

Students demand for resignation of Education Minister and Commissioner rising up

“Police foils protestors attempt to storm at the office of the Education Minister”

IT News
Imphal, Jan 12:

With the state government authority giving no response to the demand for resignation of Education Minister and Commissioner of the Government of Manipur, large number of students of the GP Women College today staged protest and marched towards the Education Minister, Th. Basantakumar, at Secretariat complex here in Imphal today afternoon by carrying banners and placards expressing their grievances.

The students also demanded appointment of regular Registrar, Finance Officer, and Controller of Examination of the University.

The girl students from the GP Women College were however stopped and disperse by a strong team of Manipur police before reaching the secretariat complex. There are no reports of any students being injured in police action.

Failure to comply with the rules and regulations that has to be followed by the DM University authority was established under Dhanamanjuri



University Act, 2017 and came into force on April 6, 2018, the University Grant Commission, 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.

Earlier, a peaceful protest was staged inside the DM University complex. The student bodies are agitating over non-sending of the list of bonafide

teaching and non-teaching staffs to the University Grants Commission. Thus as a matter of fact, 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.

Meanwhile, a Special General Body Meeting of D.M. University Teachers' Association (DMUTA) held today morning at DM College of Arts Auditorium has resolved to Re-endorsed the suspension of Post-Graduate teaching and Pre-Ph.D. Course work; Re-endorsed the perusal of 12(B) status for DM University so as to make DMU

a full fledged University and to ensure timely release of scholarship and stipends for JRF, NET & Registered Ph.D. Scholars in D.M.U.; Re-endorsed the demand for placement and promotion of bifurcated teachers of DMU through D.M. University authority; The members resolved to continue with their demands and fully extend support to the line of action as to be undertaken by DMUTA, Imphal unless the Resolution as adopted in 1,2 and 3 are concretely addressed by the concerned authority.

The GB Meeting was graced by MA Halim Shah, Convenor-General, DMUTA, Dr.N.Nalini, GPWomens' College, Dr.N.Jayanti, Convenor-Finance, DMUTA and chaired by B. Shantikumar Sharma, President, DMUTA.

The meeting was attended by members of DMUTA from the five constituent colleges, DM College of Science, DM College of Arts, DM College of Commerce, GP Womens' College, LMS Law College and after thorough deliberation the members present unanimously resolved to undertake the following Resolutions.

Service extension of retired government employees irked ex-parliamentarian

IT News
Imphal, Jan 12:

Ex-parliamentarian B.D. Behring had showed serious concern to the service extension of retired government employees when the government had taken stand not to it.

B.D. Behring, a former member of the Rajya Sabha and also a former member of the Manipur legislative Assembly, while talking to Imphal Times over phone said that he is not satisfied with the way that the state government is either extending or re-engaging retired government officers when there is an order issued by the Manipur Government in the past to not allow re-appointment or re-engagement of retired employees.

The former parliamentarian however demanded clarification on whether the order has been changed or not.

In a written statement, the former parliamentarian, B.D. Behring said, "It is the norm for a government employee to retire from their job after reaching 60-65 years of age and consequently make way for the next employee in line to succeed them via promotion".

However, in Manipur, there have been many cases wherein the retired employee extends his/her service by six months and so forth which stops the next senior-most employee from getting his/her due promotion which must have resulted in many senior

employees retiring before getting promoted, Behring added.

The ex-parliamentarian statement comes amidst government decision to re-engage or extended the service of some top government employee.

Earlier, spokesperson of the government headed by N. Biren Singh had stated that employees dealing technical related work may be extended if there are not to replace him as per qualification and experience. However, even after having more number of qualified engineers the state cabinet had recently re-engaged a top officer of the power department when there is already a court order quashing his extension earlier.

Amit Shah's Manipur hate-speech - An Act of Cowardice: AMUCO

IT News
Imphal, Jan 12:

In the strongest terms, the All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation (AMUCO) condemned the speech of the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah who remarked Manipur as a nation without any history, culture, myth or legend and mentioned Manipur as Mahabharat's Babruvahan's Manipur in a public meeting held on 6 January 2023 at the Moirang Chengel Lampak. The AMUCO demanded a public apology from the home minister at the earliest failing which a wide public agitation would be launched, stated a release

from the secretary publicity, AMUCO.

The AMUCO questioned the position of Amit Shah as if he was a scholar or a historian. Cautioning the home minister not to repeat his act of cowardice in the future, the AMUCO reminded the home minister about the millennia old history of Manipur which comprised of rich cultural heritage, tradition, multi-ethnicity, religion, language, folklores, myths and legends. The concocted speech of the home minister regarding Manipur could be seen as the clear caudron of India's imperialist design as well as direct mockery of the history of Manipur and her people, stated the release.

Eewai continues to win laurels

IT News
Imphal, Jan 12:

Renowned actor Leishangthem Tonhoingambi popularly known as Tonhoi bags the best female actor at the 2nd Season of Goa International Film Competition for the film Eewai (The Ripple). The film is directed by Bishwamitra under the banner Nongdol Mamikol. Earlier Tonhoi also received the best female actor at the Global Independent Film Festival of India, 2022 held at Kolkata. Eewai had won



many national and international awards, semi-finalist and official selections. The film was recently awarded for

the best experimental film at the Northeast India International Film Festival, 2022 at Dimapur.

The film is about the Meitei Community of Manipur (India), when a child who dies before he attains the age of 3 years, is to be considered a bad OMEN to the family and all customary post-mortem ceremonies are deprived of. No sacred offerings are performed for the departed soul to be with the ancestors and God in the heaven. Even if offered, was a rotten fruit, rotten betel nut, burnt pea seeds... with the chanting to the soul. "Come back only when the burnt pea seeds germinate". The family is sup-

posed not to mourn grief over the death of the infant, they are rather forbade even to utter the name of the infant. But, for a mother, her child shall always be her child no matter how old or young the child might have been. The tradition compelled the mother to suppress the outburst of her grief and emotions, saying that it's impious to grief for an unholy soul. This social norms is often supported with the reasoning that this would help the parents specially the mother to tide over the bad phase soon.

The Editorial: Ensure freedom to the 'Freedom of Speech and Expression'

Every learned citizen know that the executive, the legislature and the judiciary, which are the three vital organs of the government have separate functions and powers, and one organ does not interfere in the functioning of the others. In order to ensure that one organ abuses their power and does not become all too powerful, there is a doctrine in the Constitution called - Checks and balances. The unfortunate part is that there is no such provisions specifically mention for the media, which they always called - 'the fourth pillar'. Even though there are provisions that ensure freedom of speech and expression for all citizens. The non inclusion of 'press freedom' was justified by Dr. Ambedkar, the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constitution of India saying that - "no special mention of the freedom of press was necessary at all as the press and the individual or a citizen were same as far as their right of expression was concerned. Perhaps, Dr. Ambedkar was right. Had there been any specific provision for 'press freedom' in the constitution, media may not be able to act as an effective organ of the society that can point fingers at the crumbling of the 'checks and balances' of power between the three vital organs running the government.

It's a fact that since human civilization evolved 'media' has always acted as the nation's conscience. It is today and will continue to be the nation's conscience. But what is concerned is that - Is our media on the right track reflecting the true picture of our society and the nation.

Forget about the media around the world or in other state of India, the things that is worrying is whether journalists working in media in this small state of Manipur on the right track. Has today's journalists in Manipur able to points and provoke the authority to act to the crumbling relationships to the separation of powers between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. What has gone wrong with those in media of today's Manipur? Yes, something is seriously wrong with the media in Manipur.

It is not because they are not paid well, but their pens have now been controlled by either the legitimate state authority or by non-state actors who are now under the controlled of those running the state. Today, future of Manipur's journalism sees no light at the end of the tunnel.

Judiciary - one among the three vital organ of our democracy is slowly losing its dignity with man in power dishonouring High Court order.

For example, one Dr. L. Ranjit whose appointment as in-charge director of RIMS has been quashed by the High Court of Manipur continue to remain in the post and another top official of MSPDCL whose service extension has been quashed by the High Court was again re-engaged by a cabinet decision of the state government.

For expressing this, there may be intimidation to this writer through any means, or perhaps, may face the fate of Sr. Journalist Ningombam Hemanta, who was recently picked up from Home in connection with his comment in a TV discussion programme.

Some half cooked pseudo-intellectual often criticized resource citizens or even journalists as if they understand more the Freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19 (1) (a) and (2) of the Indian constitution. These pseudo-intellectuals seem to forget that violation of Article 19 (2) by any individual can be booked and convicted. No journalists in the state have violated this provision of the Indian constitution and non have been arrested and convicted under this provision.

Journalism is not only about reporting the development part. Rather it is about finding the wrongs in the process of development. There are lots of funds that can be utilized for publicity of every project to make sure that the development works taken up by the government reaches to all the public. Report about irregularity in taking up government project does not amount to violation of the Article 19 (2) of the Indian constitution.

As a student of journalism, we were/are taught that "Editorials condemn the venality of politicians and corruption in office. If there is a political or social controversy, media should have opinion one way or the other".

The preconception idea of some people including political parties, that journalist can be bought and used should be immediately defied.

Millets are rightly called a 'Superfood'

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Coarse grains or cereals like Jowar, Bajra, Ragi (Madua), Barley, Kodo, Sama, Sawa, Kutki, Kangni, and Cheena are

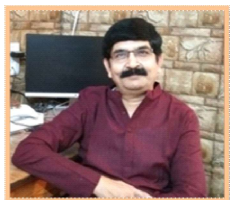
called millets. Now the craze for these coarse grains is increasing across the world. On India's proposal, the United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

The current year is being celebrated as the International Year of Millets. On India's insistence, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in April 2021, after which 2023 was declared the year of millets. It aims to raise public awareness about the health benefits of millet. Earlier, in April 2018, millets were branded as 'Nutri-cereals' and the government declared it the National Year of Millets with an aim to generate more production and demand. Cereals like Jowar, Bajra, Ragi (Madua), Barley, Kodo, Sama, Sawa, Kutki, Kangni, and Cheena are millets. The craze for these coarse grains is increasing all over the world. Foreign guests who have visited India often like the dishes made from millet. More than 90 percent of millet production is in the developing countries of Africa and Asia. India is the largest producer of millet in the world. Millet is also beneficial for the farmers as these crops take very little water and require less water.

Millets are called superfoods, as they are full of nutrients including protein, fiber, and minerals, and are good for health. Apart from reducing obesity, they also reduce the risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart-related diseases. Along with this, they are also helpful in preventing stomach and liver diseases. Millets are beneficial in fighting malnutrition, as they are naturally packed with energy as well as protein. Millet is rich in dietary fiber and it helps in controlling blood pressure and sugar levels. Millet supports the good bacteria in the digestive tract. Since it contains more essential amino acids than other grains, it helps the body's tissues to grow and repair. It is rich in antioxidants like ferulic acid and catechins, which protect the body from harmful oxidative stress. Awareness about the health benefits of millet has improved post-Covid but needs more attention.

Some startups are now developing products like Millet Cookies, Millet Pancakes, Millet Dosa, Millet Energy Bars, Millet Breakfast, and many more. The Agriculture Department had recently organized a special 'Millet Lunch' for the Members of Parliament. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar started the new year celebration with a breakfast of millet. The flour of Bajra (Pearl Millet) has a warming effect, that's why Bajra roti keeps the body warm in winter. The Chandigarh administration has included millet products in its hotels and outlets. Similarly, Bajra Halwa, Bajra Kheer, and Bajra Cutlets are included in the menu of UT Guest House in Chandigarh. A counter of sweets made of millets has also been opened in the Navrajn shop of Chandigarh Jail Administration. Millets have been made an integral part of G-20 meetings. Millets Festival and food festivals are to be celebrated in Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, and Punjab. This year, Indian embassies in over 140 countries will increase their focus on millets by organizing side events involving the Indian diaspora through exhibitions, seminars, talks, and panel discussions.

India's 'sinking town' - Joshimath



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Joshimath is the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib and international skiing destination Auli. It is the winter seat of Lord Badrinath, whose idol is brought from the main Badrinath temple in Joshimath to the Vasudev temple every winter. Joshimath is an important pilgrimage center for Hindus. The unfolding disaster in Uttarakhand's historic town of Joshimath shows why the section of the Himalayas in this state is extremely fragile. Joshimath, located in a fragile

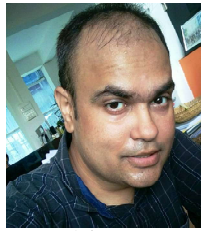
geological terrain, is dogged by construction, growing population, tourism and other human-driven pressures without adequate precautionary counter-measures, scientists and citizens seeking environment-friendly development. It is a weighty reminder that we are messing up with our environment to an extent that is irreversible. The Shankaracharya Math in the city has also developed cracks at many places, posing a threat to the Math. According to the expert report, Land subsidence in Joshimath is primarily due to the National Thermal Power Corporation's Tapovan Vishnugad Hydro Power Project and is a very grave reminder that people are messing up with the environment to an extent that is irreversible. Joshimath is a clear example of what one should not do in the Himalayas. The number of devotees in Char Dham towns was 24 lakh in 2017 and nearly doubled to 45 lakh by 2022. The burden on two major hill stations, Mussoorie and Nainital, is also increasing. With the exception of the two seasons affected by the Covid pandemic, there has been a significant increase in the number of tourists visiting these tourist destinations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured all possible help to save Joshimath. As per the reports, concerns about subsidence in Joshimath date back for decades. A scientific panel had in 1976 underscored that Joshimath is situated "on an old landslide zone and is sinking" and recommended that heavy construction be banned in the area.

In the year 1970 also incidents of land subsidence in Joshimath were reported. A panel set up under the chairmanship of Garhwal Commissioner Mahesh Chandra Mishra had submitted a report in 1978, saying that major construction works should not be carried out in the city and the Niti and Mana valleys as these areas are situated on moraines — a mass of rocks, sediment, and soil transported and deposited by a glacier. There have been numerous climate risk events recorded like high rainfall events triggering landslides

contd. on page 3

Frontier Nagaland Movement- Towards a better world, a humane world



By: Dr. Aniruddha Babar

"A just society is that society in which ascending sense of reverence and descending sense of contempt is dissolved into the creation of a compassionate society"

~ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

In a relaxing, laidback and bit lazy world of the Nagas interesting events have been unfolding at the speed of a light. Eastern Nagaland People's Organization is fighting an epic battle for the restoration of the 'Constitutional Rights' of the Eastern Naga people under the able, visionary and historic leadership of Shri R. Tsapikiu Sangtam, ENPO President and Shri K. Asungba Sangtam, former MP, Talk Team Convener.

It is for the first time in decades old history of the Frontier Nagaland Movement, it has reached at the grass root level, successfully stationed at the negotiation table with Ministry of Home Affairs, became the headline of national and international newspapers and able to garner support from different parts of the state of Nagaland and India. Such a miracle has never happened before.

The Frontier Nagaland Movement is inching towards a logical conclusion. The movement has now been able to garner a support from every corner of Nagaland and India. Naga-Non Naga, Eastern Naga/ Western Naga all this barriers have been broken down by strong support system that this movement has been able to strategically construct. It has truly become a movement of people who believe in the constitutional ideals of Justice, Equality, Liberty and Fraternity, who believes in universal justice and Indian ethos of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" - THE WORLD IS ONE FAMILY.

Frontier Nagaland movement has not remained simply a movement for a demand of a separate federal unit like State or the Union Territory in the Union of India, but it has now immensely strengthened to rise as a great catalyst on the political horizon

of the state of Nagaland. Politics in Nagaland is going to change forever once the Frontier Nagaland Movement reaches to its logical conclusion. We are witnessing the second "renaissance" period in the political history of the Nagas after the formation of Naga Club in 1918 - a century ago. We are witnessing the 'extraordinary' days. Entire India is observing 'God's chosen people' who are involved in the Frontier Nagaland Movement - the Leaders, Activists and the Lawyers. The role that Lawyers, Intellectuals including the statesmen are playing in this movement is marvelous. Frontier Nagaland Movement could be the only movement in Nagaland or may be in the Northeast region where people from different walks of life, communities and ethnicities came forward voluntarily to contribute. There is a beautiful Urdu quote of Shri Majrooh Sultanpuri, "Main Akela hi chala tha jameeb-e-manzil, magar log saath aate gaye aur karwa banta gaya" ("I walked alone to my destination but people kept coming along and the caravan kept getting formed"). This is actually a story of Frontier Nagaland Movement of which I am also a part - as a Constitutional/Legal Expert, a people's Advocate, a Writer, a Teacher; may be a dreamer, philosopher, a common Indian, a human too.

This movement has revealed so many things to us. It has taught us how an awakened Eastern Naga who was kept in a political amnesia for six decades woke up to stand upright to claim what belongs to him - "The Rights". This movement revealed hidden 'class system' in Nagaland which became successful in creating a modern 'Political Caste System' in last six decades where Man from the Eastern Nagaland has been thrown at the very bottom of the political system without any scope to reach political equality. This movement taught us the unity among 'broken and forgotten people'. This movement taught us as to how some leaders are men of iron solid integrity who cannot be bought and sold. This movement taught us as to how strong willed women leaders can lead the movement fearlessly. This movement also taught us as to how and why the honest leaders and the concerned people of the movement should protect the sanctity and purity of people's movement from the cruel eyes and evil designs of "JUDAS ISCARIOT" type characters.

Frontier Nagaland Movement is willing to write a new story in the

history of the Nagas through struggle and determination. Eastern Nagas have chosen the light. It is easy to embrace darkness but difficult to choose the light. As my Father used to say, "Only courageous can fly towards the LIGHT", today the children of Eastern Nagaland are flying towards light that they never knew existed.

It is not that this movement is free from enemies. There are enemies and the people around us who have been praying for the derailment of the movement, but I think it's too late now. As I learned, JAR of The SIN of Kohima is already filled. It took sixty long years, a long time indeed, however, Karma played its role and none can escape from its clutches.

When Eastern Nagaland was 'troubled' and 'harassed' left and right, mainstream Naga organizations kept mum, when money from Delhi never seen the door sill of the Eastern Nagaland, not a single mainstream Naga organization raised a voice, when government employees refused to remain in their stations in the eastern region, all closed their eyes, when doctors-nurses-teachers disappeared from their jobs in various locations at Eastern region, Nagaland ignored, when Free Movement Regime (FMR) was becoming super-hot spot of Drugs movement & gun battles and an international highway for Human Trafficking, Kohima chose to tie "Black Cloth Bandage" on its eyes exactly like "Dhritarashtra" in "Mahabharata". When Tikhir, Khiamniungan, Konyak children are physically harassed and put to slavery in the posh, rich houses located at the wealthy neighborhoods in Mokokchung, Kohima, Dimapur, Chumukedima, Nuland, Tsemnyu - no NSF, no GNF, no NMA, no Naga solidarity organization, no peace organization, no justice organization ever raised voice.

I was often asked this specific question - "Are you not scared to roam in THOSE areas, so backward and scary, right"? I could never answer this question. What should I tell them? Should I tell them that I have my friends and families there who wait for my visits? Should I tell them that Mt. Saramati and Mt. Khelia king are my teachers? Or should I tell them that I secretly dream to work in the East and build a small home and take my last breath? Should I tell them that I resonate with suffering of my people in the East? Who will understand? My visits to Noklak was the last

compelling push by destiny that broke opened my heart and finally dragged me in the Frontier Nagaland Movement - who will listen? I don't need to look like Naga to feel like a Naga, who will understand? Suffering has no face actually - Universal Truth!

Major problem in India is that there are hardly handful of people who understand "Nagaland and the Nagas", also, in Nagaland the epic problem is nobody understands Eastern Nagaland and the Eastern Nagas. As I started openly advocating the need for "Frontier Nagaland" many interesting developments started happening around me. Many so called wise souls among friend circle advised me to not to jump on the conclusion 'too fast'. It is very convenient to offer suggestions, isn't it? However, all such comments came from people who never ever step out of Dimapur or Kohima to reach the eastern lands. I do not respect intellectuals or whoever, who have no courage or guts to dig out the truth with their own hands and brain. People who discover truth speaks different language.

There is no legal, constitutional or political barrier whatsoever exist to deter Eastern Nagas to achieve their goal - The Frontier Nagaland however, they have to be very careful. Jealousy, lust for power, eye on political mileage and hunger for fame will ruin the GOD driven Movement. Wisdom does not come from sky, it has to be inculcated, and this wisdom will only save our Eastern leaders belonging to different tribes from falling prey to the traps of political, economic lust.

Frontier Nagaland Movement is certainly not a movement for 'backward' people who are enjoying stable, steady, prosperous life in Dimapur, Kohima or any other developed region in Nagaland.

I hold the GOD given right to 'remind' the leaders and the activists of the movement that they are fighting for the rights of 'invisible and inaccessible people' living in the 'in-accessible and invisible' regions of Eastern Nagaland who do not even know the meaning of rights, justice, governance or the nation. Frontier Nagaland Movement is a struggle for a better tomorrow.

The last Indian standing on the Indo-Burma Border is waiting for "HOPE" and "LIFE" - LET US GIVE HIM and "FREED" HIM.

(The author is a Professor, Dept of Political Science, Tetsu College, Nagaland)

Get Success in Walk-In-Interview

By: Kaustov Kashyap

Once you complete your education, the next important step in your life is to find a suitable job. If you didn't get the chance to crack your college placements, don't worry. You can still prepare well to face several walk-in-interviews. However, with an increase in the competition, one needs to perform the best to get selected in a job interview.

Whether you are a fresh graduate or an experienced professional, facing a job interview fears many job seekers. However, to find a lucrative job, it is imperative to prepare well in advance and be a winner. One of the most common methods for finding a job is walk-in job interviews. It is a method of conducting interviews to screen and recruit the right job applicant without prior appointment or interview call. So, to do well in such interviews, you need to follow certain guidelines and prepare well:

Visit the Company's Website

At the time of attending an interview in any organization, it is imperative to study the company's details in terms of its operations,

achievements, and plans. The best way to do this is by visiting its official website. Getting all such details makes you feel more confident and prepares you to perform well in the interview. The clearer you are about the company's details, the more you can relate to your skills and justify the reasons why the company should hire you.

Make Your Resume Look Catchy

It is imperative to prepare a professional resume to catch a recruiter's attention. Give special attention to the format, skills added, and information of your resume. Remember, a recruiter gets to see your resume before you appear for the interview and helps you create an impression on him/her. Hence, it is important to make it interesting to the recruiter by customizing it as per the job description. The best way to create a winning resume is by using various free online resume maker websites available on the internet that creates a professional resume matching your requirements in seconds.

Dress Professionally

At the time of appearing for a walk-in interview, it is important to give special attention to the way you are dressed up. Never take your dressing lightly because a casual or unprofessional look might be a reason to reject you in an interview. Every employer wants a person who is professional in his attitude, so dress up professionally.

Be Read with Ideas and Ex-

amples

To be shortlisted in an interview, it is important to support your accomplishments and strengths mentioned in your resume with relevant ideas and examples, whenever required. This gives a good impression to the employer, who believes that you are not a person of mere words, but also have examples to support your achievements.

You appear for any walk-in interview only if you find the job opening interesting and as per your career plans. In such a situation, you would not want to miss this opportunity by making any grave mistake.

So, the best way to ensure success in your job interview is to go prepared and face the interview with confidence. Starting from creating the first impression on your recruiter through an impressive resume to studying the company by visiting its website, the right approach can ensure your success in the interview.

(The author is a HR & Career Consultant)

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Bombay High Court lifts a ban on the Manufacture and Sale of Johnson & Johnson's Baby Powder

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Jan 12:

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday set aside the orders of the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA), restraining Johnson & Johnson Private Limited from manufacturing baby powder at its facility at Mulund in North East Mumbai.

The order was passed on a petition filed by Johnson & Johnson challenging the cancellation of cosmetic manufacturing license of its baby powder facility by Maharashtra FDA.

The petition pointed out that the Joint Commissioner & Licensing Authority, FDA, Maharashtra had issued an order on September 15, 2022

cancelling the company's license, effective from December 15, 2022. Five days later, the commissioner reviewed the order and directed the company to stop manufacture and sale of the baby powder manufactured at its Mulund plant with immediate effect.

On Wednesday, a division bench comprising Justices GS Patel and SG Dige allowed the sale of product after noting the submission of Johnson that of the 11 to 12 samples of the baby powder tested by the FDA, only two were non-compliant with the concerned quality standards. The Court also noted that there was delay by FDA in taking action after the test results had come in 2018. The Court also questioned how non-compliance of a particular batch and deviation

from a standard quality, can lead to shut down of all manufacturing activities.

In its order dated November 18, 2022, a division bench comprising Justices S V Gangapurwala and SG Dige, had directed the FDA to send fresh samples of the baby powder to three laboratories for testing. It also agreed to FDA's demand that the sale or distribution of the baby powder should not be permitted for the time being. As per the order the samples were tested in three different laboratories.

Background

The action against the company began when the FDA tested the samples of the powder at its laboratories in Pune and Nashik on December 20, 2018 and June 27, 2019 respectively. The Govt Ana-

lyst, FDA, Maharashtra issued a report stating that "The sample does not conform to IS5339: 2004 concerning the test for pH". Then the FDA sent samples to the referral laboratory-Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), Govt of India, Kolkata, which confirmed the report.

However the J & J challenged the decision of the FDA to send the samples to the CDL.

Then the FDA referred the samples to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), West zone, which too confirmed the report of Govt. Analyst. As such the Maharashtra FA issued a final report stating that "the sample does not conform to IS5339: 2004 concerning the test for pH".

Debanshu Sen - a musical genius from Bengal



IT Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 12:

You cannot hide a special talent or a genius whenever or however it may be. Debanshu Sen is one such hidden special talent from Bengal. He plays magical Santoor and at 27 he is already the music director of three feature films. One Hindi film is on the verge of completion and two Hindi/Tamil bilingual films will commence shortly.

Debanshu, the musical genius, was born in Calcutta (now Kolkata) to Partha Prathim Sen and Kabita Sen. Partha Prathim Sen is a supremely talented music director by profession and Debanshu creates musical tunes along with him. Partha Prathim Sen is inspired by the legendary music director Ilaiyaraaja as

his musical tunes remind people of the living legend.

Kabita Sen is a well known advocate in Calcutta (now Kolkata) and she is also the founder and managing director of KS Art Entertainment. KS Art Entertainment is a film production house based in Kolkata. Kabita Sen has tremendous knowledge about music and films too. Kabita Sen resembles the multiple national award winning actress Late Smita Patil.

Debanshu has three films in his kitty for which he is extremely excited. The major genre of those films are mainstream cinema thrillers. Debanshu is very much excited that he will be recording two playbacks in the voice of the Padma Vibhushan awarded singing queen Asha Bhonsle in the coming weeks. Debanshu will be also seen performing his divine and magical Santoor at the Wembley Stadium, London in 2024.

India sees 197 new Covid-19 infections, Active cases drop to 2,309

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 12:

India saw a single-day rise of 197 new coronavirus infections with active cases declining to 2,309, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The total tally of Covid cases was recorded at 4.46 crore (4,46,80,583).

The overall death toll

stands at 5,30,723 with one death reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The daily positivity was recorded at 0.10 per cent while the Weekly positivity rate was pegged at 0.11 per cent.

Active cases comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.80 per cent, according to the

health ministry website.

A decrease of 33 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The number of people who have recuperated from the infection surged to 4,41,47,551, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.15 crore doses of Covid vaccine have

been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16, 2020.

It crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, 2021, and four crore on January 25, 2022.

Digital Technology is big Revolution



By: Vijay GarG

The government launched the 'Digital India' initiative to improve the online infrastructure and increase the internet accessibility among its citizens; thereby empowering the country to become more digitally advanced in almost all the sectors and since then there has been no turning back. As we continue to advance in the 21st century, the rise of digital technology has become increasingly evident. We live in a world where modern technology has not only made our lives easier, faster, better but has also cleared the way for multi-functional devices such as smart phones and smart watches.

Digital technology has affected almost every aspect

of our lives. For instance, in the workplace, multiple hardware and software has increased the efficiency and productivity, thereby allowing the businesses to operate globally. In personal lives, the internet has opened a world of information and connectivity, making it easier to stay connected with friends and family.

With the advancements in the field of Science and Technology, electronic gadgets and devices play a vital role. Gadgets such as smartphones, laptops, e-readers, motion sensors, vacuum cleaners, sensor sprinklers, video doorbells, wireless lighting control systems, etc., have made our lives pleasurable and comfortable. Digital technology has modified almost every aspect of modern life so that it is now rare to find an electronic device which does not consolidate digital technology in some way.

Most of the digital tools are more popular among children and likely among elders too. There is no denying the fact that these technologies enhance the learning process of learners by providing them with easy accessibility to the information, deepening their

understanding of difficult concepts and helping them explore new opportunities with the click of a button. As technology continues to grow, the learner starts developing knowledge on various technological skills at an early stage that they will need in the future. It will also make them a good multitasker and a good decision maker.

However, if not put to good use, the same digital technology can also give rise to various physical and psychological issues such as excessive exposure towards social media may cause eyestrain and the learner might face difficulty, focusing on important tasks. At times, it may even lead to serious health conditions such as anxiety or depression.

Today none of us can even imagine a world without the internet, smartphones, tablets, electronic games and other handheld devices. Social media, online gaming and other forms of digital communication have become a part and parcel of our life. The digital world has made it easy to stay connected with friends, family, relatives and work remotely. We can express our views, make videos, share opinions, exchange ideas

and strategies through social applications, websites and software, even if we are in two different corners of the world.

The use of digital technology has even helped in flourishing digital businesses. In a recent report McKinsey highlighted that the 'Digital India' initiative is expected to boost the country's digital economy to \$1 trillion by 2025. Digital technology enables the storage of large amounts of information such as videos, music, reports, etc in relatively small spaces or devices such as mobile phones or drives. Not only this, with continuous advancement over time, the information stored, or the videos can also be edited.

The world of digital technology opens its doors to several learning opportunities. Anybody having access to the internet has the opportunity to the world's knowledge.

Moreover, this technology is beneficial to people with disabilities and can give them regular access. The consumers today are demanding applications that can tell them on their phone how they are doing health wise. The availability of hundreds of health applications such as HealthTap,

WebMD, Apple Health, Pocket Pharmacist, Teladoc, eadspace, Medici and many more have helped the patients to monitor their health and disease, thereby simplifying patient management at hospitals.

Digital technology has changed the lives of people to a great extent. It has changed their way of thinking and learning thereby making them more independent and knowledgeable in almost all aspects of life. Recent developments such as Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence have helped the government to a large extent in providing efficiency in the services they render. There is less paperwork as such technologies allow the government to keep their confidential records in a secure ledger.

Digital technology with digital learning when put to good use will open its gate to digital opportunity i.e. it will lead to opening of new possibilities which will further lead to communication, social networking, collaboration, content management and access to analytics data, along with staff and customer satisfaction.

SPECIAL COURT NDPS, FAST TRACT COURT, MANIPUR IN THE COURT OF Alex Muivah Special Judge, NDPS (FTC), Manipur

PROCLAMATION

(Section 82 of the Code of Criminal Procedure)

State of Manipur

-VS-

Mr. Yamkhogin Touthang

Spl. T 100 of 2022
FIR No. 32(5)1992 Moreh-PS
U/S 21 NDPS Act.

To,
Officer-In-Charge
Moreh Police Station
Manipur

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Mr. Yamkhogin Touthang (21 years, now aged about 51 years, S/o Lhunkhojam Touthang of Moreh Ward No. 1, MRH PS, TPL District, Manipur** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under Section 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said that **Mr. Yamkhogin Touthang** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said that **Mr. Yamkhogin Touthang** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that the said that **Mr. Yamkhogin Touthang (21), now aged about 51 years** is required to appear at Special Court NDPS, Fast Tract Court, Manipur before Special Judge, NDPS (FTC), Manipur to answer the said complaint on the day of **14.02.23**.

Dated, this day of 15.12.22

Sd/-
Alek Muivah
Special Judge, NDPS (FTC), Manipur

POLICE REPORT FOR NEWS PAPER

FIR No. 22(05)2022-MRH-PS/U/S-279, 338, 427, 304 I.P.C.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

That on 09/05/2022, near Khongkhang Village along NH-102 about 32 km. North-West of Moreh Police Station, one Tata Ultra 1012, white in colour, bearing Registration No. AS 25BC-3822, have been involved in self accident due to mechanical failure due to slippery of brake.

That, it is to state that during order to the accident all relevant documents necessary to establish ownership such as Registration Card, or Sale Deed of Vehicle etc., have been prominently in the accident.

That, on through investigation, it is found that the rightful owner is, namely, Mrs. Khurajam Luxmi Devi, wife of deceased driver.

That necessary procedure without documents may be process to deliver the vehicle to the rightful owner, i.e. Mrs. Khurajam Luxmi Devi, in the interest of Justice.

Contd. from Page 2

India's 'sinking town'...

Land subsidence has been going on slowly in Joshimath for quite some time but it has increased over the past week with huge cracks appearing in houses, fields and roads. The appearance of cracks on many roads and houses across

Joshimath, due to land subsidence, is neither a new phenomenon in this region — nor a reversible one. The main problem has been the fact that the town has come up on relatively loose soil, deposited by landslides triggered by earthquakes. It is

feared that the Himalayan town may be on the verge of extinction. If things aren't controlled soon, other major areas in Uttarakh and like Mussoorie, Nainital and Dharachula may soon face a similar situation.

The infrastructure develop-

ment has been going on unchecked. Rampant infrastructure development without a plan is making the fragile Himalayan ecosystem even more vulnerable to the effects of climate change which acts as a force-multiplier. It is the need

of the hour that the entire planning should be done at the bio-regional scale that should include what is allowed and what is not and has to be very stringent. We need to have the formation of some strong rules and regulations.

ECI committed to free, fair and inducement-free elections in Tripura: Rajiv Kumar

Agency
Agartala, Jan 12:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday said it is 'committed and duty bound' to conduct free, fair, and inducement-free elections in Tripura.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the ECI has taken all arrangements to allow voters to join the 'festival of democracy' and if a voter faces any threat or intimidation on the day of polling, he or she can use cVigil app to inform the election authorities.

"We had an in-depth discussion on the election process with the Chief Secretary, DGP, representatives of political parties, DMs, SPs and enforcement agencies for two days. The election commission is committed and duty bound to conduct free, fair, violence-free and inducement-free election", Kumar said at a press conference here.

Assembly elections in Tripura are due in February-March this year.

"All political parties will have to inform the voters about criminal cases if any of their candidates", he said.

The CEC said each polling station will have a micro observer to ensure free and fair elections. Tripura has 3,328 polling stations.

Kumar said security personnel will be engaged in poll duties on the basis of randomization to ensure impartiality.

The CEC said there will be a three-ring security arrangement from polling station to guarding strong rooms with CRPF manning the first layer of security. The Centre has already sent 100 companies of security personnel to Tripura for the Assembly election.

"DEOs and SPs were asked to provide level playing ground to all the political parties during the election process", he said, adding webcasting will be done in all

the polling stations without any failure.

Kumar, who arrived here on Wednesday along with two other Election Commissioners said that the banks and RBI will keep a close eye on the movement of cash in bulk. Besides, close vigil will also be kept at the airport.

To a specific question on the law and order situation, Kumar said, "We had detailed meetings with top security officials and central agencies. It is very reassuring and extremely reassuring. They are on duty and serious. I am confident they will deliver. If there is any laxity or negligence, appropriate steps will be taken".

Earlier, the full bench of ECI held separate meetings with representatives of political parties and sought their views on the election process.

CPI(M) state secretary Jitendra Choudhury said the party has submitted a memorandum before the ECI full bench urging it to take all pos-

sible steps for free and fair elections.

"A sizeable number of electors could not cast their votes after 2018 Assembly elections — be it Lok Sabha, civic bodies and last year's by-elections to four Assembly constituencies. We categorically urged the ECI team to ensure voters could exercise their voting right without any violence, threat and intimidation", he said.

At the meeting with the ECI team, Congress MLA Sudip Roy Barman also demanded free, fair and impartial elections. "We requested the ECI team to take all possible measures so that the people could exercise their democratic rights without any threat or intimidation", he said.

BJP vice president, Ashok Sinha, who met the ECI team also advocated for free and fair Assembly elections.

"We met the visiting ECI team and urged the poll panel to conduct the election free, fair and peacefully", he added.

Girl students of National Integration Tour meets the President of India



IT News
Imphal, Jan 12:

As part of ongoing National Integration Tour organised by Khuga Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (S), on its second day in Delhi, the 17

girl students of border villages of Manipur met President of India Draupadi Murmu today.

Girl Students shared their dreams and aspirations with President and took lessons from her life journey and achievements. This was

the first time when all girls National Integration Tour of Manipur met the President.

Later, the students visited National Rail Museum at New Delhi and re-lived the journey of Indian Railways since its inception.

World is in state of crisis: PM Modi at Voice of Global South summit

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 12:

The world is in a state of crisis and it is difficult to predict how long this state of instability will last, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday as he stressed the need for the Global South to escape the cycle of dependency on systems and circumstances which are not of its making.

He also said that in the 21st Century, global growth will come from countries of the South.

In his opening remarks at the Voice of Global South virtual summit, Modi flagged concerns over rising prices of food, fuel and fertilisers, economic

impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as natural disasters driven by climate change.

"We are meeting as a new year dawns and brings new hopes and new energy," Modi said.

"We have turned the page on another difficult year that saw war, conflict, terrorism and geo-political tensions. Rising food, fertiliser and fuel prices, climate change-driven natural disasters and lasting economic impact of the Covid pandemic," he said.

"It is clear that the world is in a state of crisis. It is difficult to predict how long this state of instability will last," Modi added.

The prime minister said the need of the hour is to identify

simple, scalable and sustainable solutions that can transform societies and economies.

"Despite the challenges the developing world faces, I remain optimistic that our time is coming. And our time is coming. The need of the hour is to identify simple, scalable and sustainable solutions that can transform our societies and economies. With such an approach, we shall overcome the difficult challenges," he said.

"I am confident that together the Global South can produce new and creative ideas. These ideas can form the basis of our voice in the G20 and other forums. In India, we have a prayer... it means may noble thoughts come to us from all directions of the uni-

verse. This Voice of Global South Summit is a collective effort for gaining noble ideas for our collective futures," Modi said.

The prime minister noted that the Global South has the largest stakes in the future of the world.

"We, the Global South, have the largest stakes in the future. Three-fourths of humanity lives in our countries. We should also have an equivalent voice. Hence, as the eight-decade-old model of global governance slowly changes, we should try to shape the emerging order," he said.

The 'Global South' largely refers to countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

AR foils Contraband items smuggling worth one Crore on NH-37

IT News
Imphal, Jan 12:

Srikona Battalion of Headquarters 21 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) foiled smuggling of 500 bags of areca nuts worth Rs one Crore on January 10, 2023.

Based on specific input received Assam Rifles about movement of contraband items on NH37, Assam Rifles launched an operation which resulted into confiscation of 500 bags of areca nuts (approx 40,000kg) loaded on two trucks. The loaded trucks with Areca nuts along with 5 persons were then handed over to Manipur Police for further investigation and processing.

Assam Rifles extends assistance to road accident victims

IT News
Imphal, Jan 12:

Songyang village, Chandel District yesterday. At around 1730 hrs on 11 Jan 23, a TATA vehicle skidded sharply on the road resulting in the injury of two persons. On receipt of information, The troops of Assam Rifles immediately rushed to the spot and rescued the injured persons from the incident site. The accident victims were immediately rendered emergency life saving medical aid at Molkut post of Assam Rifles to stabilise their condition.

Sports

FIH World Cup 2023:

India open campaign against Spain with eyes on first podium finish in 48 years

Agency
Bhubaneswar, Jan 12:

A historic bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics bringing them back among the international elite, India will seek their first podium finish in 48 years in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup as they begin their campaign against Spain in a tricky match in Rourkela on Friday.

A medal in this showcase will strengthen the claim that the former giants of the game with eight Olympic gold have turned the corner in world hockey.

The country won a bronze in the inaugural tournament in 1971 and clinched a silver in the next edition in 1973. Ajit Pal Singh led the side to title triumph in 1975 but since then they have failed to even reach the semifinals.

From 1978 to 2014, India could not go past the group stage.

The Indian team, no doubt, would be one of the medal contenders with the talented bunch led by Harmanpreet Singh emerging as a force to reckon with. The team has earned re-

spect from other top countries in recent times.

Currently ranked sixth in the world, India have come into the tournament after an impressive show against the world number one side Australia in an away five-match series though they lost the rubber 1-4.

Graham Reid's side matched the Australians, one of the favourites to win the World Cup, in most departments of the game, notching up their first win in six years against their formidable opponents.

In the previous edition, also held in Bhubaneswar, India had exited at the quarterfinal stage after losing to the Netherlands, the eventual runners-up, and they would be looking to reach at least the semifinals this time.

India have also done well in the FIH Hockey Pro League, finishing third in the 2021-22 season. The confidence and the winning mentality is back with the team.

Since Reid took over the head coach's position in 2019, India's stature has grown. He has been able to get the best out of the players, injecting a



tactical discipline to their trademark skillful, fluid playing style, making them a team that is respected and feared in equal measure.

"We focussed mainly on scenarios in our training, what if we are 0-1 down, what if we are playing with 10 men, what if they take their keeper off. Those types of scenarios which are important that we have dealt with," Reid said.

Captain and FIH Player of the Year Harmanpreet Singh, a

fabulous defender and one of the best drag flickers in the game, will be key to India's success while goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, mid-field ace Manpreet Singh and Hardik Singh, and striker Mandeep Singh are all capable of bringing about game-changing moments.

Defender Amit Rohidas, who has captained the team in the past and also takes penalty corners, and forward Akashdeep Singh will be

among the other India players to watch out for.

Reid said he wants to take some pressure off captain Harmanpreet, who is also a defensive bulwark.

India will hope to begin with a win, as that result can help them top Pool D for a direct quarterfinal berth and avoid playing cross-over matches (meant for second and third place teams of each of the four pools).

Qualifying for the

quarterfinals through cross-over matches could lead to facing stronger teams in the last-eight stage like defending champions Belgium.

Spain have never been an easy opponents for India and the European side, ranked eighth in the world, will remain the same on Friday, though they are one of the youngest teams in the tournament.

Though without a title, Spain are always a tricky side as they can beat any team on their day. They had finished runners-up in 1971 and 1998 while taking the bronze medal in 2006.

Coached by former Argentine international Max Caldas and captained by Alvaro Iglesias, their most experienced player, the Spanish team had the upper hand in the ongoing Pro League season matches in Bhubaneswar in October-November last year.

They had won the first match 3-2 while India took the second in the penalty shootout after the two sides were locked 2-2.

It was even Stevens in the two matches of the 2021-22 Pro

League season in February last year. Spain had won 5-3 in the first match while India took the second match 5-4.

Historically also, there is not much difference between the two sides as India have won 13 of the 30 matches they have played against each other since 1948 (when India won 2-0 in the London Olympics). Spain have won 11 times while six matches were drawn affairs.

The tournament-opener will be played at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar — which will become the first venue to host back-to-back World Cups — between Argentina and South Africa in Pool A.

Title contender Australia face France in another Pool A match later in the day at Kalinga Stadium.

Defending champions and another title-favourite Belgium begin their campaign on Saturday against South Korea in Pool B at the Kalinga Stadium which will host 24 matches of the tournament, including the semifinals and the final.

The remaining 20 matches will be held at the Bira Munda stadium.