to feel the impacts of climate change. Many do not have the education to feel empowered to change their situation. Just this year, rural areas in many parts of the world, hardest hit, continue to face drought conditions, pushing people into cit-

ies looking for meager work and easy money.

The world's indigenous peoples who are mostly illiterate occupies 28% of the global land and reside in and around 80% of the world's biodiversity and make up 500 million which is less than 5% of the world's population but account for 15% of the poorest. Thus illiteracy is the biggest challenge to our present environment. With the reality of a changing climate, the need for comprehensive environmental and climate education has never been greater. But the goals to increase climate education cannot exist without literacy.

Literacy empowers individuals and communities. It gives them access to knowledge beyond their everyday networks to read the newspaper, to go online to read articles, and to be part of an intellectual network to make smart choices about recycling, composting, food safety and sustainable actions that illiterate populations are not typically able to make.

Illiteracy confines people. This population does not have as many resources to make decisions about climate change and sustainability. Individuals must rely on the people around them and media outlets to interpret climate change and its data. It should be our objective that all people worldwide are environmen-

tally and climate literate. Efforts to increase environmental literacy around the world will make a climate sustainable earth.

Climate literacy in the next generation will ensure a foundation of knowledge and discourse as society faces how to best deal with a changing climate. It is certain that environmental knowledge will pave a path for a better societal life. The earth needs people who understand the climate system and know how to apply that knowledge in their careers and in their communities. So, in this modern world, if you can't read the WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter and send back a message or can't order anything from the menu of a restaurant, or read basic traffic instructions or a hospital guidelines, then it will mean you being a blind. Thus, literacy can now be termed as the confidence that need the basic environmental knowledge.

Therefore on this International Literacy Day, 2022, we need to be equipped with literacy and the basic environmental knowledge. The fact is, the planet is boiling now and with the changes in our habits and the Environmental knowledge, we can save the mother earth for the future generation.

(The author is an Environmentalist, email: nmunal@yahoo.in)

On International Literacy Day Spiritual Literacy – Need of the Time

By: Prof. Jayadeba Sahoo

"Vidya Bihin Pashuhu"

This old dictum of Bhartrihari Neeti Shatak - 20 in Sanskrit signifies that illiterate person is identical to an animal without horns and tail and burden on the earth (Naik, 1979). Since times immemorial, Indians have respected and idolized true Education. International Literacy Day takes place on September 8 every year to raise awareness and concern for literacy problems that exist within our own local communities as well as globally. It was first conceived at the "World Conference of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy" held in Tehran, Iran in 1965. The following year UNESCO took the lead and on 26 October, 1966, proclaimed September 8 as International Literacy Day, with the primary purpose being "...to remind the international community of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies", "as a matter of dignity and human rights" and "the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies."

The purpose was not only to combat illiteracy but also to promote literacy as a tool that could empower individuals as well as whole communities. One year later, the global community accepted the challenge of ending illiteracy by participating in the first International Literacy Day. International Literacy Day brings ownership of the challenges of illiteracy back home to local communities where literacy begins, one person at a time. Along with all this going on, this day was adopted as the part of the UN's sustainable development goals program in 2015 and Goal 4 has one of its targets ensuring all young people achieve literacy and numeracy basically those adults who lack these skills and opportunities are also provided so that they can acquire them. The theme for this year 2022 is: "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces; Exploring Opportunities and Possibilities."

Importance of International Literacy Day

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free", wrote Frederick Douglass in the nineteenth century, an emancipated black American slave, champion of the abolitionist cause and author of several books. This call for emancipation through reading, and more generally by mastering basic skills – literacy and numeracy – has

universal scope. Literacy is the first step towards freedom, towards liberation from social and economic constraints. It is the prerequisite for development, both individual and collective. It reduces poverty and inequality, creates wealth, and helps to eradicate problems of nutrition and public health. Since the times of Frederick Douglass, and particularly in recent decades, considerable progress has been made in all regions of the world, and millions of men and women have been lifted from ignorance and dependency through a broad-based movement of literacy and the democratization of access to education. However, the prospect of a world in which every individual has fundamental knowledge remains an ideal.

Today, worldwide, more than 260 million children and adolescents are not enrolled in school; six out of ten children and adolescents – around 617 million – do not acquire the minimum proficiency levels in literacy and numeracy; 773 million young people and adults lack basic literacy skills, still cannot read and write – and among them, two-thirds are women. As per the last census in 2011, in India, a total of 74.04 percent are literate, an increase of 9.2 percent from the last decade. And according to UNESCO, the country will take another 40 years to achieve universal literacy, which is 2060. These seriously debilitating shortcomings lead to a de facto exclusion from society and perpetuate a spiral of social inequalities and gender inequalities.

According to UNESCO "Literacy is the best remedy" which is the key to the right for all to an education. Also, we all know that UNESCO sustainable development goals mobilize efforts to eradicate poverty and inequalities across the world and improving literacy rates are an integral element. With this further the importance of this day will be enhanced and promotes awareness and relevance of literacy and adult learning.

A new challenge :

A new challenge is now being added to this: a world in flux, where the pace of technological innovation is continuously accelerating. In order to find a place in society, get a job, and respond to social, economic and environmental challenges, traditional literacy and numeracy skills are no longer enough; new skills, including in information and communication

technology, are becoming increasingly necessary. Preparing young people and adults for jobs, the majority of which have not yet been invented, is a challenge. Accessing lifelong learning, taking advantage of pathways between different forms of training, and benefiting from greater opportunities for mobility has thus become indispensable.

UNESCO has been central to improve literacy worldwide and that is why promotes International Literacy Day in partnership with governments, charities, local communities and experts in the field worldwide. By adopting various themes every year wants to turn attention on literacy in all its forms in a changing world. No doubt without literacy we can't make changes in the world and also can't improve our living being. But according to Mahatma Gandhi, mere "Literacy in itself is no education. Literacy is not the end of education or even the beginning. By education, I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in the child and man-body, mind and spirit."

Because Youth signifies dynamism and energy and since this energy is not properly guided or channelized, we find them becoming victims of social evils like corruption, communalism, terrorism, etc. Hence there is the need of such education which nurtures positivity within the individual or to say, Spiritual Education or Knowledge. Therefore, if we want to evolve an ideal society and new world, we need to bring a spiritual revolution.

As Erich Fromm told "Education makes machines which act like men and produces men who act like machines." India's Education Guru Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan realized that our Education system does not appear to fulfill the true aim of education. He said, "The three things-vital dynamism, intellectual efficiency and spiritual direction together constitute the proper aim of education. Moral and spiritual training is an essential part of education. Enfranchisement of the mind, freedom from prejudice and fanaticism, and courage are essential. What we need today is the education of the whole man-physical, vital, mental, intellectual and spiritual..... If education is to help us to meet the moral challenge of the age and play its part in the life of the community, it should be liberating and life giving. It must give

a basic meaning to personality and existence and equip us with the power to overcome spiritual inertia and foster spiritual sensitivity. Seat of learning should produce men and women who will move together to develop common ideals and purposes, love each other and co-exist to create a co-operative common wealth."

Radhakrishnan had also strongly recommended the teaching of spiritual and ethical aspects of the religions as it is evident in the report of the University education commission of which he was the Chairman. The report maintained that: "Unless morality is taken in a larger sense it is not enough. If we exclude the Spiritual Training in our institutions, we would have to be untrue to our whole historical development. To be secular is not to be religiously illiterate. It is to be deeply spiritual and not narrowly religious." To enable students to become enlightened civilized citizen, he used to lay stress on the need of ethical teaching while addressing them. According to him, where scientific knowledge ends, the realm of mystery begins.

For the re-establishment of moral values in the society through such a spiritual revolution, the world creator, God, the Supreme Soul has reincarnated on earth. He, through the means of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, has been awakening His human children through spiritual education and RajYoga Meditation. Learners can free themselves from the attraction of worldly beauty and material charm through the ancient system of RajYoga. In this World University, young and old, rich and poor are taught to inculcate virtues like love, compassion, tolerance, politeness, patience, honesty, truthfulness, etc. It is only these values which can pave the way for the creation of a better society and a better world. Incarnate God Shiva has been imparting this spiritual education for the last 86 years, which will pave the way for creation of a Golden Aged World. Now is the time when man can gain spiritual worth and inherit the eternal bliss for the self. It is now or never!

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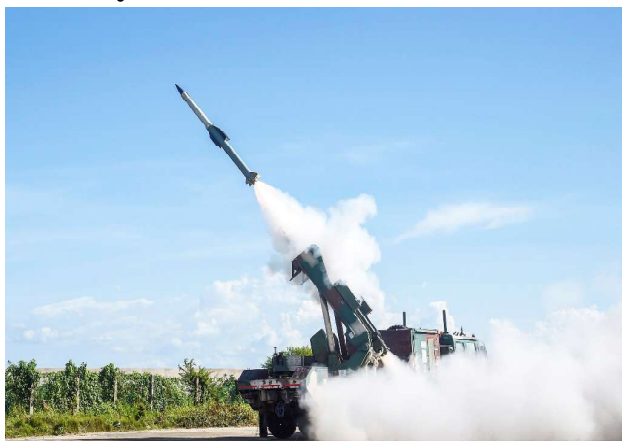
DRDO & Indian Army successfully conduct six flight-tests of Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile system off Odisha coast

PIB
New Delhi, Sept 8:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army have successfully completed six flight-tests of Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system from Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur off the Odisha coast. The flight tests were conducted as part of evaluation trials by the Indian Army.

The flight-tests were carried out against high-speed aerial targets mimicking various types of threats to evaluate the capability of the weapon systems under different scenarios, including long range medium altitude, short range, high altitude manoeuvring target, low radar signature with receding & crossing target and salvo launch with two missiles fired in quick succession. The system performance was also evaluated under day and night operation scenarios.

During these tests, all the mission objectives were met establishing pin-point accuracy of the weapon system with state-of-the-art guidance and control algorithms including warhead chain. The perfor-



mance of the system has been confirmed from the data captured by a number of Range instruments like Telemetry, Radar and Electro Optical Tracking Systems (EOTS) deployed by ITR. Senior officials from DRDO and the Indian Army participated in the launches.

These tests were conducted in the final deployment configuration consisting of all indigenously-developed systems, including the missile

with indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker, mobile launcher, fully automated command and control system, surveillance and multi-function Radars. The uniqueness of the QRSAM weapon system is that it can operate on the move with search and track capability & fire on short halt. This has been proven during the mobility trials conducted earlier.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has

complimented DRDO and Indian Army on the successful flight trials. He exuded confidence that the QRSAM weapon system will be an excellent force multiplier for the Armed Forces.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO has congratulated the teams associated with the successful series of trials and said that the system is now ready for induction into the Indian Army.

India records 6,395 new Covid cases in 24 hours; active caseload at 50,342

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 8:

India saw a single day rise of 6,395 new coronavirus infections, taking the tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,44,78,636, while the active cases declined to 50,342, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll has climbed to 5,28,090 with 33 fatalities, including 14 deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The active cases comprise 0.11 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.70 per cent, the health ministry said.

A decline of 252 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.96 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.88 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,39,00,204, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 214.27 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had

crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

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

The 19 new fatalities include five from Maharashtra and two each from Delhi, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal among others.

NIA announces Rs 10 lakh reward for information on fugitive terrorist in 2021 Ludhiana court blast

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 8:

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh for any information leading to the arrest of a Malaysia-based International Sikh Youth Federation terrorist Harpreet

Singh over his alleged involvement in the blast at the Ludhiana district court complex last year.

As many as six people were injured in the explosion at the district court that took place on December 23, 2021. Former police head constable Gagandeep Singh was killed while planting the bomb in the washroom of the court.

NIA said.

The NIA shared the telephone, WhatsApp and Telegram numbers of its Delhi headquarters and Chandigarh branch office along with email addresses that can be used by people to provide information about Singh.

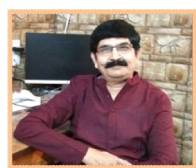
The identity of the informer will be kept a secret, the agency said.

"Harpreet Singh alias 'Happy Malaysia' is wanted by the NIA in connection with the case related to conspiracy hatched by International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) for causing a blast at Ludhiana court complex on December 23, 2021," the anti-terror probe agency said in a statement.

"Singh is presently residing in Malaysia and is associated with ISYF. NIA has declared a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh against Singh, a resident of village Madiakalan in Ajnala area of Amritsar (Punjab)," a spokesperson of the

"Any information pertaining to above absconding accused leading to his arrest or apprehension, may be shared on the following numbers and email addresses: 1. NIA headquarters New Delhi control room - Telephone Number: 011-24368800, WhatsApp/Telegram: +91-8585931100 Email ID: do.nia@govt.in 2. NIA Branch Office Chandigarh - Telephone Number: 0172-2682900, 2682901 WhatsApp/Telegram Number: 7743002947 Telegram: 7743002947 Email ID: info-chn.nia@govt.in," the statement read.

Life is a marathon; Complete it, don't quit



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

10th September is observed as **World Suicide Prevention Day**. It was established in 2003 by the **International Association for Suicide Prevention** in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO). Suicide is continuously talked about the subject in our society. The main focus to observe the day is to focus attention on the issue, reduces stigma and raises awareness among organizations, government, and the public, giving a singular message that suicide can be prevented.

Suicide is voluntary, taking a person's own life. Suicide is defined as death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with intent to die as a result of the behavior.

Nearly 3000 people on average commit suicide daily, according to WHO. For every person who completes a suicide, 20 or more may attempt to end their lives. Relatives and close friends of people who die by suicide are a high-risk group for suicide. Suicide occurs across all age, economic, social, ability, racial, gender and ethnic boundaries. Suicides can be difficult to understand, especially when we are unaware a person is struggling. It is estimated that around 700,000 people a year take their life around the world. For every suicide, there are likely 20 other people making a suicide attempt and many more have serious thoughts of suicide. Millions of people suffer intense grief or are otherwise profoundly impacted by suicidal behaviours. Although suicide is a deeply personal and an individual act, suicidal behaviour is determined by a number of individual and social factors. Suicide can occur among all age groups, but it is most commonly seen among teenagers and young adults. When a person attempts suicide, this isn't necessarily a sign that they want to die. Instead, it's an indicator that they are in great emotional pain, but don't know how to deal with it.

According to **Article 21 of the Indian constitution**, "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by the law". While the constitution covers the right to life or liberty, it does not include the 'right to die'. Studies say that the frequent occurrence

of suicide pacts and family suicides, which are more due to social reasons and can be viewed as a protest against archaic societal norms and expectations. Suicide rates were also up among daily wage earners, businesspersons, and those in the farm sector. More than 1.5 lakh people died by suicide across India in 2020. Poverty, unemployment, debts and educational problems are also associated with suicide. More than 90% of people who are suicidal or commit suicide to suffer from mental illness. Suicide is especially a critical factor in our society during the ongoing pandemic. People who suffer from depression or have genetic vulnerability have more tendency to act on their suicidal thoughts.

In our country attempted suicide is a punishable offence. Section 309 of the Indian

Penal Code states that "whoever attempts to commit suicide and does any act towards the commission of such an offense shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with a fine or with both".

Depression and suicide are rampant in today's time and is a growing issue of concern. There is much that friends and family members can do to help people who are depressed or contemplating suicide. Depression is an illness that pushes a person to commit self-harm or even commit suicide. There is an urgent need to develop a national plan for suicide prevention in India. People who are suffering from deteriorating illnesses, therefore, must visit a mental health specialist. Suicide is a serious problem and any suicide threat or attempt should be taken seriously.

Improving Schools



By: Vijay GarG

The Prime Minister announced by tweeting that under the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India i.e. PM-Shri Yojana, fourteen and a half thousand schools of the country will be developed and up-graded. That is, there is hope that the government has started efforts to bring betterment in the field of education. The

plight of the education sector is not hidden from anyone. In all national and international surveys related to education, along with the lack of buildings, drinking water, text materials, sackcloth etc. in government schools for years.

The facts of acute shortage of teachers have been exposed. Then it is also not hidden from anyone that the condition of schools is not improving due to the provision of expenditure on education in the budget is much less than the requirement. Because of this, those who are less able are better off sending their children to private schools. Encouraged by this, the number of private schools is continuously increasing. But it is having a negative effect that despite the right to education being a constitutional reso-

lution, free and quality education should be provided to all children. Unable to ensure access.

Due to this the literacy rate has not increased at the expected pace. The central government cannot be considered ignorant of these facts. However, education is a matter of the Concurrent List, in which both the Center and the states have to work together. In states that have governments of political parties other than the Centre, they are often seen blaming each other for the plight of schools. But in the states where there are governments of the ruling party at the center, the situation has gone from bad to worse. The situation today is that the state government cannot count the improvement in education as its

achievement. In fact, there is a long tradition behind the worrying condition of government schools, in which the private sector was encouraged to open schools instead of government schools. Such interested companies, enterprises, organizations were provided land at affordable rates. But that policy turned education into business.

Now gradually quality education has become a thing of the reach of the moneyed people. Even the central government is not unaware of this fact. Good thing that a resolution has been taken to develop and upgrade fourteen and a half thousand schools, but how much improvement will come in the field of education, it remains to be seen. In fact, now basic facilities like education and health have gone from the

primary list of governments to mere part of the election strategy.

Every opposition party is seen highlighting the plight of education at the time of elections and the ruling party keeps promising to improve it. If the central government is really serious about improving the education sector, then it should first. Efforts should be made to remove the barriers, due to which the government schools are suffering. Merely painting the schools by making a new plan or providing some basic facilities in them, one cannot be assured of improving the learning environment there. Only fourteen and a half thousand schools, if an environment of quality education is created in them, then the way forward can be easy.

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A Strive for Inclusive....

There is provision of Rs 1000/- per camp for block level identification camps for early identification of all categories of disabilities defined under the PwD Act, Rs 2 lakh for equipment in Block resource Centre (once in 5 years) for rehabilitation & special training of CWSN and capacity building of special educators & Block Resource Persons.

Key areas :-

Education for CWSN involves multiple aspects above and beyond the financial support for CWSN. Many areas have to be looked upon manifestly that will ensure proper implementation and effective inclusion. The areas includes :- (1) Education of teachers and

other stakeholders, (2) Curriculum access, (3) Individualized education plan (IEP), (4) Building synergy with special schools, (5) Research and Development, (6) Social access to CWSN, such as Parental training, Peer sensitization, Awareness, Awareness building of different stakeholders across all levels, Special emphasis will be given to education of girls with disability.

Monitoring & Evaluation:- On-going monitoring and evaluation should be carried out to refine the programme on regular basis. For this, appropriate monitoring mechanisms and tools are to be devised at every level and field tested at regular intervals.

Document Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Voter Card, bearing No. CMNO289090, Driving License, bearing No. MN-011999002099, RC Book of Activa, bearing Regd. No. MN01F-2421 in between Nongmeibung and Konung Mamang on September, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Kshetrimayum Umesh Singh
Nongmeibung Chakpram Leirak
Imphal East, Manipur
Contact No. 9612555846

Rahul Gandhi, Congress leaders embark on 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from Kanyakumari

Agency
Kanyakumari (TN), Sept 8:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, along with several party leaders, embarked on the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from here on Thursday, marking the beginning of a challenging journey through which the party is seeking to reach out to people and rejuvenate its organisation.

Ahead of the start of the padyatra, Gandhi hoisted the national flag at the campsite of the Bharat Yatris, who will walk with him through the 3,570 km journey from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

Gandhi began the padyatra from Agasteeswaram here, along with 118 'Bharat Yatris' as well as other party leaders from across the country.

Gandhi on Wednesday had flagged off the party's ambitious 'Bharat jodo' yatra with an assertion that he will not lose his country to hate and accused the BJP-RSS of trying to divide the country on religious lines.



Eying the revival of the crisis-ridden party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, party chief Sonia Gandhi had

described the march as a "landmark occasion" and hoped that the march would help rejuvenate the grand old party.

The march would cover 12 states and two Union Territories in about five months.

The march will move in two batches from 7 am to 10:30 am and from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. While the morning session will include fewer participants, the evening session will see mass mobilisation. The participants plan to walk around 22-23 km daily.

About 30 per cent of 'Bharat Yatris' are women. The average age of Bharat Yatri is 38.

About 50,000 citizens have also registered to participate in the Yatra.

After reaching Kerala on September 11, the Yatra will traverse through the state for the next 18 days, reaching Karnataka on September 30. It will be in Karnataka for 21 days before moving north.

It will pass through Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Nilambur, Mysuru, Bellary, Raichur, Vikarabad, Nanded, Jalgaon, Indore, Kota, Dausa, Alwar, Bulandshahr, Delhi, Ambala, Pathankot, Jammu, and end in Srinagar.

Assam Rifles foils cross border smuggling of Contrabands



IT News

Imphal, Sept 8:

Tengnoupal Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) foiled cross border smuggling of contrabands in Tengnoupal district today.

Based on intelligence input, a border domination patrol of Assam Rifles spotted suspicious packages in the thick foliage of the jungle near Kwatha village. On thorough search, contraband items including foreign

liquor, mosquito coils and cosmetics items were recovered. The recovered items were assessed to be worth Rs 6.80 lakhs. The recovered items have been handed over to Customs Preventive Force, Moreh for further investigation.

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Minister Nemcha Kipgen attends...

The Minister further informed the gathering that the proposal to have at least one good and efficient PACS or Dairy or Fishery Cooperative Societies in each and every Panchayat will be taken up in Manipur. She also stressed on the strong need for Dairy and Fishery Cooperative Societies in the State.

Continuing that the State has limited resources, Nemcha Kipgen expressed the need to avail the various supports available under the SAHKAR-SE-SAMRIDHI Umbrella Scheme of the Ministry of Cooperation. She sternly appeals for proactive support of the Ministry and the NCDC for the various projects to help the people of Manipur through the Cooperative Societies.

The Cooperation Minister, Manipur is hopeful that the New National Cooperation Policy will provide a strong framework for strengthening the Cooperative Societies in Manipur. Suggestions have been already submitted during the 2-Day National Confer-

ence on the proposed new National Cooperation Policy during April 2022, she added.

Nemcha mentioned that National Cooperative University will help the efforts in providing awareness and education to the Cooperative Societies presently doing through the Cooperation Department, ICM, MSCU amongst others.

"Proposed New Multi State Cooperative Societies is also considered to be the need of the changing times and my state will be keen to take up this new model to benefit our Cooperative Societies" said Nemcha.

Minister, Cooperation also informed that various projects have been submitted to NCDC and appealed to NCDC to consider with special concern for the need of the North East States.

The Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India is organizing such a conference to further deliberate upon the issues related to the cooperation sector. On the first day of the conference, there was a

Ministerial level deliberation on various agenda items. And, on the second day, the States and Union Territories will be given an opportunity to showcase achievements and initiatives taken by them to reform the Cooperative sector in their respective States/UTs.

It is inevitable to mention that the vision of - 'Cooperation to Prosperity' can be realized by strengthening the cooperative movement in the country; taking it to the grassroots and promoting the cooperative based economic development model. For the purpose of creating suitable policy, legal and institutional infrastructure for fulfillment of this goal, a separate Ministry of Cooperation has been formed by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 6th July 2021.

The Minister, Cooperation Nemcha Kipgen was accompanied by ACS, Cooperation, P. Vaiphei, Deputy Registrar (Admin.) Cooperative Societies, Shri Onam Jiten Singh and officials of the Department.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and EAM S Jaishankar attend 2nd India-Japan 2+2 ministerial dialogue in Tokyo

Agency
Tokyo, Sept 8:

The second India-Japan 2+2 ministerial dialogue is underway in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar along with their Japanese counterparts. The two ministers arrived in Tokyo earlier today to participate in the second India-Japan 2+2 ministerial dialogue.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid his condolences to the friends and family of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo

Abe on his demise recently. "Let me extend heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Shinzo Abe. His contributions were significant in elevating the India-Japan relationship. India stands in solidarity with the people of Japan as they recover from this loss," he said during the 2nd India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in Tokyo.

On the other hand, EAM Dr S Jaishankar noted that 'today's meeting demonstrates our commitment to steepening our bilateral security and defence cooperation and also demonstrating the strength of our special strategic and global partnership.'

Earlier today, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with the Minister of Defence of Japan, Yasukazu Hamada. The two leaders reviewed various aspects of bilateral defence cooperation as well as regional affairs, a statement by the Defence Ministry noted.

MoD further noted that the two Defence counterparts acknowledged the 'importance of the India-Japan defence partnership and the critical role it will play in ensuring a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.'

Rajnath Singh further stressed that the 'growing complexities in the India-Japan bilateral defence exercises are a testimony to the deepening of defence cooperation between the two countries,' a statement Ministry of Defence read.

The two leaders further strengthened their commitment to continuing bilateral and multilateral exercises including 'Dharma Guardian', 'JIMEX' and 'Malabar'. They welcomed the operationalisation of Reciprocal Provision of Supply & Services Agreement during Exercise 'MILAN' in March this year.

Sports

Mary Kom wants to be excluded from TOPS extension, suggests more chances for youngsters

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 8:

Legendary Indian boxer MC Mary Kom, a six-time world champion, has been sidelined from competition for several months due to a serious injury. However, she has been making progress after undergoing reconstructive surgery for the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury she suffered in June. The gold medalist from the 2018 Commonwealth Games could not defend her title at the Birmingham Games as she suffered an unfortunate injury during the 2022 Commonwealth Games trials.

Now, Mary Kom has requested the Mission Olympic Cell to remove her name from the list for the government's Target Olympics Podium Scheme's extension (TOPS). The Manipuri boxer has served as India's torchbearer on the international stage for more than 10 years.

Today, Kom penned down a note on her Instagram handle where she urged the Mission Olympic Cell to con-



sider youngsters more for the upcoming Olympics. First, she thanked the government for providing her with all the necessary support to date and then noted, "I think it is time to let a younger athlete get support to chase the Olympic dream."

Mary Kom's decision in the favour of young participants has been widely appre-

ciated by internet users. They expressed their love for the Indian athlete in the comment section. Since being shared, her Instagram post has garnered more than 3,000 likes so far. A user said, "You are a true legend in person as well as a professional." Numerous commenters marked her as an "inspiration," while another individual commented, "Such

a sportive gesture." Some of them also appealed to the veteran to feature in the Paris Olympics at least for the last time.

There are now just three female boxers who are a part of the TOPS Core group, and they are Mary Kom, Lovlina Borgohain, and Pooja Rani. On the other side, the development team consists of a large number of younger boxers including Nikhat Zareen, Nitu Ghanghas, Arundhati Chaudhary, and Jasmine Lamboria.

The TOPS program was launched to give the greatest Indian athletes top-notch care. A monthly out-of-pocket payment of Rs. 50,000 is included, in addition to other supports relevant to the sport. This Sports Ministry's flagship program which was launched in advance of the 2016 Olympics, included Mary Kom as one of its initial recipients. She remained a TOPS participant until 2018, at which point she rejoined the list in preparation for the Tokyo Olympics in 2018.

2023 FIH Men's World Cup: Hosts India drawn with England, Spain and Wales

Agency
Bhubaneswar, Sept 8:

Host India have been drawn with England, Spain and Wales for the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at the Convention Centre in Bhubaneswar on Friday.

Here are the groups for the FIH men's World Cup 2023 -

Pool A: Australia, Argentina, France, South Africa

Pool B: Belgium, Germany, Korea, Japan

Pool C: Netherlands, New Zealand, Malaysia, Chile

Pool D: India, England, Spain, Wales

Pool A is headed up by current FIH World Rankings number one Australia, who got the bronze medal at the last World Cup in 2018. They will play 2016 Olympic Champions Argentina (world ranking 7), France (world ranking 11), playing their fourth World Cup, and African Champions South Africa (world ranking 14).

In Pool B, reigning World Champions Belgium (world ranking 2) are the top seed and

they were drawn to face 2002 and 2006 World Champions Germany (world ranking 4). Both European teams will face two representatives from Asia, namely Korea (world ranking 12) and Japan (world ranking 17).

Pool C will feature the finalists from the last edition, the Netherlands (world ranking 3), at the head of the group. They will come up against the other Oceania's representative New Zealand (world ranking 9), Malaysia (world ranking 10), playing their ninth World Cup, and newcomers Chile (world ranking 23), participating for the very first time in a FIH Hockey Men's World Cup.

In Pool D, hosts India are the highest ranked side (world ranking 5). They will face England (world ranking 6), which they've recently met at the Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022 for a thrilling encounter (4-4), two-time silver medalists (1971, 1998) Spain (world ranking 8) and Wales (world ranking 16), who, like Chile, will play their maiden

World Cup.

Matches will be played from 13 to 29 January 2023 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar and the new Birsamunda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela in the state of Odisha.

Chief Minister, Government of Odisha Naveen Patnaik and FIH Acting President Seif Ahmed attended the draw ceremony, as well as Tusharkanti Behera, Minister - Sports & Youth Services, Odisha, Dr SY Quraishi, Member, CoA, Hockey India, Zafar Iqbal, Member, CoA, Hockey India, Dilip Tirkey, Chairman, Hockey Promotion Council of Odisha, Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, IAS, Chief Secretary & Chief Development Commissioner, Odisha, V K Pandian, IAS, Secretary to Chief Minister, R Vineel Krishna, IAS, Commissioner cum Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Odisha, amongst other personalities. The draw proceedings were conducted by FIH CEO Thierry Weil.