

Guv wishes on 55th Martyrs Day of Pt Deendayal

IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

La. Ganesan, Governor of Manipur extends his tributes on the 55th Martyrs' Day of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Governor's tributes to the great ideologue Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya, on his death anniversary is a mark of respect to the great soul and the belief that our Nation is being run on strong principles that were advocated by Pandit ji throughout his life. Pandit ji never worked to gain popularity or to be elected as an MP or MLA but worked entirely for the welfare of the Nation and lived his life in simplicity.

Born on September 15, 1916 in Uttar Pradesh, Deendayal Upadhyaya believed in self-reliant economy with the village as the base welcoming modern technology adapting to suit Indian requirement. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was one of the most distinguished Nationalist Political thinkers of modern India.

Upadhyaya considered that it was of utmost importance for India to develop an indigenous economic model with a human being at centre stage.

De-worming Day

IT News
Imphal Feb 10:

As a part of the National De-worming Day, 2023, the Department of Community Medicine, RIMS today organized 'Health Talk cum Awareness Programme at Tharon under Thangmeiband Assembly constituency under the theme History and Significance.

The programme was organised under the supervision of Dr. Brogen Singh Akojiam, HOD, Community Medicine RIMS and also Dean Academy and was headed by M. Meghachandra, Health Educator.

Sr. Residents Dr. Sonajit and Dr. Amrita along with Interns also attended the programme.

Serial blasts occurred at India-Myanmar border, 1 killed, 1 injured

IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

One BRTF labour engaged in constructing India- Myanmar border fencing in Tengnoupal district was injured in the bomb blast around that took place at around 9.20 am near Kwatha Khunou of Tengnoupal district, a source said.

The injured BRTF labour identified as Jerom Birla, 82 RCC, BRTF, 36 years, son of Nawash Birla from Simdega district, Jharkhand. The incident occurred near Kwatha Khunou, between India-Myanmar border pillar No.80 and 81. He was rushed to Moreh Hospital from where he was referred to Imphal for further treatment. Source said that

the injured BRTF labour is stationed at B Bongjiang Village BRTF Camp. He sustained injury at Legs, and damaged one BRTF vehicle.

Another report said that at least two high-intensity bomb blasts have been reported from near Moreh town along the India-Myanmar border earlier.

According to reports, the twin bomb blast took place inside Myanmar territory, just 150 metres away from the international border in Manipur that India shares with Myanmar.

The blasts were suspected as attacks at the headquarters of a Manipur-based underground group. A member of the rebel group reportedly killed and injured 7 others.

Today's blast is the third explosion, source said

Notably, Indian security agencies in Manipur are on high alert following the bomb blasts that were reportedly carried out by a combined team of People's Defence Force (PDF) and Kuki National Army (KNA-B) on a Manipur-based militant group at Thongren, Sagaing region (Myanmar).

The PDFs is the armed wing of the National Unity Government of Myanmar (NUG) and was formed by the NUG with youths and pro-democracy activists on May 5, 2021 in response to the coup d'état that occurred on February 1, 2021 that put the military junta and their armed wing the Tatmadaw in power.

SC collegium recommends Justice D S Thakur as Chief Justice of Manipur

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 10:

The Supreme Court Collegium on Thursday recommended the appointment of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur as Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.

Justice Thakur, whose parent High Court is the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, has been a judge of the Bombay High Court since June 10, 2022.

"The office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur has fallen vacant recently consequent upon the elevation of Justice P V Sanjay Kumar to the Supreme Court of India. Therefore, appointment to that office is required to be made," the Collegium said. "Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur is the senior most judge of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh. He was appointed on March 8, 2013, and has been function-



ing, on transfer, as a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay since June 10, 2022."

The High Court of J&K and Ladakh does not have representation among the Chief Justices of the High Courts since the retirement of Justice A M Magrey, it said.

"Over a long period of time no judge of J&K origin has been elevated as Chief Justice of a High Court or as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India," it said. "In terms of the Memorandum of Procedure, consultation was

held with consultee-judge(s) on the suitability of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur for appointment as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur. The consultee-judge(s) have concurred with the proposal for the appointment of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur."

Having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium said that it was of the considered view that Justice Thakur was fit and suitable in all respects for being appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur.

"The Collegium, therefore, resolves to recommend the appointment of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur," the Collegium said.

Justice Thakur is the brother of former Chief Justice of India T S Thakur.

2 BJYM leaders allegedly beaten at gun point



IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

Two leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) were reportedly beaten up at gun point by group of persons while they were on their way at Sanakeithel under Lamphel Police Station. Spokesperson of the BJYM Mayanglabam Sureshkumar and secretary general Alex Ningombam were reportedly stopped by some youths near Sanakeithel area and they were reportedly beaten at gun point by the miscreants. Reason for the assault is yet to be confirmed.

Both are undergoing treatment at Raj Medicity and condition of Suresh is reported critical even though Alex Ningombam sustained minor injury. Both were returning in a car after attending a programme,

BJYM source said.

A police case has been filed in connection with the attack.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh expressed strong condemnation to the attack and said that police are searching for the culprits in his facebook post.

Co-incidentally the incident happened a day after large number of volunteers of the BJYM tried to attack Congress Youth leader Ningthoujam Popilal at IMPACT TV office after a heated argument occurred between BJYM Spokesperson Suresh and Popilal in a discussion programme "Manung Hutna". However timely intervention of the Manipur Police team put the situation under controlled and the Congress Youth leader Popilal was safely dropped to his residence.

The next day Popilal was appointed as the President of the MPCC Youth Committee. Soon after his appointment as Youth President Popilal along with his team compliant the matter to city police and filed an FIR naming some of the BJYM members who tried to attack on February 9 evening after the discussion programme at IMPACT TV.

The discussion where the two leaders confronted with hard words went viral on social media and Popilal's popularity goes far above BJYM spokesperson's Sureshkumar.

BJYM President Barish Sharma have condemn the attack and indirectly point fingers to the Congress supporters saying that violence is not the solution for differences of ideas during discussion hours.

Assam Rifles foils cross border smuggling of Brown Sugar

IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

Tengnoupal Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR(South) foiled cross-border smuggling of Brown Sugar Drugs at Khudengthabi, Tengnoupal

District on February 9, 2023.

During routine checking at Permanent Vehicle Check Post, Khudengthabi, troops of Tengnoupal Battalion recovered 22 Packages of Brown Sugar, weighing 813 gms, that was being smuggled by a Female Commuter. The Drugs

were concealed inside Popcorn packets. The recovered Narcotics are assessed to be worth Rs 1.62 Crores.

The seized Narcotics along with the Drug Peddler were handed over to Moreh Police for further investigation

Prime Minister's refusal to probe the fraud in Adani group smacks of an unholy alliance

By Krishna Jha
New Delhi, Feb 10:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has blocked the demand raised by the Opposition in the Parliament for an enquiry to be monitored by the Supreme Court or to set up Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate the Adani group's manipulations of the stock market and fraud and into the allegations levelled against the industrialist Gautam Adani himself and his company by Hindenburg Research. The step reconfirms the Centre's patronage for the Adani group. Adani's own response to Hindenburg's allegations which runs in 413 pages is a blatant attempt to

deflect the serious charges of fraud against the group. The company called the allegations "calculated attack on India, its independence, integrity, and quality of Indian institutions, and also the growth story and ambition of India."

Gautam Adani, founder and chairman of Adani group, has acquired a net worth of roughly 120 billion dollars, adding over hundred billion over past three years largely through stock price appreciation in the group's seven key listed companies which have spiked an average of 819 percent in that period.

The Hindenburg Research has claimed to investigate how the world's once

third richest man is pulling the largest con in corporate history, by speaking to people, including former senior executives of Adani group and taking up many other authentic sources. Its key listed companies have also taken substantial debts, including pledging shares of their inflated stock of loans, putting the entire group on precarious financial footing. The documents studied were in thousands, and conducting diligence site visits in almost half a dozen countries. Even if the findings of Hindenburg Research are not considered, and one takes up the financials of Adani group at face value, its seven key listed companies have 85 percent

downside purely on a fundamental basis owing to high valuation.

The groups very top ranks and eight of twenty two key leaders are Adani family members, and places control of the groups financials in only the hands of few. Hence it is called 'a family business'. Gautam Adani's elder brother, called an 'elusive figure', has been always found at the centre of the investigations conducted by any government into Adani group for his alleged role in managing a network of offshore shell entities used to facilitate fraud, the research said. In fact Vinod Adani, through various associates,

manages a vast labyrinth of offshore shell entities.

In fact it has been reported that the valuations of Adani's companies flew to the highest skies in the past three years, between April 2020 and August 2022. The value of its stocks rose nearly four thousand percent. After the fall in the stocks, the rating of these companies are facing a decline.

A section of the securities of the group that Credit Suisse had assigned a lending value of 75 percent, are now rated zero. The conglomerate finds it impossible to raise money. The American investment bank Citigroup has refused to give loan to the group against securities. The share sale also

has been facing the brunt, causing heightened scrutiny. According to reports that at least two more companies said to be from the Adani Group underwrote and likely bought in the share sale. Hindenburg Research says they have been helping the Adani Group engage in corporate malfeasance. The conglomerate denied the links.

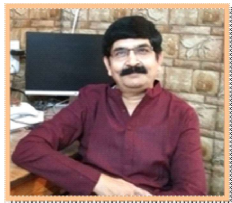
The Adani share sale was oversubscribed by rich Indian individuals at the last minute, after retail investors or non-professional investors stayed away.

It is in the common knowledge that Adani and Modi both hail from the western state of Gujarat. As Modi climbed through the political

ranks, he also openly displayed a close friendship with Adani: he flew in Adani's private jets during his election campaign, and again when he travelled from Gujarat to New Delhi to take office as Prime Minister. In those days, Adani became richer by nearly 230 percent. Much of it has been credited to the Indian government's mass privatization drive and business-friendly policies, which saw Adani winning several government tenders and infrastructure projects in ports, airports, roads, rail, fossil fuels, and green energy across the country. It was a process of building nation, as Modi called it.

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Female participation in science



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

11th February is celebrated as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. It is commemorated to achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls. The day that reminds us to work towards improving access for women to technology and science education and creating an enabling environment for female scientists and technologists. Even though women have made tremendous progress towards increasing their participation in higher education, they are still under-represented in these fields.

According to UNESCO, 132 million girls are out of school worldwide and only 66% of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education. Full and equal participation in science for women and girls can play a vital role in ensuring diversity in research, expanding the pool of talented researchers and bringing in fresh perspectives. The most likely reason for the imbalance is that society reinforces the idea that boys and girls have different interests and abilities. It is observed that the most important one is mindset, which has been targeting women right from their cradles. Women don't need science, is at the back of many minds. It is society, not nature, that tells us girls should favour arts and humanities and leave maths and physics to the boys. Despite the growing tempo of technological development and popularity of feminism, women do not still possess equal position in the society. Women have played an important role in the development of science and technology, but there is an insufficient number of females in those career fields.

According to a study conducted in 14 countries, the probability for female students of graduating with a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and Doctor's degree in science-related field are 18%, 8% and 2% respectively, while the percentages of male students are 37%, 18% and 6%. Less than 4% of Nobel Prizes for science have ever been awarded to women, and only 11% of senior research roles are held by women in Europe. Asima Chatterjee was the first woman to be awarded a Doctor of Science by an Indian University - in 1944, by the University of Calcutta. Women need to get out of their comfort zone and give math and science a try. Plenty of women are pursuing careers in physiology, liberal studies, nursing and such, but not enough women are pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

It is the time to recognize women's contributions in research and innovation, smash stereotypes and defeat discrimination against women and girls in science. Full and equal participation in science for women and girls can play a vital role in ensuring diversity in research, expanding the pool of talented researchers and bringing in fresh perspectives. Self-motivation and hard work will help female scientist overcome challenges like maintaining work life balance, taking childcare responsibilities and time management issues. If girls see more positive female role models in science it would give them more confidence and a greater sense of belonging in those subjects. Don't we think we need to encourage and support girls and women achieve their full potential as scientific researchers and innovators?

How to improve yourself to be an effective person?



By: Vijay GarG

We all live in a society where everything is judged with just first sight. Starting from a simple wrapping of packet of biscuit to the look of a car. We just believe in external appearances. We have moved on too fast that judging on first sight has become a habit for all of us. But there's few more places left on earth where we can reach with our well defined personality only, else we'll be thrown out at any point of time. So here I'll share something that should help you to correct your attitude and personality to become an effective person.

Here are some tips to correct your attitude. Set a fixed schedule for morning activities. Make sure that you don't skip any activity. Greet Good Morning to the first person you see. That will certainly help your mind to release any stress and if possible try to make a habit of sipping any warm liquid like tea or coffee and even warm water with salt. Yoga or exercises are very healthy for our body and mind too. Don't start your day empty stomach else it may distract your focus. Never try to jump into ones priority. This may pour negative impression of you on that person. To impress anyone you must have good set of communication skills. Communication means how you understand and react to the opposite person. Try to initiate communication part by yourself with greetings. It brings a close bond to the communication. How you react on everything you should know well, else everything will be in vain. Try to avoid miscommunication. If you haven't understood what other person told you ask him/her to repeat. It may seem to be awkward sometimes but it's the best way to avoid any miscommunication. Now to enhance your understanding you must have to think and talk like the person you are talking to. This will create a way for you to enter in their heart. Which will significantly help to communicate further. Before offering any piece of advice or solution make sure you know what's going on their minds. It will tell you whether they'll follow your advice or will put it in the trash. To become an effective person you should also have some knowledge of body language which enhances the quality of communication. Always bid good bye to the person you talk to. It brings a nice impression even after you leave. That's the quality of an effective person. An effective person never tries to dominate the opposite person rather try to establish good bonding through communication.

One can't become an effective person in one day. But one day definitely he/she can be an effective person. And that's where attitude and personality has to be right and strong.

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Union Budget 2023-2024 : What is there for Children – An overview



By: Satya Gopal Dey

The finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her encouraging budget speech stated "The world has recognized India as a power, our growth for the current year is estimated at 7.0%, this is the highest among all major economies, in spite of massive global slowdown caused by pandemic and the war".

While the Finance Minister's emphasis on a prosperous and inclusive India is commendable, the declining share of children in the Union Budget does raise some concerns. Children are the future of any country and investing in their education, health, and well-being is crucial for a sustainable and inclusive development.

However, the allocation of just 2.30% of the budget for children does seem insufficient given their large population size. This may lead to a situation where the needs and rights of children are not adequately addressed, and they are unable to fully realize their potential.

It is important for the government to prioritize the well-being of children and allocate sufficient resources to programs that directly benefit them. This can include investments in education, health, nutrition, and protection from abuse and exploitation.

Moreover, it's crucial to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of these programs to ensure that they are reaching those in need and making a positive impact on the lives of children. Addressing the needs of children should be seen as an investment in the future, as it can have far-reaching effects on their development and ability to contribute to society in a meaningful way.

According to the analysis of Haq centre for child Rights - India's premier child rights organisation, the total Union Budget 2023-24 grew by a massive 1415 per cent against previous year (budget estimate), the Budget for Children increased by 11.92 per cent against 2022-23 BE. In absolute terms, the total allocation for Budget for Children, as per Statement 12, in 2023-24 Union Budget stands at INR 103790.70 Crore. It is pertinent to highlight that the share of children in the Union Budget has been on a constant decline in the last 11 years. It also bears significance as the Government of India is gearing up to submit its 5th and 6th combined Periodic Report to the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Children.

Let us see how inclusiveness and prosperity aspect reflected in real sense, there are couple of ministries and department which also hold some budget for the welfare of children beside women and Child development, education. Ministry of Minority Affairs reduced by 37.81 per cent followed by 33.33 per cent reduction in the allocation for Ministry of Labour and Employment. The share of child health and child development has reduced as against the previous year's allocations, while the share of child protection in the total Union Budget remains the same. The analysis of Haq centre for child rights reflected that despite the rising child protection concerns as mentioned in the Crime in India Report by NCRB, child protection continues to receive the least share.

According to the analysis of Haq centre for Child Rights, the Sectoral share within Budget for Children 2023-24 where share of child education is 77.51% and child protection receives the least attention in terms of financial resource allocation. If we do a trend analysis, we will observe substantial trend of decrease in allocation for children over the past eleven years. In 2012 - 13 the share was 4.76 percent, in 2013 - 14 reduced to 4.64, in 2014 - 15 - 4.52 percent. Following years, the allocation further reduced in the current it is only 2.30 percent, the lowest within eleven years.

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, one of the keys Centrally Sponsored Schemes observed a meagre increase of 0.19 per cent as against last year's allocation. In Union Budget 2023-24, the total allocation for the scheme stands at INR 37453.47 Crore. This marginal increase must be examined in the backdrop of overarching objectives set out under the New Education Policy, 2020 which also promises for 6% GDP to be spent on education.

The National Mid-Day Meal programme which was renamed as PM Poshan in the Union Budget

2022-23, received an increased allocation of INR 11600 Crore, 13.35% increase, as against the budget estimate of 2022-23. While there is a lot of emphasis on PM Poshan scheme, yet the allocation for the scheme was reduced by 9.38 per cent as against the revised estimate of 2022-23. What is more, the Scheme had observed an allocation of INR 11500 Crore in Union Budget 2021-22 budget estimate and yet there is an increase of only INR 100 Crore at budget estimate stage between 2021-22 and 2023-24. Therefore, the mere increase of INR 100 Crore from 2021-22 to 2023-24 for PM Poshan seems like just an accounting exercise and does not reflect on planned decisions.

One of the key facets of National Policy for Education 2020 is innovative learning. Unfortunately there is 99.69 per cent reduction in the allocation for 'Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme (DHURV)' in the Union Budget 2023-24.

Constitution of India has a special provision for the rights of the minority people, the Education Scheme for Madrasas and Minorities has yet again observed a reduced allocation of INR 10 Crore budget estimate, in Union Budget 2023-24 from INR 160 Crore in 2022-23. This is a massive 93.75 per cent reduction in the allocation this year. The similar trend of reduced allocation has also been seen in the previous budget 2022-23, where the allocation for this scheme was reduced by 8.04 per cent as against the allocation of 2021-22 budget estimate.

We have witnessed glorification of many welfare schemes, one such scheme is 'Pradhan Mantri Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India for OBCs, EBCs observed significantly decreased allocation of INR 513.40 Crore in the Union Budget 2023-24 as against the allocation budget estimate, of INR 704.60 Crore in 2022-23. PM YASASVI scheme subsumes three components: Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs, EBCs and DNTs, Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs, EBCs and DNTs and Boys and Girls Hostel for OBCs. In the Union Budget, the component of Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs, EBCs and DNTs observed a reduced allocation of 41.21 per cent.

According to Haq centre for child rights, Children with disability remain at the peripheries of various welfare schemes run by the government. The reasons thereof include,

but not limited to, lack of adequate and appropriate infrastructure, lack of access, lack of awareness, knowledge and sensitivity among many other factors. Despite such huge challenges, 'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme' observed a mere increase of INR 2 Crore with total allocations going from INR 50 Crore in 2022-23 budget estimate to INR 52 Crore in 2023-24. While the major thrust on promoting Eklayva Model Residential School with an increase of 196 per cent is a welcome step in the Union Budget 2023-24, reduced allocation for 'Pre-Matric Scholarship for STs' falls short on promoting education for children belonging to Scheduled Tribes.

The allocation for umbrella scheme for Child Protection Services 'Mission Vatsalya' observes no change in Union Budget 2023-24 with INR 1472.17 Crore. The current allocation for Mission Vatsalya demands a justification as it is lesser than the allocation of INR 1500 Crore towards the then 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)' in 2020-21 Union Budget. While looking at the current child protection concerns as substantiated by the NCRB 2022 Report and the previous allocations made to ICPS, the current allocation for Mission Vatsalya does not do justice to the current needs and concerns. As per Statement 12 of the Union Budget 2023-24, one of the flagship schemes 'Saksham Anganwadi and poshan 2.0' received a mere increase of 1.4 per cent in allocation at BE stage as against the BE of 2022-23 Union Budget.

The Child Rights bodies expressed their reactions on the budget. Ms. Shubhra Chatterji, Director of the National level organization Vikramshila Education Resource Society, commented on the budget, stating that there should have been a substantial allocation for early childhood education and foundational learning. As an acclaimed expert in ECCE in India, Chatterji emphasized that if the foundation of a child's education is not strong, their development cannot be nurtured.

Commenting on the Budget for Children FY 23-24, Puja Marwaha, CEO of CRY - Child Rights and You said, "While the Union Budget 23-24, on the whole, has tried to trace a robust roadmap towards inclusive growth for the country in the post-COVID times, children who constitute more than one-third of India's total population seems to have largely remained out of its radar."

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A forthought on Substances Abuse

By: Ashing Muivah

worldwide. The report also claims India is one of the world's single-largest opiate markets. In India, youth is among the most impacted by the menace. More than 60% of all illicit drugs seized in India are from Punjab. According to a study, most addicts are between the age group of 15 and 35 and many are unemployed.

Manipur itself makes up only 0.91% of the country's population, the state's intravenous drug account for 23.1% of the nation's HIV cases. Manipur has an estimated 30,000 drug addicts, approximately 1/2 of which are intravenous drug users. A 2018 survey identified as many as 6000-7000 drug users in the district, adding that the number of casualty related to drug overdose cases which occurs on regular intervals have reached four in 2021. Drug crisis in Ukhrul district is an increasing concern. The data might not be absolute as there are substantial numbers of latent users which cannot be unaccounted.

This pervasive epidemic of substance abuse is getting out of hand

and the catastrophe which is evidently clear and the unprecedented increase in the numbers of vulnerable youths and teenagers getting initiated as days goes by is inconceivable (sad but true).

Remedy:- De-addiction then therapies and counselling have proven that it is the most effective and enduring.

According to WHO - Substance abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs. One of the key impacts of illicit drug use on society is the negative health consequences experienced by its members. Drug use also puts a heavy financial burden on individuals, families and society.

The evolution of the complex global illicit drug problem is clearly driven by a range of factors. Sociodemographic trends are influential such as the population's gender, age and the rate of urbanization.

Cannabis remains the most widely used illicit substance in the African Region. The highest prevalence

and increase in use is being reported in West and Central Africa with rates between 5.2% and 13.5%.

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) such as "ecstasy" and methamphetamine now rank as Africa's second most widely abused drug type. Other substances that were used by children and youth surveyed in Sierra Leone, included benzodiazepines such as diazepam, chlorpromazine and different inhalants, while 3.7% were injecting drugs.

Injecting drugs carries a high risk of infection with bloodborne viruses such as HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C, and the sharing of contaminated needles and syringes is an important mode of transmission for those viruses.

It's now or never. To control this menace the Government as a whole and not only the enforcement agencies or NGO's shall have to be proactive; diligently and skillfully combat this social malady.

An appeal - Work together. **[(The author is former De-addiction Counsellor (9 years)]**

Turkey-Syria earthquake: Death toll passes 21,000 in 'disaster of the century'

Agency
Antakya, Feb 10:

Rescuers were scouring debris on Friday four days after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Turkey and Syria, killing at least 21,000 people in what the Turkish president has declared "the disaster of the century".

Cold, hunger and despair gripped hundreds of thousands of people left homeless by Monday's disaster.

Several people were rescued from the rubble of buildings during the night Thursday, including a 10-year-old boy saved with his mother after 90 hours in the Samandag district of Hatay province.

Also in Hatay, a seven-year-old girl named Asya Donmez was rescued after 95 hours and taken to hospital, the state-owned Anadolu news agency reported.

But hopes were fading that many more would be found alive in the ruins of thousands of collapsed buildings in towns and cities across the region.

Officials and medical workers said 17,674 people had died in Turkey and 3,377 in Syria,

bringing the confirmed total to 21,051. Experts fear the number will continue to rise sharply.

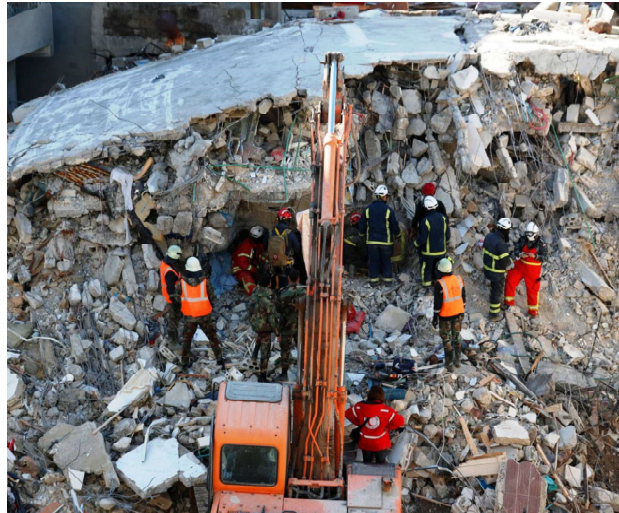
The death toll has surpassed the more than 17,000 killed in 1999 when a similarly powerful earthquake hit north-west Turkey.

It now ranks as seventh most deadly natural disaster this century, ahead of Japan's 2011 tremor and tsunami and approaching the 31,000 killed by a quake in neighbouring Iran in 2003.

A Turkish official said the disaster posed "very serious difficulties" for the holding of an election scheduled for May 14 in which President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been expected to face his toughest challenge in two decades in power.

With anger simmering over delays in the delivery of aid and getting the rescue effort under way, the disaster is likely to play into the vote if it goes ahead.

"As you know, the earthquake hit an area of 500km (311 miles) diameter where 13.5 million of our people live, and that made our job difficult," Erdogan said on Thursday.



In Syria, people were killed as far south as Hama, 250km from the epicentre.

The first UN convoy carrying aid to stricken Syrians crossed over the border from Turkey.

In Syria's Idlib province,

Munira Mohammad, a mother of four who fled Aleppo after the quake, said: "It is all children here, and we need heating and supplies. Last night we couldn't sleep because it was so cold. It is very bad".

Hundreds of thousands of

people in both countries have been left homeless in the middle of winter. Many people have set up crude shelters in supermarket car parks, mosques, roadsides or amid the ruins.

Survivors are often des-

perate for food, water and heat. Some 40 per cent of buildings in the Turkish city of Kahramanmaraş, the epicentre of Monday's main quake, are damaged, according to a report by Turkey's Bogazici University.

Authorities say some 6,500 buildings in Turkey collapsed and countless more were damaged.

Many in Turkey have complained of a lack of equipment, expertise and support to rescue those trapped — sometimes even as they could hear cries for help.

Turkey's disaster-management agency said more than 110,000 rescue personnel were now taking part in the effort and more than 5,500 vehicles, including tractors, cranes, bulldozers and excavators had been shipped.

Turkey's foreign ministry said 95 countries have offered help. Rescue teams from China are working in the quake zone.

The World Bank said it would give US\$1.78 billion in aid to Turkey to help relief and recovery efforts.

The World Bank is providing Turkey with US\$1.78 billion in relief and recovery fi-

nancing, US\$780 million of which will become available immediately. The US Agency for International Development will provide US\$85 million in urgent humanitarian assistance to Turkey and Syria.

In Syria, relief efforts are complicated by a conflict that has partitioned the country and wrecked its infrastructure.

The UN aid convoy entered Syria at the Bab Al Hawa crossing — a lifeline for accessing opposition-controlled areas where some 4 million people, many displaced by the war, were already relying on humanitarian aid.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres pushed for more humanitarian access to Syria, saying he would be "very happy" if the United Nations could use more than one border crossing to deliver help.

The Syrian government views the delivery of aid to rebel-held areas from Turkey as a violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

President Bashar al-Assad has chaired emergency meetings on the earthquake but has not addressed the country in a speech or news conference.

Chaos in both Houses as Oppn leaders stage walkouts; RS adjourned till 2:30pm

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 10:

Parliament saw a stormy day on Friday with the Opposition continuing to attack the government over the Adani-Hindenburg row, inflation and unemployment, among other issues. Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha witnessed chaos as MPs from both sides — the Opposition and government-raised slogans to drown the voices of leaders addressing the Houses.

Amid sloganeering from Opposition MPs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi replied to the Motion of Thanks in Rajya Sabha yesterday. During the address, the Prime Minister launched a frontal attack on the Congress, while the Oppo-

sition was protesting for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the allegations against the Adani Group raised by Hindenburg Research.

PM Modi claimed that the Congress-led governments at the Centre had misused Article 356 of the Constitution to dismiss 90 state governments. The article was "misused" 50 times by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi-led government to dismiss elected state governments.

Prior to that, Congress president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge raised objections over expunging a few words from his statement. The senior Congress leader asserted that former Prime Ministers, including Atal

Bihari Vajpayee, have used the word that was expunged from his statement, and that he has not said anything unparliamentary.

Kharge had questioned the rise in the wealth of the Adani Group "in the last two-and-half years" during the debate on the motion of thanks on Wednesday. Some of his remarks were later expunged from House records.

The Opposition parties have raised concerns over the exposure of public sector institutions such as LIC and SBI to Adani Group which they claimed has endangered the savings of crores of Indians. Consequently, Parliament proceedings have faced much disruption during the ongoing budget session with the Op-

position parties demanding the government to break 'silence' over the issue.

Meanwhile, amid a row over her using an expletive inside Parliament, TMC MP Mahua Moitra remained defiant citing past instances of BJP leaders using objectionable words in the House and said she called "an apple, an apple".

Soon after Moitra concluded her speech during the debate on the 'Motion of Thanks to the President's Address' in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, there were angry exchanges between Trinamool Congress (TMC) and BJP members. Moitra was heard using an objectionable word to which the Chair objected and urged members to avoid cuss words.

Commanders' Conference of South Western Air Command at Air Force Station, Jaisalmer

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 10:

A two day conference of the Commanders of the South Western Air Command (SWAC) began at the Air Force Station of the Indian Air Force at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan to deliberate on various topics on Thursday.

Air Marshal Vikram Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Air Command and Dr.(Mrs) Arathi Singh, President, Air Force Families Welfare Association AFFWA (Regional) were received by Group Captain Prem Anand, Station Commander, Air Force Station Jaisalmer and Mrs Vrinda Prem, President Air Force Families Welfare Association (Local), on arrival at IAF station, Jaisalmer.

Air Marshal Vikram Singh, addressed the officers and interacted with them. The conference served as a forum to Commanders to exchange views on operations, maintenance and administrative matters requiring deliberation.

The airfield at Jaisalmer was started as No. 14 Care and Maintenance Units in 1970. After the 1971 war, it was upgraded and 4 Forward Base Support



Air Marshal Vikram Singh, AOC-in-C, SWAC, at Jaisalmer Air Force Station. (Photo credit: Defence PRO).

part of the conference.

On the occasion, Dr. (Mrs) Arathi Singh reviewed the performance of various welfare activities being run by the AFFWA (Local) for the benefit of "Sanginis" (wives of IAF personnel) and provided necessary impetus for various welfare activities. She also presented trophies to the winners of Best Air Force Schools in three different categories along with Best Medicare Centre of SWAC.

The airfield at Jaisalmer was started as No. 14 Care and Maintenance Units in 1970. After the 1971 war, it was upgraded and 4 Forward Base Support

Unit (FBSU) came into existence on August 07, 1972 and was placed under the functional control of 32 Wing, Jodhpur. Its initial role was to provide staging facilities to fighter and bomber aircraft. Subsequently in 1979, Armament Training Camp was setup to exploit the Pokhran range in the vicinity. The station was designated to function as provision for flying facilities by day and night for visiting detachments for Air to Ground firing at the Range. 3 Air Force Range Unit (AFRU) was setup in 1982. The base was re-assigned later as 41 Wing Air Force on January 12, 1984.

Visit of Students from North Eastern States to ICG Ship "Sankalp"

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 10:

As part of "Students Experience in Inter State Living (SEIL), as one nation, one people, one culture", 30 students and 09 faculty members from North Eastern states, visited the Indian Coast Guard Ship "Sankalp", an advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel on February 09, Thursday in Mumbai.

The students hailed from the North Eastern states such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. Although the region is covered by the Brahmaputra-Barak river systems, a major portion comprise the hilly terrain area interspersed with valleys and plains. The students were invited to expose them to the important role of the Coast Guard in safeguarding the coastline.

During the visit, students were given an overview of Indian Coast Guard and its primary role in ensuring the security of the maritime zones of



India and safeguarding national interests in such zones. They were also briefed on the operational capabilities of Indian Coast Guard Surface and Air assets.

A presentation was given and it was followed by video on Coast Guard elaborating various charter of duties viz. Search and Rescue, Pollution Control and Safeguarding our long coastline and our Exclu-

sive Economic Zone of India.

The students were taken on a guided tour of ICG "Sankalp" and were informed about various weapons and sensors fitted onboard the ship. This was followed by interactive sessions with the young minds in which role of Indian Coast Guard in terms of benign power, constabulary and military was explained. They were also briefed about

various career opportunities with the ICG and were explained about how to join the Indian Coast Guard.

The interaction with Coast Guard personnel onboard the ship provided an excellent exposure to the students on the importance of safeguarding the maritime zones of the nation, the functioning of Indian Coast Guard and life onboard the ship.

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Union Budget 2023-2024 : What....

After couple of months our country will celebrate "Amrit Mahotsav". Our pride National flag will be hoisted in every home but we need ensure that at the traffic signal the National flags are not sold by the Child labours.

Yes, it is important to address these issues if India wants to truly become a prosperous and inclusive nation. Children are the future of any country, and ensuring their well-being and protection is essential for the long-term development and growth of the country. The government needs to take concrete steps to eliminate child labour, child

marriages, child abuse, and improve the quality of education and healthcare services available to children. Addressing malnutrition is also crucial to ensure that children receive proper nutrition and have the energy and resources they need to grow and develop. By investing in children, the government can lay the foundation for a more prosperous and equitable future for all citizens of India.

Amrit Mahotsav will be celebrated in truest sense, when child hood will be nurtured properly. And this would be possible with proper political will and first

steps towards this is more allocation in budget for children, otherwise the much acclaimed fifth largest economy in the world if afford only 2.3% of its budget for 37% of its citizens under 18 years, then can we really highlight this as prosperous and inclusive budget?

(The author is Head - Child Protection, Advocacy & HR, Vikramshila Education Resource Society and a psychological counsellor)

Reference: From Marginalisation to Deprioritisation Budget for Children 2023-24 by "Haq - Centre for Child Rights"

Nagaland assembly elections 2023: BJP's Kazheto Kinimi wins uncontested from Akuluto

Agency
Kohima, Feb 10:

BJP candidate from Akuluto assembly constituency in Nagaland Kazheto Kinimi has won the elections uncontested.

Reacting to his win, Kazheto Kinimi said that he was "beyond humbled and honoured to represent the people of Akuluto 31 A/C for a second term, as unopposed".



"I praise Almighty God for this privilege and extend my

gratitude to my supporters, well-wishers, the *karyakartas* of Akuluto BJP mandal and Nagaland state BJP," Kinimi tweeted.

Assam chief minister and NEDA convenor Himanta Biswa Sarma also congratulated Kinimi on being elected to the Nagaland legislative assembly uncontested.

"Shri. Kazheto Kinimi, @BJP4India MLA candidate of 31A/c Akuluto declared un-

contested. Congratulations," Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted.

Nagaland deputy chief minister and senior BJP leader Y Patton said: "Congratulations to @BJP4Nagaland's Shri @KazhetoKinimi Ji, who is set to get elected unopposed to the 14th NLA from the 31 Akuluto A/C. Wishing him the best as he steers the state forward according to the aspirations of the people."

PM inaugurates Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 in Lucknow

PIB
New Delhi, Feb 10:

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 in Lucknow today. He also inaugurated the Global Trade Show and launched Invest UP 2.0 during the programme. Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 is the flagship investment summit of the Government of Uttar Pradesh which will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, academia, think tanks and leaders from across the world to collectively explore business opportunities and forge partnerships. The Prime Minister also took a walkthrough of the exhibition on display.

Leaders of Industry spoke on the occasion. Kumar Mangalam Birla, said that India is showing remarkable entrepreneurial dynamism and innovation and credited the Prime Minister with infusing new energy into the country's economic landscape. Mukesh Ambani said that this year's budget has laid the foundation for India's emergence as a developed nation. He said that greater allocation for Capex expenditure will lead to greater economic growth and social welfare. He said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the country has transformed a great deal and under the guidance of the

Prime Minister's vision and laser-sharp focus on execution a bold new India is taking shape. Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons said that the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister has created a situation where India is going to be the fastest-growing economy. "It is not only economic growth, what the Prime Minister has enabled is 360-degree development." He said allocations in the budget will ensure growth led by infrastructure and consumption and also we will see rural growth. Daniel Bircher, CEO of Zurich Airport Asia said that the Zurich Airport is celebrating its 75th anniversary just as India is celebrating 75 years of independence. He mentioned the long-standing partnership with India where Zurich Airport supported the development of the Bengaluru Airport two decades ago and is presently developing the Noida International Airport. He underlined the direct connectivity of the Noida International Airport with the Yamuna Expressway. Chairman of Dixon Technologies, Sunil Vachani said that almost 65% of the mobile phones sold in India are manufactured in Uttar Pradesh and credited the dynamic policies of the Uttar Pradesh Government in making it a manufacturing hub. He also noted that today Dixon Technologies is looking at export-

ing almost 100 billion dollars worth of mobile phones. All the industry leaders showed optimism towards the opportunities emerging in Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed the investor community, industry leaders and policymakers both as a Prime Minister and as a Member of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the land of Uttar Pradesh is known for its cultural splendor, glorious history and rich heritage. Noting the capabilities of the state, the Prime Minister drew attention to the unwanted tags such as underdevelopment, BIMARU, and the poor law and order situation attached to Uttar Pradesh. He also touched upon the scams worth thousands of crores that were unearthed on a daily basis in earlier times. The Prime Minister said within 5-6 years, Uttar Pradesh has established a new identity. Now Uttar Pradesh is known for good governance, better law and order situation, peace and stability. "New opportunities for wealth creators are being made here", the Prime Minister added. The Prime Minister also stressed that initiatives for better infrastructure in UP are bearing fruit. He said very soon UP will be known as the only state with 5 International airports. Freight corridor will connect

the state directly with the sea coast in Maharashtra. The Prime Minister also noted a meaningful change in the government's thinking in UP for ensuring ease of doing business. "Today UP has become a source of hope and inspiration", the Prime Minister remarked. He underlined that UP has become a bright spot for the nation just like India has become a bright spot on the global stage.

The Prime Minister said that every credible voice in the world is optimistic about the ascending course of the Indian economy as it has not only shown resilience in the face of the pandemic and war but also showed rapid recovery.

The Prime Minister observed the huge change that is being seen in the thinking and aspirations of Indian society and the youth of India. He underlined that every citizen of the country wants to tread the path of development and wishes to witness a 'Viksit Bharat' in the times to come. He stated that the aspirations of the Indian society have become a driving force for the government which is providing impetus to the development works carried out in the country. Noting the size and population of Uttar Pradesh, the Prime Minister told the investors that like India, In UP also, an aspirational society is awaiting you.

Minister Nemcha Kipgen inspects stalls construction in Sangai Ethnic Park



IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

In connection with the upcoming G-20 Summit Meeting to be held later this month, Textiles, Commerce & Industries, Minister, Nemcha

Kipgen today inspected the ongoing stalls which are being set up in Sangai Ethnic Park, Moirang Khunou, Bishnupur District by the Industries Department, Manipur. During the visit, Industry Minister Nemcha instructed

the concerned to maintain quality while setting up the stalls as well as complete it on time.

Commissioner, TCI, PK Jha and Director, TCI, Y. Robita accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Assam Rifles conducts Medical Camp

IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

Khuga Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted a Medical Camp at Singhat village, Churachandpur district today.

In continuation of its efforts to improve mutual trust and to maintain peace and

harmony in the region while simultaneously addressing the medical requirements in the underdeveloped villages, a Medical camp was organised for locals of Songdoi village. A total of 47 villagers were examined during the medical camp including distribution of Essential medicines to all affected

people. The villagers were also briefed about the importance of hygiene and sanitation in daily routine to avoid unwarranted diseases. Special focus was given on educating the villagers on contagious diseases during winter season and ways to prevent them.

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Prime Minister's refusal to probe....

This 'nation building' has encroached in the Budget too, offering mega profits to the rich while taking away the means of livelihoods from the common masses. The protests have been raised demanding job-inclusive investments as well as hikes in social security spending.

There is visible fall in the allocations in real terms for MNREGA, social security,

pensions, child nutrition programmes and maternity benefits. The budget fails to take notice of how people are left starving as they have almost nothing to purchase even food. In the budget there should have been provisions for funds to increase people's purchasing power with job generation and boosting the growth of domestic demand. This budget fails to meet this

situation. The Fiscal federalism has been aggressively attacked as fund transfers to states have been restrained.

With the raising of curtain from almost the greatest con of the decade, it is the finance capital that emerges as the one that rules over the phase, matured and irresistible, serving the few at the cost of the rest, vast and starving. (IPA Service)

Sports

Wrestlers make written submission before oversight panel

Agency
Nagpur, Feb 10:

Country's top wrestlers including Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik and multiple World Championships medallist Vinesh Phogat met the oversight committee on Thursday. It was learnt that they also submitted their written complaints to the committee against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and its sidelined chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The committee headed by Khel Ratna awardee MC Mary Kom, Chairperson, Athletes Commission of Indian Olympic Association, had met the wrestlers earlier too but Thursday's meeting could be its last with them. Now, the committee, which initially comprised five members before former wrestler Babita Phogat joined it, is expected to hear the federation and its embattled president before



submitting a detailed report with the sports ministry.

The committee was formed to submit allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment, financial irregularities and administrative lapses levelled against Singh by prominent grapplers last month. The wrestlers had staged a three-day protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi from January 18 to 20 to raise their voice against the WFI chief follow-

ing which the ministry formed the committee. It was directed to submit its report within four weeks.

"Wrestlers started reaching Sports Authority of India (SAI) headquarters in the morning. Almost all of them were present on Thursday except Ravi Dahia, who expressed his inability to join due to injury. He instead decided to present his case online," said a source in the know of

the things.

It is understood that apart from Bajrang, Vinesh and Sakshi, Worlds medallists Deepak Punia, Anshu Malik and Sarita Mor were also present at SAI office. "All six members of the committee were present. They had a detailed meeting with the grapplers, who in turn submitted their written complaints. The wrestlers met the committee members individually," said the source.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd International Stadium to host Santosh Trophy semifinals and final

Agency
Bhubaneswar, Feb 10:

The semifinals and final of the National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy will be held between March 1 and 4 at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the national federation announced on Thursday.

All India Football Federation (AIFF) secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran told a press conference here that the dates have been fixed after consultation with their Saudi Arabian counterparts.

"This is a great moment for Indian football, as the four states that make it to the semifinals will get to fight for the Santosh Trophy title in Saudi Arabia," Prabhakaran said. He pointed out that the in-

centive to play in Saudi Arabia would make the Santosh Trophy final round, beginning here on Friday, an even more interesting and competitive event.

"The battle for the last four is likely to be an intense one, and we all hope that the fight will go down to the wire to book a spot on the international stage, which will be the first time since 1941 when the Santosh Trophy was launched as a six-venue tournament with the final being played in Kolkata," said Prabhakaran.

"The Santosh Trophy is central to our plans in development of football across the country, as we look to improve the conditions for all our State FAs to make bigger contributions in taking Indian football forward.

"Helping out Member Associations is central to our plans for long-term growth, as we have charted out last month in Vision 2047, and these are just baby steps towards a much larger goal."

Prabhakaran also spoke at length about the development of football across the country, something that has been presented by the national federation in the Vision 2047 document earlier this year.

In the final rounds of the Santosh Trophy, 12 teams have been divided into two groups of six each. The teams will play each other in a round-robin format in the group.

The top two teams from each group will become the first teams in the Santosh Trophy to play on foreign soil, once they move to Riyadh for the semifinals and final.