

## Six students' bodies demand resignation of Education Minister and Commissioner



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 10:

Six student Organisations of Manipur including, MSF, DESAM, KSA, SUK & AIMS have demanded the resignation of Education Minister Thounaojam Basantakumar and Commissioner of Higher and Technical Education Gyan Prakash on moral ground over the failure of converting DM University into a full-fledged University for the last five years since its inception.

A protest demonstration was staged in front of the DMU.

DM University was established under Dhanamajuri University Act, 2017 and came into force on April 6, 2018. Due to overall callousness and non-sending of the list of bonafide teaching and non-teaching staffs to the University Grants Commission, the University is yet to be qualified for the acquisition of 12 (B) status of UGC as per the provisions of UGC 1956 Regulation without which the University cannot be

recognised as a full-fledged University. As a result of not acquiring 12 (B) UGC status, DM University is consequently not qualified to acquire funding and overall development support. Moreover, the JRF holders, NET qualified and non-NET PhD Research Scholars have been denied of their rightful access to scholarships and relevant stipends.

The authority concerned have been apprised with the grievances by the students' community and the teaching

community persistently. However, the state Government has been either delaying or shown lackadaisical attitude to the cause of DM University. The gross result of the delay has put the University and students' degrees/career at the risk of being deligitimised in the absence of a proper procedural fulfilment of a university as per the relevant norms.

The plight of DM University continues unabated as it has no regular Registrar, Regular Finance Officer and Regular Controller of Examination. The Adhocism in running a University for five years is nothing less than a derogation of the basic educational rights of students in Manipur. The In-charge functionaries of DM University who come from Civil Services (IAS Officers) are already pre-occupied with multiple Departmental responsibilities which leads to aggravating administrative lapses and delaying of University's progression.

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## CM dedicates Kangla Nongpok Thong to the public

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 10:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today handed over and dedicated the historic Kangla Nongpok Thong – The Eastern Gate of Kangla Fort to the people of the state. The dedication ceremony was held in the presence of Rajya Sabha MP Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, various high ranking officials and locals of the area among others also attended the function.

Speaking as Chief Guest at the function, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh stated that the Kangla Nongpok Thong is one of the 21 projects recently inaugurated by the Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah during his visit of the state last week. He expressed that it is of great pride and honour that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has bestowed such concern and recognition to a small state like Manipur on reopening of Nongpok Thong by tweeting



"May the spirit of peace, prosperity and happiness be enhanced across the state".

The Chief Minister further stated that following its re-opening, the Nongpok Thong will be manned by IRB personnel while Nongchup Thong (western gate) will remain closed. He also said that the area adjacent to the eastern gate will be developed so as to give a unique sense of appeal towards the historic Kangla. He continued that the approach road towards the gate will be converted to a double lane road soon.

Stating that we all should live as one and united, N. Biren Singh said that the government is making all possible efforts for peace, prosperity and unity in the State, he added. He lauded the efforts of the engineers and officials of MPHC for completing the project on time.

The Nongpok Thong was constructed through Imphal Smart City Limited (ISCL) as the Funding Agency and Manipur Police Housing Corporation Limited (MPHC Ltd) as the Work Agency.

## PR Shyam passes away, AMWJU, EGM condole



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 10:

Veteran Journalist Potshangbam Radheshyam Singh popularly known as PR Shyam passed away at around 7.30 pm yesterday at RIMS.

P. Radheshyam Singh served as General Secretary during 1974-1975 of the AMWJU.

All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) and Editors' Guild Manipur condole the demise of the veteran journalist.

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 20:

Prizes for the winners of on-line essay competition organized by *Imphal Times* on the topic "Manipur's Socio Economic Problems: System Failure or Individual false" were distributed yesterday in connection with the 10th Foundation Day of *Imphal Times*.

Director of DDK Imphal, who is also Asst. Director/Head of Office, Regional Outreach Bureau, Imphal, Government of India, Dr. Aribam handed over the prizes to the winners.

Leena Khoisnam of Khagempalli Pankha Huidrom Leikai, Imphal West was handed over the first prize, while Ningthoujam



Johnson of Samaram Mamang Leikai, Thoubal got the 2nd prize.

Chamchulung Malingmei of Mukti Khullen, Nungba,

Tamenglong District got the third prize. Two other participants Bikash Yadav and Khwairakpam Ajit got consolation prize. Bikash Yadav

could not attend the prize distribution function as he hails from Maharashtra. His prize will be handed over to him.

## Miscreants blast IED at NIT staff's residence

IT News  
Imphal Jan 10:

Miscreants suspected to members of armed rebel group planted and exploded a powerful bomb at the residential gate of one NIT staffs last yesterday night. No one was however injured in the blast.

Police said that bomb to be an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The staffs is an assistant registrar of the National Institutes of Technology (NIT), Imphal. His residence is located at Kangjibi Leikangbam Leikai in the heart of Imphal city.

Although no one was injured in the incident, a pit of around one-foot diameter was created near the main entrance gate of the registrar's residence by the impact of the blast apart from causing damages to the window panes of the house, the Manipur police

said.

As per footage of the CCTV installed at the gate of the assistant registrar of the NIT – Leikangbam Dorendro – two masked men, who came on one Honda Activa placed a black colour polythene bag at the gate at around 11.45 pm on Monday.

Then they drove off their two-wheelers as fast as they could. The bomb blasted at around 11.55 pm causing damage to the nearby areas.

Immediately, the Manipur police, bomb experts and a forensic team rushed to the spot and investigated the incident.

Meanwhile, Dorendro said organizations or individuals who were involved in the blast should clarify immediately and if there is any misunderstanding, they should negotiate for a peaceful solution instead of posing a threat to the public.

## IFFI's 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow is a stepping stone for talented young filmmakers: Hamom Ashish Kumar Singh

By: Aribam Bishwajit  
Imphal, Jan 10:

The year 2022 marked the 50th year of Manipuri cinema. It was indeed a majestic year for filmmakers and film enthusiasts of this northeastern state. Notwithstanding the fact that Manipur has only 0.2 percent of India's population, it never failed to astonish the world through cinema. Surprisingly, the state has amassed various accolades from numerous national and international stages through this art of storytelling for many decades. However, even though the state has reached a landmark period of film production, it does not have a film institute

that provides film and television production training. Speaking at the "Talk Series on Film Direction" as part of the concluding event of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Manipuri Cinema in 2022, celebrated filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma lamented that it would be difficult to upscale the status of Manipuri Cinema without formal training and film education. Although the State Government established Manipur State Film and Television Institute (MSFTI) in 2016 with Nilotpal Mazumdar as its director, the institute has yet to contribute much to the development of Manipuri Cinema.

Interestingly, the Manipur State Film Development Soci-



Hamom Ashish Kumar Singh (Right) with Rajiv Oinam (Center) and Diganta Bora (Left) poses for the lens on the first day of the International Film Festival of India, Goa, on November 21, 2022.

ety (MSFDS) has outshone in providing various workshops and training related to film production, editing, scriptwriting,

and many more, compared to the defunct-like MSFTI. Against all odds, the MSFDS Secretary Sanju

Bachaspatimayum has been striving to equip filmmakers with the required skills and knowledge to enable them to

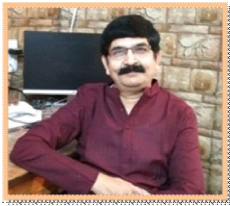
make good films in the last few years. Nevertheless, it is not enough. The Department of Mass Communication, Manipur University, occasionally organized short-term film appreciation and filmmaking courses. And their effort is also equally laudable.

On the one hand, a handful of Manipuri filmmakers who had formal training in India's premiere film institutes like FTII or SRFTI are making films projecting the state's culture and way of life, drawing global attention; on the other hand, there are hundreds of filmmakers, who despite having no proper training, are making the mark. In 2021, the biggest film festival in India, the Interna-

tional Film Festival of India (IFFI), kicked off the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' contest to give the youth of India a platform to showcase their talent by choosing 75 youngsters based on their excellence in different areas of filmmaking. And Mr. Tushar Nongthombam, a young and energetic filmmaker, was the only person from Manipur selected among the 75 filmmakers across the country. Mr. Nongthombam was chosen for the direction category. In the 2022 edition, two filmmakers from Manipur - Mr. Hamom Ashish Kumar Singh and Mr. Rajiv Oinam - were selected among the 75 youngsters.

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# Stop Human Trafficking



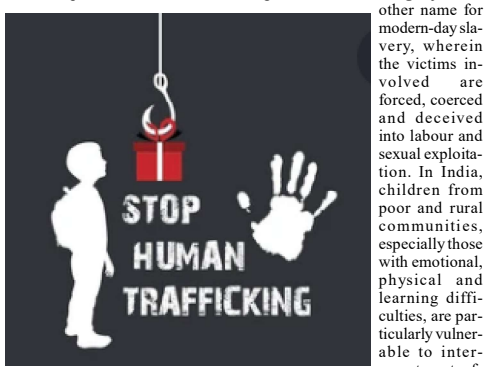
By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

11th January is observed as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day to raise awareness about the condition of human trafficking victims, as well as to promote and safeguard their rights. We all have an important role to play in preventing human trafficking and protecting victims.

Thousands of children are trafficked every year from rural, tribal as well as urban areas in India. Victims are bought and sold like commodities. Catching child-sex tourists is only part of the problem in Nepal. Nepal has become a source as well as transit destination for trafficking of women and children for sex trade tourism from neighbouring countries. When there is an illegal movement of a person from one country to another, a smuggling component is involved, it becomes human smuggling. Human smuggling becomes human trafficking when there is no consent of the person and people are held against their will for sexual exploitation or labor. Human trafficking is considered a modern form of slavery. This illegal act involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain labor or sex. Traffickers use violence, manipulation, or false promises to lure their victims into trafficking situations. Trafficking victims usually experience physical and/or psychological abuse.

Women and girls comprised 84 percent of victims of forced marriage and 99 percent of victims of forced labour in commercial sexual exploitation. About 7,000 sex workers cross over from Nepal into the country every year, and children from Bangladesh enter via West Bengal, lured by marriage or job offers. Trafficking through India should be stopped immediately. Hapless women, especially young ones, are lured on false promises and taken to various countries by unscrupulous and anti-social elements and sold for flesh trade. India, like many nations, is a signatory to these conventions, but implementation is poor, because of factors such as corruption, lack of capacity and expertise and cultural norms, attitudes and stigmas. Indian Govt. should alert the Nepal Govt and prevent the human trafficking. Human trafficking is just another name for modern-day slavery, wherein the victims involved are forced, coerced and deceived into labour and sexual exploitation. In India, children from poor and rural communities, especially those with emotional, physical and learning difficulties, are particularly vulnerable to inter-country trafficking. The culprits should be brought to book and exemplary punishment to be imposed. According to UNICEF 12.6 million children are engaged in unsafe occupations. According to NHRC of INDIA 40,000 children are abducted each year out of which 11,000 are untraced. According to The Global Slavery Index, existing figure of slaves is 18.3 million in India. Every 8 minutes, a child is missing in India. It is reported that children from rural areas in poor condition are trafficked to cities for employment in industries such as spinning mills, hotels, restaurants, and construction for little or no pay at all. They are often physically and mentally exploited by the employers and have to work under hazardous conditions. Many girls are forced by families or sold by traffickers for child marriage. In most cases the condition of girls in early marriages is like slaves. They are exploited physically and mentally.

It is a well-organised network and we need to call for stringent laws and implementation of such laws to contain the menace. Both the Indian and Nepali governments are complicit in the abuses suffered by trafficking victims. These abuses are not only violations of internationally recognized human rights but are specifically prohibited under the domestic laws of both countries. In Nepal, border police are also bribed to allow traffickers to transport girls to India. The high inspiration of the parents and when the children fail to live upto the expectation, they take the wrong path because of which other youths of their age fall victim to their wrongdoings. Children have always been a soft target both because at times they are not much aware of the fact that what is happening to them is wrong. If at all they are aware of it, then they are scared to speak about it. Those that suffer physical and emotional abuse and rape may never be able to live normal lives again whereas those that are threatened live in constant fear and end being psychologically compromised. It is the violation of human rights and children are deprived freedom. It breaches the child's mental and physical ability which is primary to every child's growth. Children lose their childhood because of the ill-practice of child trafficking. The basic rights of children, irrespective of economic status, caste or gender, are robbed from them.



The first step to spreading awareness effectively is educating yourself. Knowing the signs and characteristics of trafficking will give you the ability to be more aware in your own community, and to spread that awareness to your network. The consequences of child trafficking are dreadful. Improving and implementing prevention programs is critical. What we need is right from early childhood, kids should be taught about the sensitive issues and the lawmakers too should enact and follow strict laws to curb this menace and keep the kids safe. Weak legal system is yet another lacuna which adds to the menace.

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# Origin and Development of Hindi Journalism



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

"Udant Martand" was the first Hindi newspaper. The journey of the era of Hindi newspapers in India begins with this weekly paper published from Kolkata on 30th May 1826. Published under the editorship of Shri Yugal Kishore Shukla, "Udant Martand" was the luminary in the form of news, which illuminated and guided the path of Hindi journalism. The notable verse printed on this paper was :-

Dinkar Kar Pragat Dinahin Yah Prakash Ath Yam  
Aiso Ravi Abh Ugaun Mahi, Jehi Sukh Ko Dham.

Aant Kamalani Vigsit Karat Badhat Chav Chit Vaam  
Let Nam Ya Patra Ko Hot Harsh Aru Kam.

The 'Bangdoot' weekly was brought out from Kolkata itself on 10 May 1829. Published in collaboration with Raja Ram Mohan Roy and under the editorship of Nilratna Haldhar, this paper was originally in Bangla, which was also printed in Hindi as required. The verses quoted above the Hindi part of 'Bangdoot' were -

Bhutat Ki Yah Rit Bahut Thode Mein Bhakhe  
Logani Le Bahu Lag Hoye Yahi Te Lakhe

Bangala Ki Doot-Poot Yahi Yau Ko Jano  
Hoye Vedit Sab Desh Klesh Ko Lesh Na Mano.

The life journey of 'Bangdoot' ended on July 30, 1829, after the release of only twelve issues. The weekly 'Banaras Akhbar' was the first newspaper to come out of the Hindi region. In 1845, the paper came out from Kashi under the editorship of Shri Govind Raghunath Tathate. In 1846, 'Indian Sun' was published from Kolkata in five languages like 'Bengal Herald' and 'Bangdoot'. It had ten pages and each page had

five columns. The name of its Hindi edition was "Martand".

"Sudhavarshan" was the first Hindi daily, which came out in the year 1854 from Bada Bazar in Kolkata. Originally it was a bilingual paper, with the first two pages in Hindi and the remaining two pages in Bengali. Its editor was Shyam Sundar Sen. The "Pyame Azadi" was taken out from Delhi in 1857 by Shri Ajimullah Khan, the leader of the freedom movement. Earlier it used to come out in Urdu, but soon it started coming in Hindi also. The idea was to bring out its edition from Jhansi wall. The first famous Indian national anthem of 1857 was published in this paper, the opening lines of which were -

Ham Hain Esake Malik Hindustan Hamara  
Baat Vatan Hai Kaum Ka Jannat Se Bhi Pyara.

Mirza Bedar Bakht, the editor of "Pyame Azadi", was hanged by the British rulers. Simultaneously, an injunction was issued by Mr. Henry Cotton that whoever found the copies of "Pyame Azadi" would be liable to the death penalty. This is probably the first incident in the history of newspapers when the entire family of the readers of a newspaper has been sentenced.

In 1859, "Dharmaprakash" from Ahmedabad and in 1863 "Mrit Lokhit" from Ara by missionaries was published. The publication of "Marwad Gazette" started in 1866. In 1867, a bilingual paper "Vidya Vilas" in Hindi and Urdu came out from Jammu and Kashmir. The period of 1826-67 is the period of emergence and development of Hindi journalism in India. The newspapers and magazines, that came out during this period, worked to make way for Indian journalism. Later, with the debut of Bharatendu Harishchandra in the world of journalism, journalism got a new dimension, a new form and a new direction and in the true sense, the foundation of a new era was laid. Bharatendu Era.

The development journey of the era of Hindi journalism had started with "Udant Martand", which continued through daily, weekly and monthly medium till the Bharatendu era. The Bharatendu era (1867-1885) is considered to be the second era in the history of Hindi journalism, starting from the year 1867. In the same

year Bharatendu Harishchandra started the publication of a monthly magazine named "Kavi Vachan Sudha". This magazine was considered by the French writer Tasi as a "Distinguished Newspaper". The Bharatendu era was poetry-oriented and the price of "Kavi Vachan Sudha", etc. was also printed in verse.

Sat Mudra Pahale Diye Vaarsh Bitaye Saat  
Sath Chandrika Ke Liye, Dasaven Dou Mil Jaat.

Bharatendu Harishchandra, the pioneer of Hindi journalism, was born on 9th September 1850 and went to heaven on 6 January 1885 at the age of 35. He took up literary creation as a mission and started monthly "Kavi Vachan Sudha" from Kashi in 1867. After publishing some issues, it was made fortnightly. In 1873 itself, Bharatendu started publishing the monthly magazine "Harishchandra Magazine" and worked to popularise modern Hindi. Vyasi considered him an immortal gift of Hindi journalism. In 1874, this magazine became "Harishchandra Chandrika" and was published for eight years. This was the third magazine to come out of Kashi. In 1884, he started the publication of his new "Harishchandra Chandrika" and continued it till the last moment of his life. He also brought out a Vaishnavism-oriented magazine called "Bhagvat Toshini", which lasted for a year.

Another example of Bharatendu era being poetic is the 'Brahmin' paper. Its editor Pratap Narayan Mishra, tired of asking for the donation of the paper, sometimes had to plead through the verse - Aath Maas Bite Jajman. Aab To Karo Dakshina Daan.

The motto of "Kavi Vachan Sudha" was- Nitya-Nitya Nav Yah, Kavi Vachan Sudha Sakal Ras Khani. Piahun Rasik Anand Bhari, Param Raag Jiya Jaani. Sudha Sada Surpur Basay Se Nay Tumhare Jog. Taso Aadar Dehu Aaru Piahun Yahi Budh Log.

When "Kavi Vachan Sudha" was a monthly paper, then the works of ancient poets edited by Bharatendu were published in it. When it became a fortnightly, political and social essays started getting published. According to the Uttar Pradesh Gazette, a total of 250 copies were printed, out of which 100

copies were taken by the British government and 150 copies were consumed by the public. This was the time when only two or four copies of some papers could reach the public.

The area of "Harishchandra Chandrika" was very vast. Literature, science, religious articles, archaeology, book reviews, drama, novels, history, poetry, gossip, humor and satirical were published in the newspaper. So many subjects could not have been conceived then. Bharatendu believed that for the progress of the country, not only the indigenous thing, but also its own language is essential. He hated the teaching of slavery. His motto was -Nij Bhasha Unnati Yahe Sab Unnati Ki Mool. Bin Nij Bhasha Gyan Ke Mitay Nahiy Ki Sool.

Every writer or poet of the Bharatendu era was the editor of some paper. These papers gave strength to the reformist movement and gave impetus to the art of essay. But in spite of all this, no paper could last long due to lack of education and interest. During Harishchandra's lifetime, 25 magazines came out, in which three papers "Bharat Mitra" (Fortnightly, 1872), "Sar Sudha Nidhi" (Weekly, 1887) and "Uchit Vakta" (Weekly, 1880) were published from Kolkata. Its motivator and director was Durga Prasad Mishra.

The story of weekly "Matwala" published from Kolkata is interesting. The verse printed on its front page explains the spirit and objectives of the newspaper. Amiya Garar Rashi Sikar, Rivkar Ram Viram Bhara Pyala. Pite Hain Jo Sadhak, Unka Pyara Hai Yah Matwala.

Dr. Ram Vilas Sharma has written in relation to the Bharatendu era that despite not having a tradition of Newspaper-literature, the progress he made in a short time was the passion of the writers. Despite the harsh conditions, he proved himself to be tenacious. If the writers of that era had not shown this zeal and arrogance, they would surely have been crushed under the prevailing circumstances. Bharatendu's journalism was non-partisan, fearless and in favour of justice. His journalism was discussed and praised everywhere not only in the country but also abroad. Undoubtedly, he was a prolific journalist.

(Author is a technocrat & educationist.)

# Brand Modi Vs Brand Rahul - An Improbable Faceoff



By: M.R. Lahu

Brand Modi Vs Brand Rahul? Does this analogy cut ice with anyone? Political pundits have been proclaiming such a possibility since the launch of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. To them the yatra is all set to bring a fresh challenge to the brand Modi which has been unstoppable since 2014. Their predictions perhaps waved in the direction of Rahul Gandhi amplifying his brand value as a politician as the yatra is bringing more prominent faces joining him in this aspirational exercise expecting the range of political fortunes that the possible Rahul rise would bless them with. The latest entrant into the bandwagon of leaders is former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah. Well before the Kashmir veteran joined the Yatra, Kanimozhi from the DMK and superstar Kamal Haasan walked in tune with Rahul Gandhi's revival steps. Expressing her interest in joining the yatra, Mehbooba Mufti, an

other former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir resonated giving the Congress and its leadership a giggle of relief; which means, the yatra is really emerging as a platform to bring the erstwhile leaders aspiring to rejuvenate their lost political space together. But Akhilesh Yadav's reluctance to join the yatra is justifiably revealing the memory of a political disaster, the defeat that he had in the company of Rahul Gandhi. And Yogi Adityanath's consistent victories since then have not only been a lesson but a nightmare he still struggles to shrug off.

Throughout the Yatra, narratives are planted with a calculative approach giving an impetus that the Modi regime is all about hatred and communal disharmony and the Yatra's objective is to fasten the disected cultural cohesion of the country. And this is what the Congress party planned and this is probably its ultimate political weapon, a strategy that the party thinks would further excavate its half buried political significance. By creating a platform for Rahul Gandhi to emerge above party lines while he holds no responsible position in his party, would help him remain sanctified and invulnerable to all its poll debates at least until the national elections. More and more opposition leaders are expected to join the yatra in the coming days along with former civil ser-

vants, diplomats, economists and religious leaders. Should the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under Prime Minister Modi's able leadership be unimindful of the yatra and the potential political consolidation that it began to rake up? There would be consistent efforts to drag the disgruntled political opposition of the BJP on one stage before 2024. And BJP with its electoral shrewdness and accurate political calculations would this time play with the emotions of the electorate. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement on the timeline for the possible inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya should be seen as an arrow that was shot in advance to garner the majority sentiments.

Addressing a huge gathering in the poll bound Tripura, he practically declared the date of inauguration of the Ram Temple. The temple, according to him, will be inaugurated well before the 2024 national elections. The Ram Mandir issue was a strong plank on which the BJP began to chase its political goodwill. Except for raking the issue for electoral mileage, the BJP's efforts remained minimal as the matter was shelved by the judiciary for decades. Systematically blaming the Congress for throwing the Yatra Mandir dispute in the jurisdiction of the court, Shah was discordantly evocative of the double standard of the Congress. Visibly ar-

ticulating the issue in a poll bound state, the Home Minister was signalling his party cadre for a proper packaging of the Ram Mandir nationwide for which the foundation was laid by the Prime Minister.

In its efforts to dehypnotise its cadre through the Yatra, brand Rahul's enlightened version of appearance resembles the saintly beard of Narendra Modi, which he had grown throughout the enraging pandemic. Does Rahul Gandhi's new makeover give him an awakened position in the political spectrum in the country? It is too early to make inferences on this but the undercurrent is evidently trenchant and the acceptance in his favour is the result of the disgruntlement among parties that oppose the Modi phenomenon. But what seems to remain an accentuating factor would be the lack of political maturity of Rahul Gandhi. Until he gains an acceptable maturity to deal with the issues that the country would grapple with in 2023, the new coalition-comity of the opposition parties does not have to take him seriously. Gravely unrealistic on the notion of Indianness and his large strain of image makeover with his ignorance and obscurantist approach on the Indian ethnicity, Rahul is yet to depict convincing capabilities and honest approach on understanding India's spiritual ethos.

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# No compromise on Decency: I&B Ministry Issues Advisory to TV Channels

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Jan 10:

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday issued an advisory to all television channels against reporting incidents of accidents, deaths, and violence including violence against women, children and elderly in manners which grossly compromises on "good taste and decency".

The ministry had earlier advised all private satellite TV channels to adhere to Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. Yet the Code is being violated, Prateek Jain, Assistant Director, I & B pointed out in a statement.

As per the code the footage should not be aired which: a) offends against good taste or decency b) contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths c) maligns or slanders any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral of the coun-

try and d) is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

The Ministry issued the advisory after several instances of lack of discretion by TV channels were noticed. The Ministry said that television channels have shown dead bodies of individuals and images/videos of injured persons with blood splattered around, people, including women, children and elderly being beaten mercilessly in close shots, continuous cries and shrieks of a child being beaten by a teacher.

The shots are repeated for several minutes making it even more ghastly, without taking the precaution of blurring the images or showing them from long shots. Such reports can have an adverse psychological impact on the children.

## Videos from social media

The Ministry has observed that in most cases the videos are being taken from social media and broadcast without editorial discretion and modifications, without consistency with the Programme Code.

A list of such recently broadcast content includes: December 30, 2022 - showing the distressing images and videos of a cricketer injured in an accident, without blurring. August 28, 2022 - a disturbing footage of a man dragging the dead body of a victim and also focusing on the face of the victim with blood splattered around. June 06, 2022 - a distressing incident in which a teacher can be seen brutally thrashing a 5-year-old boy until he lost consciousness in a coaching classroom in Patna, Bihar.

June 04, 2022 - a distressing gory images of the dead body of a Punjabi singer without blurring. May 25, 2022 - a disturbing incident of a man brutally beating two minor boys with a stick in Chirang district of Assam. The clip was played without blurring or muting in which the boys' painful cries are clearly heard. May 16, 2022 - a woman advocate was brutally assaulted by her neighbour in Bagalkot district of Karnataka, showing continuously without edits.

May 04, 2022 - a man hacking his own sister to death in Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu. May 01, 2022 - a man being hung upside down from a tree and brutally thrashed with sticks by five people in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh. April 12, 2022 - an accident in which distressing visuals of five dead bodies are continuously shown without blurring.

April 11, 2022 - an incident where a man can be seen brutally attacking his 84-year-old mother in Kollam, Kerala, dragging his mother through the yard beating and thrashing her mercilessly shown continuously without blurring for approximately 12 minutes. April 07, 2022 about a highly disturbing video of an old man setting his son ablaze in Bengaluru (Karnataka).

March 22, 2022 - a video of a 14-year-old minor boy being beaten in Morigaon district of Assam, carried without blurring or muting in which the boy can be heard crying and pleading while being beaten mercilessly.

# 490 Myanmar-border residents offered medical treatments



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 10:

A total of 490 tribal villagers including women and children residing along the Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur got the benefits of medical camps organized by the Assam Rifles at different locations along the border.

Shangshak Battalion and Tengenoual Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR(South) conducted Medical Camps at Pushing village of Kamjong district and Sita Village of Tengenoual District yesterday.

This camp was organised since the locals don't have access to any medical facilities in near by area and situated quite far from District HQs, where the basic medical facilities are available.

In the camp held at Pushing village, a total of 248 Villagers (71 men, 104 women & 73 children) from Pushing & near by areas were examined and provided with medicines.

The medical camp at village Sita, proved beneficial for 242 villagers (including women and children), who were diagnosed, provided medical ad-

vice and medicines meant for common disease during the Medical camp.

A lecture was also given on educating the villagers on paediatric diseases during the winters and prevention from them.

This initiative by Assam Rifles has been viewed as a genuine step towards addressing the basic health-care needs of the villagers. The villagers applauded the efforts of the Assam Rifles for such kind gesture which will improve the mutual trust and maintain peace and harmony in the region.

# High Court grants bail to Chanda and Deepak Kochhar arrested in ICICI-Videocon loan case

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Jan 10:

The Bombay High Court on Monday granted a bail to former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar arrested by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in connection with a case of an irregular loan Rs.3,250 crore sanctioned by the ICICI to Videocon group.

The case was registered on January 22, 2019 and they were arrested on December 23, 2022 by the CBI. After initial CBI custody, the special CBI court remanded them to judicial custody on December 29, 2022.

Now the Kochhars will be released subject to furnishing provisional cash bail of Rs.1 lakh each. This comes as a huge relieve to them before the



wedding of their son scheduled on January 15. Chanda has been lodged in Byculla Women's prison, while Deepak and Videocon Group Chairman Venugopal Dhoot are in Arthur Road Jail located in South Mumbai.

Chanda and Deepak were arrested on allegations of cheating and irregularities in a

case of a loan of Rs.3,250 crore granted in 2012 to the Videocon Group. It was alleged that the loan was granted in violation of the Banking Regulation Act, RBI guidelines and the credit policy of the bank.

As quid pro go, Dhoot made an investment of Rs. 64 crore in Deepak Kochhar's Nupower Renewables through

Supreme Energy Private Ltd (SEPL), and transferred SEPL to Pinnacle Energy Trust managed by Deepak through a circuitous route between 2010 and 2012.

On Monday, a division bench comprising Justices **Revati Mohite Dere** and **PK Chavan** held that the arrest of Kochhars was in violation of Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) which mandates sending notice for appearance before the concerned police officer. As such the section 41-A and Section 60-A of Cr.P.C. warrant their release on bail," the Court observed.

Senior Advocate **Amit Desai** along with advocate Kushal Mor, appearing for Chanda, argued that she was arrested without complying with Section 46(4) of the Cr.P.C, as no woman officer was present during her

arrest. Besides, in the connected money laundering case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had made a statement before the Supreme Court that they did not require her custody. The ED had also recorded 14 statements under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and she had co-operated with the ED.

Senior Advocate **Vikram Chaudhari**, appearing for Deepak, informed the Court that he was granted bail in PMLA case in March 2021. Even those proceedings were stayed by the trial court. However Senior Advocate **Raja Thakare**, appearing for CBI, denied any violation of statutory or constitutional provisions during arrest of the Kochhars. He submitted that the agency's arrest was to get clarity and sequentially explain all related transactions through confrontation of the accused.

In May 2018, ICICI had initiated an inquiry against Chanda Kochhar. Soon she went on leave and applied for early retirement which was accepted. Then the bank treated her separation as "Termination for Cause" and sought RBI's approval for ending her appointment. On November 10, the Bombay High Court dismissed her claim for retirement benefit saying her termination from her post was a valid termination.

In meanwhile, Dhoot's application for bail and quashing of the first information report (FIR) filed against him by the CBI, is expected to be heard by the same bench on Tuesday. Dhoot was arrested on December 26 and the CBI special court had rejected his application for bail on January 05, opining that it does not have the power to review its own order and remanded him to custody.

# Assam Rifles distributes Solar Lights

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 10:

Phundrei Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) carried out distribution of eight solar lights at village Berukhudam, Chandel district, Manipur under Assam Rifles Civic Action programme in Chandel District (Manipur) yesterday.

In continuation to its efforts to reach out to the local population a helping hand and assist them with humanitarian aid, the Phundrei Battalion handed over eight solar lights to the Village Authority of Berukhudam village in the presence of other villagers. Availability of solar lights in the area will help in lighting up the area during night thus enhancing the sense of security among the locals. Being earnest to the epithet of "FRIENDS OF THE NORTH EAST", the Assam Rifles continues to alleviate the difficulties of local populace and improve security situation.

# Children are reading less than ever before



By: Vijay GarG

Children today read less frequently than any previous generation and enjoy reading less than young people did in the past, according to new research.

**How I managed to raise a little bookworm in the age of Smartphones and tablets**

The work, to be published by the National Literacy Trust in the run-up to World Book Day on Thursday, shows that in 2019 just 26% of under-18s spent some time each day reading. This is the lowest daily level

recorded since the charity first surveyed children's reading habits in 2005.

It also found that fewer children enjoy reading, and that this dwindled with age: nearly twice as many five to eight-year-olds as 14 to 16-year-olds said they took pleasure from reading. Overall, just 53% of children said they enjoyed reading "very much" or "quite a lot" - the lowest level since 2013.

The poet and former children's laureate Michael Rosen said the findings should act as a wake-up call for the government. "We have countless examples of research showing that children who read for pleasure widely and often are best able to benefit from what education offers. Barring parents, children or teachers for 'failing' will solve nothing. It [improving reading levels] needs full government backing, with as much money and effort as they put into compulsory phonics teaching, to support schools and com-

munities in this."

The survey found a marked gender divide when it comes to reading for pleasure: less than half (47%) of boys were keen readers, compared with 60% of girls. A third of children surveyed reported being unable to find things to read that interested them.

World Book Day, a charity event held annually in the UK and Ireland, will this year call on readers of all ages to "share a million stories" by reading aloud or listening to a story for at least 10 minutes a day with friends and family.

World Book Day chief executive Cassie Chadderton said this activity can turn a reluctant reader into a child who reads for pleasure.

... as you're joining us today from India, we have a small favour to ask. Tens of millions have placed their trust in the Guardian's fearless journalism since we started publishing 200 years ago, turning to us in moments of crisis, uncertainty,

solidarity and hope. More than 1.5 million supporters, from 180 countries, now power us financially - keeping us open to all, and fiercely independent.

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# Brand Modi Vs Brand Rahul....

Modi has undoubtedly delved deeper into the cultural munificence of the country which is dominantly approved by the spiritual rationality of the Indian landscape. He has been an aggressive campaigner for the spiritual awakening that India was capable of offering to the whole world. Brand Modi's spiritual statesmanship puts a relatively average and politically unintelligible brand Rahul into an obtrusive and ineffective corner. And the preposterous pretensions of Rahul Gandhi calibrated by his dynastic dynamism are yet to chisel out a convincing image of him. Before the country would decide to logically and ceremoniously embrace a better modified version of brand Rahul, the leader of the oldest political party needs to have his kindergarten lessons learned about In-

dia. Moreover, as long as a large number of regional satraps are non-dogmatic about the rise of the Gandhi dynasty onto the national stage, the image makeover and the branding of a saviour in the upcoming elections would be a sedative unpracticality.

Nitish Kumar, Mamata Banarjee and K.Chandrashekar Rao are prominent among the regional leaders assumed to be the capable contenders to halt the saffron spectacle. Arvind Kejriwal has sculptured his branding as a pan India persona winning two states with a comfortable margin. Having groomed his party for a national stage with little eminence at present, the IIT alumnus is yet again ready for testing the political fertility of states that would go for elections this year. In India, politics is not

about optimistic, chauvinistic melodrama alone. It is largely about the brand that parties are successful in showcasing. For the BJP, brand Modi's indefatigable market rating has unequivocally gained an upper hand. Brand Rahul's latest clairvoyant makeover needs to grow more convincing and uninterruptedly present in the political conscience of India. His Yatra should not throw him and his party into a self-hypnotic hallucination or a deluding mania that his strides across the country would take him straight away to Lok Kalyan Marg. National elections 2024 is speculated to be a fight against brand Modi but brand Rahul's emergence is a meagre chance.

(Freelance Journalist/Author of "India @ 75- A Contemporary Approach")

# Seven years devastation remembered at Singerbond



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 10:

As it is done in Manipur, the 189th death anniversary of Maharaj Gambhir Singh was also observed on the yesterday at Singerbond in Cachar District of Assam in a simple function organized by the All Assam Manipuri Muslims Students Union (AAMMSU) under the theme 'Reconciliation and Reconsolidation of Manipuri people through the remembrance of the incidence of the 7 years devastation in Manipur during 1819 to 1826'. The observance held at the premises of the Royal Public Higher Secondary School,

Dolugram, Singerbond was attended by the Principal of Lilong Haozeib College Dr. Md. Rahejuddin Sheikh, General Secretary of All Assam Manipuri Muslims Students Union (AAMMSU) Md. Abdul Habib Chowdhury, President of North East Panga Association (NEPA) Assam Chapter Md. Basir Ahmed, Vice Chairman of Manipuri Muslim Citizen Forum Md. Ziaul Islam Chowdhury as the Chief Guest and presidium members respectively.

Giving his address in the gathering, the Chief Dr. Rahejuddin Sheikh emphasized the dire need of reconsolidation of the

Manipuri People residing in different parts of Assam, Tripura, Bangladesh and Myanmar by organizing such remembrance every year, create emotional ties amongst each other, enhance unity, integrity and peaceful co-existence though separated physically far apart from each other. The younger generations need to study the history of our patriots, their sacrifice for the cause of the nation, their struggle to protect our unique identity and culture. The youngsters should also continue to protect, preserve and foster the rich cultural heritage of the Manipuri People which is not seen in any other parts of the world.

# New housing project "Panthoibi Green House" launched

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 10:

The sister company Panthoibi construction Pvt. Limited of Panthoibi Housing Finance Company Limited (PHFCL) launched new housing project "Panthoibi Green House" at Khabam Bamdiar near International Airport. It is the new special project in Manipur.

This Panthoibi Green House project give many facilities like if someone who are to ready for buying Pucca

house at greater Imphal area and this housing project ready the area Point 6 (2610 sq. ft) for them.

The Panthoibi Housing Finance Company Limited (PHFCL) offer the home Loan for money and materials to the buyer of the plots.

This project offer to those buyer that if buyer pay full payment at one time and this project offer 10% discount to those buyer.

If the buyer pay 50% of the payment and they should payment for 1 year

with 0.85% interest like installment for each months and this mode of payment discount 5% to the buyer of the plots. This housing project offer if some buyer payment 5 lakhs at one time and those buyer should installment for 3 years.

If anyone wants to buy plots that they can easily buy plots by using above options.

The Panthoibi Green House would have Playground, club house, commercial Building, Health Care facilities in that areas at future.

## Sports

# Ace shuttlers Saina, Srikanth make first round exits from Malaysia Open

Agency  
Kuala Lumpur, Jan 10:

Ace Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth's woeful run continued as they suffered first round exits from the season-opening Malaysia Open here on Tuesday.

Two-time Commonwealth Games champion Saina, who endured a tough 2022, battling multiple injuries and a lack of form, went down 12-21 21-17 12-21 to Han Yue of China in the USD 1,250,000 Super 1000 tournament.

Having lost the first game, Saina, who has slipped to world number 30, fought back to force a decider in a women's singles first-round match.

However, the 2012 Olympic bronze medalist fell behind as Han built a sizable lead to take the fixture comfortably.

Former world number one Srikanth's surrender was



Ace Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth

tamer. The world championship silver medalist, who has also been struggling for form recently, was stunned by the unseeded Kenta Nishimoto of Japan 19-21 14-21 in 42 minutes.

Srikanth ranked 13th, fought hard in the opening game, but Nishimoto managed to take the lead.

The two shuttlers were tied at 12-12 in the second game but the Japanese ran away with the contest from there.

It was also curtains for

Akarshi Kashyap who was outplayed 10-21 8-21 by Wen Chi Hsu of Chinese Taipei in her women's singles opener.

Later in the day, the women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will take on Hong Kong's Yeung Nga Ting and Yeung Pui Lam, and, Krishna Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Panjala will open their campaign against South Korea's Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae in the men's doubles first round.

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# Six students' bodies demand....

The callousness of the DMU authority is further accentuated due to the non-declaration of the results of 88 Assistant Professors whose viva-voce had been completed long before. Additionally, the results of the non-teaching, which include the three key posts — Registrar, Exam Controller and Finance Officer - recruitment process has also been delayed without any valid reason.

Such an unfulfilling situation has resulted in the delaying of acquiring 12 (B) status for DM University. It has come to our notice that the Registrar of DM University had written a letter to the Commissioner, Higher and technical Education, Manipur on 11th June 2022 urging to move DP for the approval and processing the declaration of Results for different posts.

Reportedly, there has been no reply in this regard. The circumstantial evidence forces the students' community to ask whether there is any hidden agenda on the part of the authority concerned behind such delays in processing the needful.

Therefore, the Minister of Education, the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Vice-Chancellor is apprised to initiate steps towards safe-

guarding University's common welfare without any further delay so that the frequent disturbance to academic atmosphere in DM Campus, particularly the Post-Graduate Courses be avoided.

The student bodies warn serious series of agitations if the state government fails to intervene to resolve the pending issues in the larger interest of the state - Manipur.

# IFFI's 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow....

Mr. Hamom Ashish Kumar Singh, selected in the editing category in the second edition, spoke to Imphal Times about the enriching experiences he gained from IFFI 2022. He never had formal training in film-specific courses though he had an undergraduate degree in electronic media from Chennai. However, his interest in filmmaking had him join a few film-related workshops in Imphal.

**Edited excerpts from the interview:**

**The IFFI is considered one of the most extravagant film festivals in India. How was the accommodation provided to you, given that you are one of the finest young filmmakers the IFFI has chosen among the so-called 75 creative minds?**

It was a great privilege to be a part of the 53rd IFFI, GOA 2022, as one of the 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT). It was an unforgettable experience. Soon after I received the news that I had been selected among the 75, I received flight tickets to and from Imphal. So, I left Imphal on November 17 and reached Goa the next day. To my surprise, a representative from the organizers was at the airport and arranged a cab to drop us at the hotel where we stayed during the festival.

After reaching the hotel, I met a few other participants of 75 CMOT, and we started getting to know each other and our backgrounds of work experience. I got the opportunity to understand how filmmaking works in different parts of the country since the selected participants are from different cities and villages I have never been to. If we talk about accommodation, it is satisfactory. All 75 of us stayed in the same hotel (Treehouse Neptune, Panaji). Though it was for a short period, we had a great time learning from each other. It was an excellent platform for me to explore and engage with the brightest minds in the film industry during the cine fiesta.

**What challenges and opportunities have you encountered in your recent visit to Goa? How do you view your journey as a filmmaker in IFFI?**

My journey was full of excitement and challenges. I have learned new things that I have never experienced before. Youngsters from different parts of India contributed their ideas and skills to make a film, which was one of the tasks we needed to complete and compete. On the following day of our arrival, all 75 participants were grouped into five, comprising 15 persons. The five groups were

named Green, Yellow, Red, Purple, and Pink. And each team is a combination of a Director, a Scriptwriter, actors, a Music composer, Cinematographers, Editors, VFX, a Graphic designer, a Singer, a Sound Recordist, and a whole set of a film crew in each team. Before the film challenge began, the pre-production work started, and all the teams were briefly notified of the film competition's rules and technical specifications. We were made familiar with the shooting equipment and post productions workstation. And each team was assigned a story selected by a jury group on the theme INDIA @ 100.

**How much time did the groups take to complete the film, and were the groups given adequate equipment, budget, and other requirements to pull off the task of making a film? Have you faced any challenges since you have not worked with any participants?**

Each team was given a budget of Rs. 30,000/- each as a shooting budget. Also, a line producer assisted each team in catering to the needs of whatsoever arose during the shooting period. In no time, everybody got engaged with their project. Some did reece of the shooting location; some started auditioning the extra actors as per the requirement of the scripts. It was exciting and challenging for us to shoot, edit and make a film in 53 hrs. Working as a team with all the new individuals was the most challenging part. Each team has its hustle and disagreement, but amidst all the chaos, the goal was to finish the film, and the clock was ticking. Some teams kicked off for the shooting as soon as the challenge began, and some were waiting for the right time and space per the demands of the particular script.

**Since you have been selected from the editors' category, was your work in this film challenge restricted to only the editing part?**

Since filmmaking is a team effort, I helped my team complete the work as soon as possible. Therefore, I took the opportunity to assist my team wherever possible, for the team's main goal was to win the challenge. Our team also set off for the shoot, and we were engaged in completing the maximum takes possible before sunset. And I, as an Editor, had not much to do while the shoot was still incomplete, so I observed the tasks well and assisted my team in ensuring that our efforts didn't go in vain.

**To make a film in 53 hours, from the pre-production stage to the production stage, seems to be a daunting task. What challenges**

**and tribulations have you faced in these crucial 53 hours?**

It was indeed a challenge for all the teams. All the teams were racing against the time. And ours needed to catch up because of the nature of the script. As our location was on the beach, early morning and evening before sunset was the only good time for the shoot, as the brightness of the reflection from the sea could hamper the exposure of the scenes. So day one was gone, and only 30% of the shoot was done. On November 22, our team set off early, reached the beach at around 7.30 am, and started our work at precisely 8.30 am. All the team members put their heart & soul, and their dedication was outstanding. We were tuned in at the same zone, and each concerned department was engrossed in their professionalism as we couldn't afford any mistakes at the time. On day 2, my work as an Editor commenced in the challenge HUB. Our team GREEN had two editors: me and Diganta Bora from Assam. The footage was dumped at our workstation, and we were working on it. But sadly, some of the scenes had to be reshoot, and the needful was done the following day. All five post-production units were engaged with their edits, and an arrangement of working in shifts was devised to get the work done on time, considering one's need for rest. We had less than 24hrs to deliver the film, and we were on the hot seat.

We managed to finish the movie, but as an editor, I wasn't fully satisfied with the edit, but it wasn't only my case, as all the other teams felt the same. We could have done better if we could buy more time. The challenge time was up, and all the team had given their best.

**What was the result of the film challenge, and how do you feel about the film that received the best film award, given the fact that the film was made within 53 hours?**

The result was quite interesting. We were so surprised and elated to learn that the grand jury was none other than the legendary film director, scriptwriter, and producer of Indian cinema, Mr. Mani Ratnam. Our films were screened in INOX to decide

the best the next day. The result was announced, but unfortunately, our team didn't get the title of the best film. But we managed to clinch the title for the best screenplay and actor. We were satisfied with the result and had no regrets since the challenge was mainly to learn the skills and art of filmmaking. And, more importantly, the collaborative efforts of the participants. Team purple won the best film, and they deserve it. Winning and losing was just a part of the process, but the thrill and the zeal we experienced in that 53 hrs was something I will cherish and harbor in my mind for the rest of my days.

**Apart from this film challenge, what other opportunities did you get during the 53rd edition of the International Film Festival in Goa? And lastly, what recommendation or suggestion would you offer young filmmakers of the state who aspire to be one of 75 creative minds?**

On November 20, 2022, all 75 CMOTs were felicitated at the opening ceremony of the 53rd IFFI. It was an experience to endure for a lifetime. Apart from the film challenge, the selected candidates got to witness all those megastars and the industry's big names, which we only saw through TV and cinemas earlier. Getting to see them and interacting with them was an enriching experience. Moreover, I also witnessed the 53rd IFFI celebrating the 50 years of Manipuri Golden Cinema with renowned filmmakers of our state, which was the icing on the cake.

I consider IFFI's 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow a stepping stone for talented young filmmakers in India. Therefore, I highly recommend this Government of India initiative to young filmmakers of the state. Every year, there would be an addition of different tasks apart from the film challenge, and it would equip young filmmakers with the skills and confidence required to make good films. Moreover, it is an opportunity to share knowledge with people from different parts of the country. And later on, the participants can collaborate to produce meaningful films. I would be delighted to help people who want to complete this '75 Creative Minds' initiative.

## Marksheet Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Marksheet of Poorva Madhyama Examination Second Year / X Standard, bearing Roll No. 181038 of 2019, issued by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi on the way between Pishumthong to Paona Bazar on January 5, 2023.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Malemgnabi Oinam