

## Sanaroishinge Numit observed: State Government as a people's Government had been giving utmost emphasis in the sports sector - Chief Minister

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 25:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh maintained that the State Government as a people's Government had been giving utmost emphasis in the sports sector. He continued that the State is facing various challenges from drug menace, which is posing much threat to the youths and society and as such, sports movement is very necessary to save the youths.

The Chief Minister was addressing the gathering at the observance of Sanaroishinge Numit, 2023 organised today at the Khuman Lampak Sports Complex by the Directorate of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Continuing his speech, N. Biren Singh further stated that Sanaroishinge Numit (Players' Day) is being observed in the State as a recognition to the dedication and achievements of the veteran sportspersons of the State. He maintained that the State Government had been taking up various initiatives to develop the sports sector in the State.



He further informed that Mary Kom Boxing Academy had been opened. Another academy for Laishram Sarita had also been opened and the State Government is in process to construct a hostel for the academy, he added. He further informed that funds had also been allocated to the budget for setting up of a Training Centre for Weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu. Stating that many football players from the State are representing the Country, he also informed that the Government had concluded its talk with the All-India Football Federation to set

up a Football Academy in the State.

Mentioning the Manipur Olympian Park constructed in Sangaitheh to honour the State's Olympians, the Chief Minister stated that the park will also have an excellence training centre to provide training facilities. He further informed that a football stadium, with a crowd capacity of 75,000 people, will be constructed at Imphal West with Indian Railway and land had been identified for the same. Another 8 football grounds will be constructed under PM-Devine.

N. Biren stated that a pen-

sion scheme for unemployed sports persons and coaches of 60 years and above who have represented the State in National and International level had been launched. Informing that Manipur Start Up 2 had been launched, he added that coaches who are interested in setting training classes or an academy for providing training in certain disciplines may apply in Start Up scheme. He also informed that Chief Ministers Akhannaba Sanaroisingi Tengbong (CMAST) had been launched with an outlay of Rs. 7.36 crore.

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## House passes 7 Demands for Grants amounting to Rs 4258,53,49,000/-

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 25:

On the fifth day of the 2nd part of the ensuing 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly session, the House unanimously passed seven demands for grants amounting to Rupees 4258,53,49,000. The demands for grants are (i) Demand No. 7: Police (ii) Demand No. 8: PWD (iii) Demand No. 24: Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (iv) Demand No. 31: Fire Protection and Control (v) Demand No. 32: Jails (vi) Demand No. 33: Home Guards and (vii) Demand No. 49: Economics and Statistics.

For demand No. 7: Police a sum of Rs. 2432,27,41,000, demand No. 8: PWD -Rs. 1652,30,27,000, demand No. 24: Vigilance and Anti-Corruption - Rs. 7,62,00,000, demand No. 31: Fire Protection and Control - Rs. 32,21,69,000, Demand No. 32: Jails - Rs. 42,19,73,000, Demand No. 33: Home Guards - Rs. 58,51,89,000 and Demand No. 49: Economics and Statistics -Rs. 33,40,50,000 have been granted and passed in the House for the financial year ending 31st March, 2024.

During the discussion on demands for grants, MLAs K. Ranjit Singh, Th. Lokeshwar Singh and Surjakumar Okram moved cut motions on demands no 7, 8 and 31 which were later withdrawn and passed in the House. MLA Ram Muivah also joined in the demand discussion and expressed his observation on the demands.

Replying to a motion cut by the MLAs, Leader of the House N. Biren Singh informed that the morale of the Manipur police has been greatly improved during the past 5 years. The relationship between police and public is also significantly improved. Highway patrolling has been undertaken, border police outposts have been opened at several key locations. Most of the police personnels have started to take up regular morning physical exercises. Required equipments have also been provided, he added.

Regarding border pillar and border fencing, N. Biren clarified in the House that with the help of satellite mapping a maximum number of border disputes have been settled. Except for the

construction work for border wall fencing for a stretch of about 350 metres near Kwatha village, the rest has all been settled, N. Biren said.

The Leader of the House further informed that small fire tenders have been procured for use in congested lanes and localities as part of the modernization efforts under Fire Protection and Control. Foam and CO2 Fire Extinguishers have also been procured. 93 Crores project proposal has been submitted as a part of Fire Protection and Control modernization.

Regarding transfer and posting of police personnels, Biren stated that matters concerning transfers and posting can be amicably settled with the concerted efforts of all members of the House. He also suggested minimizing public pressures for a smooth implementation of transfers and posting matters. Upgradation of Manipur Police Training College will be taken up after approval from Home Ministry which may take some time, he stated.

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## MM Ngouba takes charge as acting president of RPF

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 25:

After the demise of Irengbam Chaoren, President of the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), Vice President MM Ngouba has taken charge of Acting President of the RPF from February 25, 2023, a statement by Roben Khuman, Deputy Secretary, Publicity, RPF said.

Meanwhile, the armed rebel group today observed its 44th Anniversary today, banners, celebrating the anniversary were displayed the armed group.

## At least 13 illicit drug factories destroyed during 2020 to 2023

'Some Poppy cultivators reveals encouragement of poppy plantation by armed cadres under SOO'- CM

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 25:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, today said that at least 13 (thirteen) illicit drug factories were destroyed since 2020 till date.

N. Biren Singh, who is also the leader of the house of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly said this while clarifying to the cut motion moved by opposition MLA while passing the demand for grants for Police which amount to Rs. 2432.27.41.000/- in today's assembly session.

The Chief Minister further said that there are some report of cultivators revealing the encouragement of poppy plantation by armed rebel group which are under suspension of operation with both the union and the state government.

"As revealed by some poppy cultivators who were arrested, there are reports about encouragement for poppy plantation by some cadres of armed rebels which are engaging in suspension of operation with the government of Manipur and the central gov-

ernment", Chief Minister N. Biren said adding that the matter have been intimated to the Union Home Ministry and if any such case are found then the matter will be handed over to the NIA for investigation.

"Our government will not tolerate any such act by any armed rebel group no matter they are under suspension of operation or not", the CM said he added that if such involvement of SOO cadres are found the state government will not compromise and will have no issues in abrogating the SOO pack.

## 40 gold biscuits worth Rs 3.74 crore seized at Moreh

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 25:

A total of 40 gold biscuits weighing around 6.64 kg worth around Rs 3.75 crore in the international market have been seized from an alleged international smuggler at an area of Manipur's border town Moreh, Indo-Myanmar border on Friday, an official source said here on Saturday.

The 40 gold bars were recovered from the alleged international gold smuggler later identified as Thongkhopai Kuki when the troopers of the Assam Rifles launched a raid at the general area of the Moreh Ward number five at around 5 pm on Friday, the

source said.

Based on input from across the border that huge gold biscuits have been smuggled from Myanmar into India through the porous border near Moreh under the Moreh police station in the Tengenoupal district of Manipur, the personnel of the 5th Assam Rifle Battalion, Moreh raided a house at Muslim Basti Moreh Ward Number five and arrested the suspected international smuggler.

The security men recovered the 40 gold bars weighing around 6.64 kg worth around Rs 3.75 crore in the international market from the unauthorized possession of

Thongkhopai Kuki.

Thus the smuggling bid was foiled by personnel of 5 Assam Rifles deployed at Moreh in the Tengenoupal district, the source said.

The source further said that Thongkhopai Kuki admitted that he was not alone in working in the smuggling.

International gold smuggling was on the rise and there had been seizures in the recent past including illegal arms, drugs, gold bars, and biscuits.

The arrested smuggler along with the seized items have been handed over to the Customs Preventive Force, Moreh for further legal proceedings, the source added.

## Alumni hails NCTE for considering LH college for ITEP

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 25:

Lilong Haoreibi College Alumni Association in its urgent meeting held this afternoon at the College Multipurpose Hall hails the National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE), New Delhi and the Department of Higher Education, Government of Manipur for considering the documents submitted by Lilong Haoreibi College for starting the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) from the academic sessions 2023-24. Under the said ITEP, the LHC shall have the provisions for opening the 4 years degree programme in

Arts and Science streams where students can pursue for BA with B Ed or BSc with B Ed simultaneously in 4 years integrated programme. The decision for further processing of the proposal submitted by the college was taken in the 321st meeting of the Eastern Regional Committee (ERC) held on the 21st February 2023 at the NCTE, New Delhi.

The alumni association of the college in its release expressed deep gratitude to the ERC of the NCTE for the vivid decision for further processing towards approval of the ITEP and appeal the authorities concerned to extend cooperation in all possible ways in developing the college as a

centre for the teacher education in addition to the existing general mainstream education for upliftment of the educationally, economically and socially backward minority community in Manipur.

Lilong Haoreibi College, the only higher educational institute located at the minority concentrated Thoubal District, Manipur has become one of the colleges fulfilling the minimum eligibility criteria for the proposed Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) after it has been successfully assessed and accredited with B grade from the month of January 2022 onwards. As per the NCTE guidelines, the Directorate of Uni-

versity & Higher Education Manipur authorised 9(nine) such Government Colleges eligible for the programme with NAAC minimum B grade to submit their respective proposals online to the NCTE portal for the ITEP in the month of May 2022. The NCTE after examining the proposals at several meetings of the Eastern Regional Committee (ERC), rejected the proposals of all other colleges on various grounds. However, Lilong Haoreibi College submitted an appeal immediately to the NCTE defending that the college has already fulfilled the eligibility criteria of the ITEP with the minimum NAAC - B grade. At the same time, the

college, though not an institute of national importance, is the only higher educational institute in Manipur located at the educationally and economically backward minority concentrated area in the valley where thousands of youths specially the girls after completion of their graduation can no longer pursue for higher studies and those who intend to go for teachers training programmes could no longer afford for admission pursuing the B Ed on various factors.

The release also states that the college is gearing up with all available resources to meet the requirements for the Visiting Team (VT), a physical

verification which would be the next step in the process of approval as per the said NCTE regulations. Therefore, the college has to fulfil the 'Land & Building' required under clause 6.1. of the regulations by developing the existing 'OBC Girls Hostel' into a new building block earmarked for the ITEP.

Further, the following infrastructure would also be developed on priority basis as the barest minimum requirement for VT as per the NCTE regulations:

1. Library: 50 seating capacity, 1000 titles, 4000 books, educational encyclopaedias, one photocopying facility, computer and internet facilities.

2. Laboratories: Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Zoology, Botany and Geography  
3. Activity cum Resource Centre: equipped with photocopying machine, audio-video equipment, television, projector, Video Cameras etc.

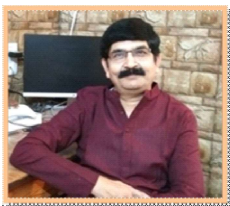
4. Computer Language Lab: earmarked for the ITEP

5. Health & Physical Education Room: equipped with Indoor/Outdoor games

6. One Multipurpose Hall earmarked for the ITEP with seating capacity of 200 and area of 2000 sq. ft. this shall be equipped for conducting seminars and workshops with installation of an audio-visual system.

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# Remember, bad guys are everywhere



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Privacy is one of the most urgent issues associated with information technology and digital media. People should protect their privacy, control their digital footprint and escalate the protection of privacy and data as priority. It serves as a timely reminder for organisations about the importance of correctly handling and safeguarding individuals' personal data. It is led by the National Cyber Security Alliance, a non-profit, public-private partnership focused on cyber security education for all online citizens.

Internet banking frauds and ways to avoid them is undoubtedly a topic that has been done to death. And yet, people across country continue to lose money in such frauds with an alarming frequency. Today computer and internet has become very common and necessary for our daily life. Back in 1990, less than 1 lakh people were able access Internet worldwide. Now around 2.5 million people are hooked up to surf the net around the globe.

The internet brings joy to our lives but at the same time it has some negative sides too. The cyber criminals are always in a search to find out the new ways to attack the possible internet victims. New generation is growing up with computers and most important is that all the monetary transactions are moving on to the internet. So, it has become very important for us to be aware of the various Cyber Frauds being committed with the help of computers. The Cyber Frauds today are on rise and the latest & perhaps the most complicated problem in the cyber world. According to a survey, for every 500 Cyber Frauds, only 50 get reported to the police, and just one out of this 50 is registered as an FIR.

Personal data is now considered as the "black gold" of tomorrow, in particular because it enables companies to better address the market needs. There are many individuals who are generally unfamiliar about the risks related to the protection of their personal data and of their rights in this respect. It is well known fact that most of the citizens all over the world are unaware about their rights in relation to data protection while some people are breaching data protection laws unknowingly on a daily basis.

According to an Internet and Mobile Association of India report, India has around 400 million Internet users. Data protection is a bigger part of our lives. But, often we ignore its importance. We come across data protection issues at work, when browsing the internet, when dealing with public authorities, when we shop, when we book tickets online and in many other circumstances. Whether data is stored on premise or with an external private or public cloud provider, organisations should assess and reassess both employees and customers that data is collected, processed, accessed, shared, stored, transferred and secured in accordance with all laws and regulations, and that data is only being used in pre-agreed, legitimate and lawful ways.

Maintaining of data bases is not as much difficult task as maintaining its integrity, so in this era the most concerned debate is going on to innovate a perfect method of data protection. Raising awareness of, and compliance with, data protection and privacy across the organisation must not be seen as an exercise that can be satisfied once a year. It requires ongoing committed activity from everyone within the organisation, from the top down/bottom up. It is the very big headache for the business houses, financial institutions and the governmental bodies so as to give adequate protection to their huge databases.

# Centre's actions in BBC Income Tax surveys are blatantly unlawful

By: Tushar Kohli and Vineet Bhalla

The raids last week at the offices of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Mumbai and Delhi — officially a 'survey' under the Income-tax Act, 1961 — provided further proof that the ruling dispensation at the Centre has an abysmally low tolerance for anything that portrays it in less than flattering light. But tolerance usually runs low in places where the sustenance of a regime is dependent upon the suppression of dissident voices and creating an environment where citizens feel righteous in ignoring that suppression.

Would the 'survey' have happened if the BBC had not released its two-part documentary on the role of the Prime Minister and his party in the systematic otherisation of Indian Muslims? The answer is obvious, and it was equally so when the same or similar exercise was conducted against NewsClick, NewsLaundry, and Dainik Bhaskar in 2021. They all performed their jobs in a way that irked those in power.

In a press release issued after the conclusion of the three-day 'survey' on Friday, the Union Ministry of Finance justified the exercise and revealed its preliminary findings. The BBC, which was not expressly named, and only described as "a prominent international media company" was accused of having incomes/profits disproportionate to its scale of operations in India, non-payment of tax on certain remittances and non-disclosure of income in India, and discrepancies and inconsistencies in its transfer price documentation.

The employees of the BBC, on the other hand, have been accused of employing "dilatory tactics... in the context of producing documents/agreements sought", a claim whose veracity is not of significance since the tax authority does not possess the power to examine any person on oath and present it as evidence in court, under Section 133A of the Income-tax Act. However, it could be deciphered as revealing the inclination with which the 'survey' was conducted.

In a previous piece, The Leaflet

has explained how even for a 'survey' — as opposed to a 'search and seizure' operation — the tax authority's powers are packed with caveats. To reiterate, no books of account or other documents can be impounded by an income tax authority without first recording reasons for doing so. In addition, the tax authority cannot retain in their custody any confiscated documents beyond a period of 15 days without obtaining the approval of higher tax authorities, such as the Principal Chief Commissioner or the Chief Commissioner or the Principal Director General of Income Tax.

Also, an income tax authority is allowed to enter a premises and conduct a 'survey' only during the hours at which such a place is open for the conduct of business.

As a further caveat, an income tax authority can "on no account" remove or cause to remove any cash, stock "or other valuable article or thing".

All this holds significance in light of multiple reports suggesting that the phones and laptops of employees of the BBC were confiscated during the 'survey' on February 14, and that at least ten employees had to stay overnight at the office premises.

The seizure of phones and laptops of employees, and the cloning of their data during a survey is not only contrary to the provisions of the Income-tax Act, but also violative of the right to privacy of the employees.

The right to privacy was recognized as a fundamental right protected by the Constitution of India by the Supreme Court in its landmark Puttaswamy judgment in 2017. Like all other fundamental rights, however, the court clarified that the right to privacy is not absolute, and can be overridden by competing state and individual interests.

The main test for determining the infringement of privacy advanced by a majority of the nine-judge Constitution bench is the proportionality test, espoused by the plurality opinion of then Justice Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud (written on behalf of

then Chief Justice J.S. Khehar, Justices R.K. Agrawal and S.A. Nazeer, and himself) and the concurring opinion of Justice S.K. Kaul.

As per this, three factors must be reviewed: legality (that is, the existence of a law), legitimate goal (that is, the law should seek to achieve a legitimate state aim), and proportionality (there should be a rational nexus between the objects and the means adopted to achieve them).

The legal parameters for any government officers to "intercept, monitor or decrypt" information in any computer resource are set out in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009. As per these rules, the order for interception, monitoring or decryption of information under Rule 3 must be communicated to the "person in-charge of the computer resource" as per Rule 12. As per Rule 13, such a direction must be made in writing to the latter by the officer carrying out the order.

The impounding of devices and copying of personal information from personal devices by the income tax officials fits within the definition of interception in the Rules, as the said definition, provided in Rule 2(1), includes the "viewing, examination or inspection of the contents of any direct or indirect information".

Moreover, the proviso to Section 133A(3) of the Income-tax Act specifically states that impounding of "books of account or other documents" can be done by an income tax authority only after recording reasons for doing so. Additionally, the proviso to Section 133A(6) states that an Assistant Director or a Deputy Director or an Assessing Officer or a Tax Recovery Officer or an Inspector of income tax can carry out a survey only after obtaining the approval of the Joint Director or the Joint Commissioner, as the case may be.

In the survey exercise at the BBC offices, neither was any order for interception furnished by the income tax officials, nor did they share any recorded reasons for impounding digital devices. Without the requisite transparency, it is not possible to ascertain whether the requirement of the proviso to section 133A(6) was met.

Thus, their actions prima facie fail the legality criterion of the proportionality test.

As advocate Deepak Joshi explained in The Wire last week, even if the government's allegations against BBC are accurate, that still doesn't justify resorting to a 'survey'.

The most appropriate course of action, as per Joshi, would have been to launch a fresh income assessment for BBC or complete the pending assessments against it with these findings. This would "necessitate issuance of show cause notices, conducting personal hearings with the assessing officer/transfer pricing officer and then passing a reasoned order making a demand of outstanding taxes."

There is a penalty prescribed in the Income-tax Act for the non-submission of the relevant documents. But as Joshi further explains that transfer pricing compliance ordinarily wouldn't require a 'survey' under the Income-tax Act, since a transfer pricing report and all the supporting agreements, invoices, ledgers, method of computation of arms' length, books of accounts, and other relevant documents are to be submitted to the income tax department during a routine assessment; these are thus already with the assessing officer/transfer pricing officer, based on which notices for further enquiry can be issued and the question of transfer pricing compliance be adjudicated upon.

Other related allegations made by the government's press release —

discrepancies related to the level of relevant function, asset and risk (FAR) analysis, the incorrect use of comparables which are applicable to determine the correct arms length price (ALP), and inadequate revenue apportionment — are all matters of assessment. The kind of documents required to assess such allegations are already on record before the transfer pricing officer.

The conduct of a survey to seize such documents from the BBC offices is undoubtedly a disproportionate action by the income tax department, as is the recording of statements of BBC staff from content development and other production-related departments, and the examination of digital devices of BBC's editorial staff.

The 'survey' follows the Union government's attempt at thwarting the dissemination of the said documentary by using the emergency powers it wields under the Information Technology Act, 2000. YouTube and Twitter were ordered to remove links related to the documentary, to which they accordingly complied, saving their officials from a possible imprisonment extendable up to seven years and a potentially heavy fine, for violating an order of the government made under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act.

But what raises suspicion is the non-availability of the blocking orders issued by the Union government. The only admission in this regard, ironically, arrived from a Twitter thread by a senior advisor to the Union government's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB). The public availability of these documents hold significance in that they would reveal the reasoning applied and the material considered to thwart access to the documentary, in addition to revealing which other intermediaries received similar orders.

Data recently revealed in the Lok Sabha show that between 2018 and 2022, a total of 29,154 webpages have been blocked by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

In actuality, the non-publication of blocking orders is in contempt of a 2020 Supreme Court decision which held that regardless of whether a legislation or rules made under it provide for publication or notification of orders, it is a settled principle of law and of natural justice that an order, "particularly one that affects liberty, property and people", must be made publicly available. "Any law which demands compliance of the people requires to be notified directly and reliably", the court had stated, ruling on a petition by veteran journalist Anuradha Bhasin against the communication blockade imposed in Jammu and Kashmir in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and the erstwhile state's bifurcation into two Union territories.

It is possible that the Supreme Court might order the original files on the blocking orders to be placed before the court to check for irregularities of procedure, and may thereafter examine whether it should hold the Union government in contempt. The court is currently seized of a petition filed by former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu N. Ram, Member of Parliament Mahua Moitra, and public interest lawyer Prashant Bhushan that, in essence, argues that the MIB did not possess the power to process the blocking order since the ruling of the Bombay High Court staying key provisions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 in response to a petition by The Leaflet in 2021 had the incidental effect of staying provisions that give the MIB its emergency powers.

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# Play organic Holi with Natural colors



By: Shahnaz Husain

Holi is one of the most loved and zestful festivals celebrated in India with immense joy and enthusiasm every year.

Traditionally the Holi colours were created with naturally helpful ingredients like hibiscus flowers, henna leaves, Kesar, sandalwood and more. These natural colours are not just good for your skin, hair and eyes but even cleanse and clear the dead skin.

As Holi arrives in the season of spring, the Gulaal colour was made of plants and flowers that blossomed during this month.

Holi gained popularity with time and natural colours got replaced with chemical-based synthetic colours gradually. These colours are

cheaper compared to natural colours, but expensive for health as well as the environment.

The famous quote "Bura na mano holi hai" implies that all playful mischief is allowed in Holi.

The primary risk which Holi brings along with itself is exposure to harmful chemicals in form of Holi colours.

These colours are made from harmful substances like acid, glass powder, industrial dye, copper sulphate, lead oxide etc.

The toxicity from these chemicals are just not harmful for skin and hairs but exposure to them increases the risk of serious health complications such as Bronchial asthma, Renal failure, temporary blindness and much more. The situation becomes more alarming as it is young children who play Holi the most and thus get exposed to these harmful chemicals the most. Add to that later these chemicals cause environmental degradation and pollute ground-water and soil.

So, what are the options? The best option is definitely to make your natural, herbal and safe Holi colours at home.

## 1. Gulaal:

The most popular color of Holi, Gulaal can be made by mixing 100 grams of turmeric powder with 200 grams of arrowroot powder along

with 50 grams of marigold flowers and 20 grams of powdered orange peel. Add to the mixture 20 grams of lemon or sandalwood essential oil and rub the mixture gently together to get a bowl full of safe and natural yellow colored gulaal

## 2. Red:

Red colour can be made by boiling petals of red hibiscus or red roses, beet or carrots. Tomato or carrot juice, pomegranate peel, puri, xax guti, red sandalwood can also be used for the same

Red colour can also be prepared using dried red hibiscus flowers. Take properly dried hibiscus or China rose flowers and then grate them into a fine powder. Red sandalwood can also be used in its place. You can add rice flour uniform quantity to obtain dry red colour. You can boil peel of pomegranate to get wet colour.

## 3. Green:

Green colour is a vibrant and lively colour choice for holi celebrations

Green colour can be prepared by boiling different green leafy vegetables in water such as spinach (palang), mustard greens (laai), coriander (dhanai), etc. Neem leaves or other kinds of green leaves with medicinal values can also be helpful in this regard

Green coloured gulaal can be made using henna or Mehendi powder. For wet colour, you can use any green leafy vegetables, such as spinach or Neem. The leaves when

dipped in water will give it a green colour. To make it natural, corn starch, betel leaf and bathua leaves are used

## 4. Magenta:

Beetroot is a good source of red/pink pigment. You can soak sliced beetroots in water, boil the mixture and leave it overnight. You can also use red onions. Strain the water and cool it before use. If you wish to have a darker shade of pink, just dilute the mixture a little more.

## 5. Pink:

The light pink colour is one of the common colours used in holi celebration. Rose, rose periwinkle (nayantra) or four o' clock flower (godhuli gopal) can be used to make pink colour for Holi. Pink colour can also be prepared by mixing finely chopped beets in water or by boiling onion peels in water. To make it natural, corn starch, beetroot and dried rose petals are used.

## 6. Yellow:

Yellow is another one of the favourite colours used in holi. Yellow colour can be acquired by boiling marigold petals or add turmeric in water to make wet yellow colours. Turmeric powder can be mixed with gram flour or rice flour for presenting yellow colour. To make it natural, corn starch, turmeric and dried lemon peels are used. Make sure the turmeric is organic, this will result in better colouring.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

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# Over 50 cows died in Kaneri Mutt in Maharashtra's Kolhapur

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Feb 25:

Over 50 cows died of suspected acidosis, a metabolic disease, at a cow shelter at the Kaneri Mutt at Kolhapur in Maharashtra, where at present a 7-day "Sumangal Panchmahabhoort Lokotsav" is going on.

While local media in union, maintained that the death toll was above 50, which apparently caused due to consumption of left-over dry rotis, an official of the State animal husbandry department, claimed that a total of 12 cows died (three on Thursday and 09 on Friday) so far. Twelve more cows were being treated and they were stable. A team of veterinary doctors has been treating the cows at the spiritual centre, he added.

Acidosis, is a kind of food poisoning and is caused by the consumption of cooked food. It is characterised by too much acid in body fluids. The cattle are not used to consuming cooked food and it is possible that the cows might have been fed with such food inadvertently.

To convince the importance of environment and the importance of animals, an exhibition has been organised and various food stalls have been set up. It is said that the food prepared in bulk, anti-participation of a large



Over 50 cows died at the Kaneri Mutt in Kolhapur due to food poisoning. (Inset: Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde during inauguration of the festival).

number people, was going waste due to limited number of people attending the Lokotsav and the heaps of rotis/chapattis were seen dumped everywhere. This food is being fed to the animals and there is a possibility that the cows died due to poisoning.

Kaneri Math is the highest seat of the Kadsiddheshwar tradition. Its cow shelter has more than 1,000 bovine animals.

"Sumangal Panchmahabhoort Lokotsav" organised by the "Shree Kshetra Siddhagiri Mahasanthan" of Kaneri Math at Karveer tehsil was inaugurated on February 20 by

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis.

At present a post mortem examination is being carried out. While office bearers of the Mutt refused to give any information, in another accident the volunteers at the Mutt, tried to rough up the scribes covering the incident in which Bhushan Patil (of TV 9) and a cameraman accompanying him and others were beaten up.

Condemning the incident, the Kolhapur Press Club registered a complaint with Gokul Shirgaon MIDC Police station demanding stern action

against those responsible for the attack.

Similarly Swapnil Bapat and Pandurang Sarode, President and General Secretary respectively of the Pune Working Journalists' Association, demanded immediate disciplinary action against the mastermind behind the attack. They demanded action under the Maharashtra Media Persons and Media Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act, 2017 against the guilty. This act provides for three years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000 to those convicted.

# BJP fuelling fire of hatred, targeting minorities, Dalits, tribals, women: Sonia Gandhi

Agency  
Nava Raipur, Feb 25:

Former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi launched an all-out attack on the BJP government on Saturday, accusing it of "fuelling the fire of hatred" and "viciously targeting minorities, women, Dalits and tribals".

She urged the Congress workers to tackle the current regime with vigour and reach out to people to convey the party's message.

Addressing the party's 85th plenary session here, Gandhi accused the government of causing economic ruin by favouring a particular businessman, making a veiled attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over a controversy involving the business empire of industrialist Gautam Adani.

She said in this crucial time, every Congress worker bears a special responsibility towards the party and the country.

Gandhi said the Congress



is not just a political party but it reflects the voices of people of all religions, castes and genders. She asserted that the party will fulfil the dreams of all of them.

"This is a particularly challenging time for the Congress and the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP have captured every institution."

"The BJP is fuelling the fire of hatred and viciously targeting minorities, women, Dalits and tribals," she alleged.

The former Congress chief also alleged that the government's actions show contempt for the values enshrined in the Constitution.

"The situation today re-

minds me of the time when I first entered Parliament," she said.

Gandhi urged the Congress workers to achieve the goal of defeating the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls under the leadership of party president Mallikarjun Kharge.

"We must tackle this regime with vigour. We must reach out to people and convey our message with clarity. We must be ready to put aside our personal ambitions," she said.

Gandhi also said she is happy that her innings as the president of the Congress party ended with the "Bharat Jodo Yatra".

# 14 Killed, 60 Injured in Accident Involving Truck and 3 Parked Buses in MP's Sidhi

Agency  
Sidhi, Feb 25:

At least 14 people have died in a road accident in which a cement-laden truck hit three buses parked on the side of a road on the Rewa-Satna border in Madhya Pradesh. Around 60 people have also been injured in the accident, officials said on Saturday.

The accident took place around 9 pm on Friday outside a tunnel near Barkhada village and people in the buses were returning from the 'Kol Mahakumbh' in Satna city, officials said.

Eyewitnesses said that the truck hit the buses from behind and one of the buses overturned and fell into a ditch.

The accident took place

near Mohania tunnel around 9 pm when the buses had stopped for distribution of food packets to the passengers returning after attending the Mahakumbh, they said.

"Fourteen persons were killed and 60 others were injured. Of the injured persons, the condition of three is very serious," Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Dr Rajesh Rajora told news agency PTI.

Talking to reporters after meeting the injured persons at the Rewa Medical College Hospital late Friday night, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the cement-laden truck hit three buses parked on the roadside as it veered off following a tyre burst.

Because of the impact of the collision a bus fell on one side,

while another one overturned on the other side causing injuries to the passengers, CM Chouhan said.

Terming the incident as "very unfortunate", Chouhan said that if necessary, patients will be airlifted outside Rewa for better treatment.

Chouhan announced a financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the kin of those killed in the accident, and also said that government jobs will also be offered to the kin of the deceased. Those who received serious injuries will be given Rs 2 lakh, while other injured will be offered Rs 1 lakh compensation.

Benefits of several welfare schemes will also be given to the kin of the deceased, CM Chouhan said.

Contd. from Page 2

# Centre's actions in BBC Income...

Were the contents of the documentary so biased and so against public interest and policy as to warrant the deployment of State machinery in retaliation? Perhaps not. In fact, both parts of the documentary begin by declaring, "The Indian Government declined to comment on the allegations contained in this film" and the BBC, known for its editorial balance, provided people affiliated to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the ruling party, enough leeway to not only contest the allegations, but also sow doubts and float unlikely theories in the documentary.

Or, was the Union government more irked by the fact that a major international publication had questioned the narrative that the Prime Minister wants to prevail?

One cannot say with certainty, but there are concerns that the documentary itself—which has been widely

watched in India — and the events that have transpired since might have actually emboldened the supporters of the BJP, who have been led to believe that India is under threat from 'a confluence of [foreign] interests' who are out to destroy the country's sovereignty, integrity, public order and relations with foreign countries: grounds which the MIB supposedly used to block the documentary's access under Section 69A.

In these tumultuous times, one is only fortunate that the documentary was not technically 'banned' for exhibition using the loosely worded provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 which allows for the suspension of public exhibition of any film for a mere likelihood of causing 'a breach of the peace'. But then, the BBC did not officially air the documentary publicly in India. This was done by students at some universities, who were then

met with heavy police deployment and forceful resistance from university administrators.

With the BBC itself requesting take downs of unauthorised copies uploaded on the internet and exercising censorship by copyright, it appears from the sequence of events that all censors — the government, the BBC, universities, and perhaps even the income tax department — cruise in the same boat.

The actions of the Union government are blatant and self-explanatory, but also leave much to be answered. Coming clean would imply a withdrawal of the State machinery it has deployed to save its face, as only conspiracy theories abound when the State works in suspicious ways. Still, no reasonable citizen should expect it any time soon in light of the State's blatantly unlawful actions. (IPA Service)

Courtesy: The Leaflet

# How Does a Individuals come to Know He/She has the Talent



By: Vijay GarG

Recent estimates predict that India is going to overtake China in population this year and will also become the world's third largest economy by 2030, overtaking Japan. But India is not as good at winning Olympic medals or capturing scientific patents like other societies.

Sweden — whose nine million people won 11 Olympic medals (in 2016), achieving a rate of more than one medal per million — also secures more than 300 scientific patents per million people. On the other hand, India with more than 100 times as many people, wins far fewer Olympic medals (two medals in 2016 at a rate of one medal per 500 million people) and many fewer patents (6.25 patent applications per million people). The question is — is India bereft of talent or are its talents not ferreted out as effectively?

In every society, the children of the super-rich get every opportunity. The question of ferreting out talent revolves on the children of the poor and on whether they are given opportunities. National performance as well as social justice hinge upon the same fundamental concept — equality of opportunity, i.e., equally

hardworking and talented individuals should be able to rise as high, irrespective of their income, gender, caste and locality.

How deeply does India dig for its sports and its scientific talent? To what extent do people in different segments of Indian society have the opportunity to show their talents for sports and mathematics and painting and writing and other achievements? Little is known on the subject. Methodical studies are just beginning.

We contribute to this important and growing body of knowledge in our recent working paper, asking 806 students (410 in rural Bihar, 103 in slums in Patna and 293 in slums in Delhi) between 12 and 14 years in age, enrolled in government schools, about their access to eight different activities including painting, athletics, singing, theatre, chess, coding and mental mathematics. We also asked about these Class 7 and 8 students' career preferences and willingness to take part in talent-spotting events of different kinds and about a small number of socio-economic indicators.

To our dismay, we find that as many as 42% of the Bihar sample have the lowest participation score, zero points, meaning that they had no opportunity whatsoever, at school or outside, for taking part in any of the eight activities over all of the previous five years! A total of 80% took part in a painting event on one or two occasions, a few took part in singing once or twice — and that was it, overall of five years. The situation in Delhi is only marginally better. Among the sample from Delhi slums, 24% have the lowest participation score, zero

points, while as many as 90% have scores of 10 points or fewer, indicating that the individual took part in one or two activities at the entry level once or twice over five years — but had no chances of competing at any higher level nor even any regularity of training and competition.

The average participation scores for each activity are very, very low. Take for instance the score of access to athletics competition, the score for Bihar is 0.34, which means that at most 34% of sample had access once (and only once) to entry-level competition while the remaining 66% did not have a single opportunity for all of the past five years. In Delhi, 59% had no access whatsoever to sporting competitions and 88% had no access to mental mathematics or chess. If there is a hidden talent — and there must be very many hidden talents in these large populations — how are these talents going to be discovered?

Gender and caste gaps are significant, though given the very low level of participation overall, the difference is that between low and lower. The data reveals that girls have lower participation scores but in particular activities (singing and story writing) their low participation rates are less low than those of boys.

Hardly anyone takes part in multiple competitions. Those who participate more intensively at the entry level are unable to move up to a higher level of competition. Even as school-teachers would like to see their pupils' capacities grow, no child from any of these schools, whether in Bihar or Delhi, has moved up the ladder in the art

world or in athletics or coding or any of the other lines.

Hundreds of thousands of talented individuals remain unaware of the talents within them. Simply because the mechanisms of talent identification and development are under-developed, the nation performs well below its true potential.

It is not a case of unwilling participants as much one of absence of opportunities. More than two-thirds of young respondents are eager to take part if such competitions were organised within reaching distance.

Absent opportunity, the value of talent plummets. Poverty persists, despite abundant capability. How does a boy come to know he has the talent to be a successful artist unless he has access to paints and to painting competitions? How does a girl know she can become a star athlete until she has the chance to show her worth at athletics meets at successively higher levels?

This is not the fault of any particular government, but probably more, a consequence of a long-held belief that there is only one proper way for an individual to advance — through academic studies.

But this robs individuals of opportunities while making it harder for the nation to ferret out talent. It is time we got ourselves out of this conundrum. Research and practice both need to rise to the challenge. Talent is the resource a 21st-century India cannot afford to squander. What needs to be done can be learned from illustrative national and international examples.

# Meghalaya polls: EC bans exit polls till Feb 27

Agency  
Shillong, Feb 25:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has banned exit polls in Meghalaya from 7 am on Friday to 7 pm on February 27, the day of polling.

Besides, the ECI declared that no campaigning is allowed

from 4 pm on Saturday, Chief Electoral Officer FR Kharkongor said.

The poll body further issued an advisory saying that mobile phones cannot be taken inside voting compartments of polling booths across the state.

"As per ECI protocols, exit

polls are banned in the state from 7 am on February 24 till 7 pm on February 27. The silence period for campaigning will begin from 4 pm tomorrow (February 25)," Kharkongor said.

According to the CEO, of the 3,419 polling booths of the state, 640 are identified as 'vul-

nerable', 323 are 'critical' and 84 are both.

As many as 119 companies of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) have been deployed across the state ahead of the February 27 assembly elections. Votes will be counted on March 2.

A total of 53 observers –

20 general observers, 21 expenditure observers and 12 police observers – are on the job to ensure that the elections are free, fair and peaceful, the CEO said.

Over 21 lakh people will be eligible to decide the fate of 369 candidates including 36 women.

Contd. from Page 1

## State Government as a people's Government...

The Chief Minister also advised the young players on the importance of taking both education and sports along to achieve success in life. He also stressed the need of proper planning and systematic way in grooming the young sports players of the State to achieve more medals in different tournaments. He urged all the stakeholders of the sports sector to do away with self-interest and work as a team to develop the sports sector for our future generations.

Delivering his presidential speech, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Govindas Konhoujam stated that the State had been observing Sanaroishingee Numit from the year 2000, to mark the achievements of the players of the State in the 5<sup>th</sup> National Games hosted by the State. He continued that Manipur, though a small northeast state, is a strategic tiny state and is known to others for its contribution in the field of games and sports. As such, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi had taken the decision to set up the National Sports University in the State, acknowledging the dedication of the veteran sports persons of the State.

Speaking on the achievements of the sports players of the State, he stated that Manipur had so far produced 19 Olympians and added that the State had produced the biggest number of Olympians in terms of per capita. The Minister also appreciated the Chief Minister for taking up certain

initiatives to develop the sports sector and asked the sports players to take this opportunity in developing the sector.

During the programme, 4 seniormost players of the State were honoured and felicitated. The players were footballer L. Nabakumar, footballer Laishram Ramkumar, seniormost athletic player H. Jamuna Devi and footballer N. Ramjoy Singh. Coaches of Regular Coaching Classes (RCC) were also felicitated.

The Chief Minister also fe-

licitated Gold Medal Winners in Khelo India Youth Games 2023 held in Madhya Pradesh.

The Chief Minister also flagged off a players' run, participated by many young players of the State, as a part of the observation.

President, Manipur Olympic Association Dr. Th. Radheshyam Singh, Principal Secretary (YAS) SS Chhabra, Director (YAS) T. Phullen Meitei, Olympians, renowned sports personalities and young players among others.

## House passes 7 Demands for Grants amounting....

Regarding War on Drugs campaign, the Leader of the House maintained that specialized teams have been constituted for effective implementation of the campaign covering poppy plantation and trafficking of illegal drugs. Several drug manufacturing units have been busted in the State. Increased in unaccounted villages and illegal immigrants in the State is a major cause for mass cultivation of poppy in the state. Two investors involved in poppy cultivation could be arrested. Two drones- one for identifying poppy plantation and another for spraying of herbicides

have been procured.

N. Biren Singh continued that various alternative livelihood options for poppy cultivators have also been arranged adding that alternative options should not be taken as a matter of right. He also stated that the government will not compromise anything on the issue of War on Drugs campaign.

Works Minister Govindas Konhoujam informed the House that the government has inked agreements with different funding agencies like Asian Development Bank, World Bank, JICA and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

for construction of new roads and other projects in the State. The construction of Imphal-Kangchup Road is 78% completed and is targeted for completion by June 2023. Construction of Imphal Ring Road is planned to be started by March 2023 with funding from Asian Development Bank.

Rigid pavements works of Imphal city roads will be started which will be later shifted to rural roads with funding from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Minister Govindas also clarified in the House that the

Estimated Sanction for the works program for the year 2022-23 have already been provided. Regarding the engagement of local contractors, he said that the government has intimated to the concerned authority for awarding works to local contractors on priority and that their response is still pending. He also informed the house that the 5 lakhs deposit for Special Class Contractors of the State is deposited in the state treasury as revenue. Work orders for renovation of official quarters of MLAs will be issued soon, he informed.

Later, Leader of the

House introduced three bills i.e. (i) The Manipur Properties and Open Places (Prevention of Defacement and Disfigurement) Bill, 2023 (Bill No. 1 of 2023) (ii) The Kaina Temple Board Bill, 2023 (Bill No. 4 of 2023) and (iii) The Manipur Value added Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Bill No. 5 of 2023). Ministers Th. Basanta Kumar Singh and Y. Khemchand also introduced "The Dhanamanjuri University (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Bill No. 6 of 2023) and "The Manipur Town and Country Planning (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Bill No. 7 of 2023) respectively.

## CIRCULAR

Chandel, the 24th February, 2023

No.DSC-101/1/2022-DC(CDL)-CDL: It is hereby informed to the general public that the District Skill Committee, Chandel is organizing a "One Day Skill Mela" in collaboration with different Training Providers, Training Institute, Public and Private Sector Companies on 27th February, 2023 from 9:00 am onwards at the Multi Purpose Hall, DC Office Complex, Chandel.

On-spot interview, Registration & Enrolment for skill training courses will be conducted.

All interested youths are invited to come forth and avail the maximum opportunity.

Sd/-

Mayanglambam Rajkumar  
Deputy Commissioner/Chairman DSC, Chandel

## Lost

I, Ghanashyam Usham, S/o U. Dhananjay Singh, Residence of Thangmeiband, Lourung Pural Leikai, PS - Lamphel, Imphal West, District, Manipur-795004, have lost my Driving Licence, bearing No. MN01 20160044722, issued by RTO Imphal West on 05-03-2016, on the road from Canchipur to Lamphel. Finders may please contact the undersigned. Thanks.

Sd/-

Ghanashyam Usham  
Thangmeiband Lourung Pural Leikai,  
Imphal West, Manipur - 795004  
Mobile No. 9899347078

## Name Change

I, the undersigned do hereby declared that I have renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of my name Mangsatabam Babycha as I have assumed my new name Mangsatabam Babycha Devi.

Sd/-

Mangsatabam Babycha Devi  
W/o Soraisam Dhanabir Singh  
Patsoi Part - IV, Langging, CRPF Langging,  
Patsoi Sub-Division, Imphal West-795113

## Passport Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Passport, issued by the Government of India, bearing Passport No. F2658713 on the way between Patsoi to Paona Bazar in Imphal West on 20/08/2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Mangsatabam Babycha  
D/o Mangsatabam Bira  
Singamei Chingamakhia Meishnam Leikai

# Yaipha Thourang Crafts Bazar

At MMRC & Unity Park, Khangbaok, Thoubal District, Manipur

DATE : 24th Feb., to 5th March 2023

TIME : 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Sponsored by :

Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)  
Ministry of Textile, Government of India

Organised by :

Yaipha Thourang Handloom & Handicrafts  
Co-operative Society Limited  
Leimaram Waroiching, Bishnupur District, Manipur