

## DMU fiasco: State throws ball to University authority 'Education Minister and Hr. & Tech. Edn has no role in applying 12(B) recognition by UGC'

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 13:

A day after students' bodies has started intensifying its demand for resignation of Education Minister Th. Bashantakumar and the Commissioner of the Dept. of Higher & Technical Education, the department today threw the ball to the court of the Dhanamanjuri University authority saying that the Dhanamanjuri University Authority is responsible for sending application for getting 12B recognition of the UGC Act, 1956.

A statement by the Dy. Secretary of Hr. & Tech. Edn. said that the Minister of Education and the Department of Higher & Technical Education has no role in applying 12B of the University or any of the Colleges. There appears to be no impediment in applying 12B after bifurcation of teaching faculties. So, it is incumbent on the Dhanamanjuri University Authority to apply for 12B at the earliest.

It further said that under section 30(i), (ii) of the Statute of the Dhanamanjuri University Act, 2017, the State Cabinet in its decision taken on 24.11.2021 had approved bifurcation of the 600 post (387 teaching + 213 non-teaching post) existing in the 5 (five)

Constituent Colleges of DMU along with employees who ever desires to be transferred to the newly established Dhanamanjuri University. Further, as approved in the State Cabinet decision taken on 21.11.2022, 362 posts of teachers (Assistant Professors and Associate Professors) have been bifurcated to Dhanamanjuri University vide Order dated 24.11.2022. The process of bifurcation of non-teaching posts including Principals is under process.

Further, under Section 30(i), (ii) of the Statute of the Dhanamanjuri University Act, 2017, the Department of Higher & Technical Education has notified the operational guidelines for employees related issues after bifurcation from Directorate of University & Higher Education, Manipur to Dhanamanjuri University.

The statement further added that the Department of Higher & Technical Education has also issued Order dated 12.01.2023 after incorporating correction of spellings of names of the teachers, deletion/omission of repeated names of teachers including deletion/omission of names as requested by the teachers themselves. The revised operational guidelines for employees related issues after bifurcation from Directorate of

University & Higher Education, Manipur to Dhanamanjuri University has also been notified on 12.01.2023;

It may be mentioned that Dhanamanjuri University was established in 2017 with the enactment of Dept. of Higher & Technical Education Act, 2017 by the Manipur Legislative Assembly with 5 (five) constituent Colleges viz., D.M College of Science, D.M College of Arts, D.M College of Commerce, G.P. Womens' College and L.M.S Law College.

In connection with the demand for lack of infrastructure the statement said that the State Government has taken proactive role in development of the Dhanamanjuri University. The Department of Higher & Technical Education has taken up various measures to develop and make the University fully functional including appointment of regular Vice Chancellor, creation of teaching & non-teaching posts of the University, bifurcation of teaching and non-teaching posts in 5 (five) constituent Colleges of Dhanamanjuri University from the Directorate of University & Higher Education, Manipur to DMU and providing Grant-in-Aid to the University. However, the Department is not involved in day to day admin-

istrative functioning of the University. Regarding the recruitment of 88 (eighty eight) posts of Assistant Professors and 170 (one hundred seventy) different categories of non-teaching posts of Dhanamanjuri University is under process and is expected to be declared soon, the statement added.

The statement further added that under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), various infrastructure developments have been taken up and inaugurated by Union Minister of Home Affairs, Government of India on 06.01.2023 including administrative block, academic buildings of various School of Studies, Library cum Conference Hall at a total cost of Rs.55.00 crores.

"The Dhanamanjuri University is autonomous in its day-to-day administrative functioning, as stated in the Dhanamanjuri University Act, 2017. Raising any grievances against the Government in public platform should only be on issues when the Government has failed to act. Up till now, the Department of Higher & Technical Education has fulfilled all its responsibilities in the last 6 (six) months since the formation of the new Government.", the statement said.

## CM N. Biren hands over Olympian Park to the people

*Suitable Govt jobs were given to the sportspersons who won gold medals at National and International level - Chief Minister*



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 13:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh handed over Manipur Olympic Park to the people today. Created to honour the 19 Olympians from Manipur and to encourage players of the state, the Park is located in Sangaitheh area, Imphal West.

Speaking at the function, the Chief Minister acknowledged the contributions of local clubs in molding the careers of the 19 Olympians, who brought respect and recognition for the state and country. The Chief Minister referred the Olympians as 'Living Legends' and appealed towards creating a healthy society free from drugs. Acknowledging the rich sporting culture and love for

sports, the State has been referred as 'Powerhouse of Sports' and the first National Sports University has been set up in the State, he added.

N. Biren Singh said that suitable government jobs were given to the sportspersons who won gold medals at national and international level as a part of one-time solution in the past. The same will be continued in the near future, he added.

The Chief Minister asked each and everyone to create and promote one Manipur where there is no division based on caste, religion, tribe or hill and valley. Appreciating the village chiefs and CSO leaders, N. Biren Singh said that villagers have started destroying Poppy plants in the hills voluntarily. We can root out the drug menace by collective and

cooperative efforts, he added. Stating that the government has been delivering lots of development projects in all corners of the State, the Chief Minister urged the people to have a sense of ownership to the different public properties and take care of it.

Mentioned may be made that the Park was constructed by Keystone Infra Pvt. Ltd under Manipur Police Housing Corporation Ltd and was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on January 6.

Cabinet Ministers Govindas Konthoujam, Nemcha Kipgen, L. Susindro Meitei, H. Dingo Singh, Th. Basantakumar Singh, Khasim Vashum, Chairpersons, MLAs, Government Officials, Olympians and their family members attended the function.

## Former Union minister Sharad Yadav dies at 75



Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 13:

Former Union minister and socialist leader Sharad Yadav died on Thursday night at 75 years of age.

Yadav, who had been unwell for a long time, collapsed at his home on Thursday. He was taken to the Fortis Memorial Research Institute in Gurugram in an unconscious and unresponsive state, NDTV reported.

The hospital said that the 75-year-old did not have a pulse or recordable blood pressure and was given cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR. "Despite best efforts, he could not be revived and was declared dead at 10.19 pm," it added.

The former Union minister's daughter Subhashini Yadav confirmed the news of his death on Facebook. She said that her father's body will be kept at his Delhi home to allow people to pay their respects from 10 am on Friday.

## Guardians' Organisation decry decision to appoint new Council Chairman

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 13:

All Manipur Students Guardians' Organisation lambasted the decision of the Government to appoint a new Chairman of the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur while Class XI and XII examinations are knocking at the door and appealed to the government to bring about an end to the turmoil.

Sumati Sougrakpam, General Secretary of All Manipur Students Guardians' Organisation said, "The COHSEM and BOSEM

are run by the revenues collected from students through fees and fines, not by any Grant from the Government. To appoint a Chairman-in-charge for 5 months and then appoint a new regular Chairman at the time of examination and that too for a body conducting examinations for the students is really unfortunate and questionable act and asked how many more Chairmen are going to be appointed again. This act of appointing a new chairman by the Government has created an enmity between the outgoing and the incoming Chairmen and has disturbed

the working of the Council at this time of examination.

She further said, "The examination of Class X and XII is a very important exam for a student's career and should not be taken lightly. At this delicate timing, the appointment of a new chairman is illogical and the government should revoke the order so as to conduct the said examination smoothly.

Sumati further drew the attention of the Chief Minister to look into the matter and bring an amicable solution at the earliest, keeping in view the fate of the students.

## Amit Shah should tender public apology: IWDUCO

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 13:

The Imphal West District United Clubs' Organisation (IWDUCO) has strongly criticized the statement made by the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah on 6 January 2023 at a public meeting held at Moirang framing Manipur as the Manipur mentioned in the Indian epic, Mahabharata. Amit Shah's Manipur hate speech has irritated the general masses

of Manipur and demanded a public apology from the Home Minister, stated a release signed by one Karam Momocha, General Secretary, IWDUCO.

Supporting the stand of AMUCO demanding an earliest public apology from India's home minister Amit Shah, the IWDUCO questioned the intellectual dishonesty of the home minister urging him study the millennia old history of Manipur before making any

sensitive speech in the future. Asking the home minister from where he has taken the reference, the IWDUCO urged the home minister to learn more about the culture, geography, polity, religion, myths, legends and folklores of Manipur for saner use of his wisdom. The release also apprised of the intellectual community to do greater research before writing any documents relating to the history of Manipur.

## Team REFORM continues ventures for promotions of Manipuri Culture and Traditions

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 13:

Research Forum Manipur (REFORM) continues its ventures to promote the Manipuri Culture and traditions among various parts of the North Eastern states, particularly in the state of Tripura.

A statement by Sukham Premjit, General Secretary of REFORM, said that a team of REFORM comprising of 10 members including him and Vice president is leaving Imphal for Agartala tomorrow to attend the ongoing

Ebudhou Puthiba Lai Haroaba festival, which started yesterday at Abhoynagar of the capital city. The statement of REFORM said that the Ebudhou Puthiba Lai Haroaba festival was first organized in 2009 by the REFORM at Abhoynagar.

On the other hand, REFORM members which will leave Imphal tomorrow will also organize a workshop on "Manipuri Culture and Language in North East India with special reference to Tripura at Tripura University on January 16, 2023 in collaboration with

the Department of Linguistic and Tribal Languages, Tripura University, and Manipuri Sahitya Parishad Tripura. Prof. Ch. Ibohah Meitei, Head of DVSSD Manipur University, Prof. Shyamal Das, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Commerce, Tripura University, N. Dilipkumar Singh of Manipur Sahitya Parishad, Tripura and Aheibam Romel Singh of SCERT, Govt. of Manipur will attend the inaugural session of the workshop as Chief Guest President and Guests of Honour respectively.

## SN Chand Cine Archive & Museum Film Archivist wins 'Champions of Film Heritage Award'

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 13:

Johnson Rajkumar, film archivist who works as a volunteer at the SN Chand Cine Archive & Museum of Manipur State Film Archive & Museum bagged the "Champions of Film Heritage Award" at the recently held, annual 'Film Preservation and Restoration Workshop', organised jointly by Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), Mumbai, and In-

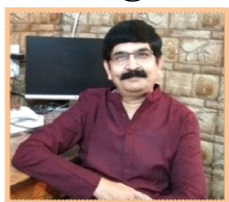
ternational Federations for Film Archive (FIAPF), Belgium in association with 'The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project' at Mumbai from December 4th-8th December 2022.

Johnson Rajkumar was among the four film archivists of the world who were awarded at the inauguration of the workshop for their outstanding contribution to the movement of film archiving and preservation in their respective countries. Manipuri

Film Archivist, Johnson Rajkumar was adjudged the "Champions of Film Heritage" with the citation, "For his selfless commitment and courage in taking the road less travelled with limited support and resources and taking on the challenge of sparking a movement for film preservation and laying the foundation to building a film archive and training archivists in his home state of Manipur".

contd. on page 4

# A kite flies high having trust and confidence in the string to which it is tied



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

14th January the Makar Sankranti (Uttarayan) day heralded the change of season. An event is best experienced at the heart of all the action. Makar Sankranti or Uttarayan – the kite flying festival in Ahmedabad – the world heritage city is synonymous with kite flying. It is celebrated across the country in different ways and the cultural significance of the festival varies geographically.

Makar Sankranti is one of the most auspicious day for the Hindus, and is celebrated in almost all parts of the country in myriad cultural forms, with great devotion, fervor & gaiety. The word 'Makar' means Capricorn and 'Sankranti' is transition. The term Uttarayana is derived from two different Sanskrit words 'Uttara' (North) and 'Ayana' (movement), thus indicating a northward movement of the Sun on the celestial sphere.

The international kite festival in Ahmedabad kite flyers from across the country and the world. Kite enthusiasts from across India and also foreign countries are participating in the week-long festival that is being celebrated across cities in Gujarat. The festival of Uttarayan marks the day when winter begins to turn into summer, according to the Indian calendar. The days become longer, the skies clearer and the breeze cooler. A feeling of anticipation, joy and jubilation grips all who celebrate the occasion of thanksgiving and merry-making. Being popular as the Kite festival in Gujarat, it is also famous as the beginning of the harvest season and is celebrated on the same day of the English Calendar every year.

Kite flying during Makar Sankranti or Uttarayan is an important part of the celebrations. One of the reasons is that as it is a time of thanksgiving, it is also a time to be happy. Though Kite festival is celebrated all over Gujarat, it is the most exciting in the capital city of Ahmedabad. The International Kite Festival (Uttarayan) in Ahmedabad is regarded as one of the biggest festivals celebrated. Months before the festival, homes in Gujarat begin to manufacture kites for the festival.

Today, manufacturing of kites is a serious business. It attracts big names of the corporate world as kites provide for the most cost-effective opportunity for branding. Kites for Uttarayan are made of special light-weight paper and bamboo and are mostly rhombus shaped with central spine and a single bow. The festival gives boost to the kite industry which employs around 3 lakh people. A visit to the Patang (Kite) Bazaar in the middle of the night proves beyond all doubt that the entire population of Ahmedabad city is obsessed with kites and they crowd the streets and buy the stocks while negotiating and enjoying through the night. The Patang Bazaar is open 24 hours a day during the Uttarayan week.

All sorts of colourful shiny toys act as accompaniments to the kites. On Uttarayan, in Ahmedabad the sky is full of colourful kites of all sizes and shapes. One finds an unequalled experience. In the major cities of Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, and Jamnagar the skies appear filled with thousands upon thousands of kites as people enjoy two full days of Uttarayan on their terraces. Wonderful and appealing kites in various shapes and hues decorate the sky like a thousand fowls.

On this day, locals are hardly seen on the streets as everybody takes to the rooftop of their respective houses to fly kites. In Gujarat, a special winter vegetable called *undhiyo* is the specialty of the day. It's a preparation of several beans, roots and other local seasonal vegetables. It does not matter what your background or beliefs are but if you are in Gujarat on 14 January, you will doubt find yourself flying kites with everyone sharing fun and pleasure.

## How to time manage time in Board Exam



By: Vijay GarG

Practice writing quickly: You can try your hand at solving more and more practice papers, sample papers and past years' exam papers. Select a time limit for each question and try to adhere to the same and then check if you are able to complete your paper within the preset time constraints. You have to work on your writing speed while keeping your handwriting legible. If you won't work on your writing speed before the exam, you might be surprised at how difficult it is to write quickly and neatly under the pressure of the time limit on the main day. Your messy handwriting in the answer script will

surely annoy the person marking your paper before even checking the whole answer. So if you don't want to undersell yourself, work out a way to write quickly and neatly.

Prioritise the questions: After reading the whole question paper thoroughly, mark the questions which you are more confident about and are sure to complete those questions in less time. After solving such questions, you can use the remaining time to attempt other questions that seem to be complex to you.

Be realistic with each answer: Assign each question a fixed time so that you can manage your time to complete the paper. Get an idea that what sort of answers you can realistically write in the time you've got. For example: If you've got 45 minutes for an essay question, check if you can fit in an introduction, main points and a conclusion within that time limit. Avoid writing useless text which does not relate to what has been asked in the question. Keep your answers apt and informative.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com). For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

# Netaji and Vivekananda – An Amalgam of Greatness



By: M.R. Lalu

January comes with hopes and aspirations. The festivities to welcome a New Year accelerate a genuine thirst for jubilation and enthusiasm with expectations flying high hopefully bringing good fortunes and change in life. People across the globe slide into a festive mood and everywhere we can see a wind of optimism blowing with uninterrupted friendship and accommodation. The wintry mist of December tells us stories of hits and misses of the year. With every passing year we are moving one step towards our greater goals as humankind. Amid such merriment and busy festivities we need to also kindle a little benevolence, beneficence, kindness, love, patience and compassion.

January is also known for the birth anniversaries of two great luminaries of India. The first one is Swami Vivekananda whose birthday falls on January 12 and the second is the birthday of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on January 23. Vivekananda was born in 1863 and Netaji was born in 1897. By the time India's most renowned freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose was born, Swami Vivekananda the patriotic saint of India was almost planning to pack his bag for his return journey to eternity. Netaji was five years old when Vivekananda left his body in 1902. Within a short period of 39 years on the planet, Vivekananda, with his herculean spiritual austerity, could ignite the fire of spiritual revolution which

would last for a millennium and had influenced everybody including Subhas Chandra Bose in the freedom movement. That was the spiritual heights in which he could establish his saintly persona. The sacred association of Vivekananda and Ramakrishna had a huge impact on Subhas Chandra Bose.

Colonial India was a challenge and to capture the glimpse of his spiritual mission for a nation that remained in servitude for centuries was quite tiresome for Vivekananda. For an individual, spiritual awakening is a personal affair and it needs tremendous hardships to discover the eternal bliss in him. Vivekananda had to spiritually conquer a country that was shattered intellectually, emotionally and spiritually by the gruesome impact of the invasion and his mission was more strenuous than an armed struggle against the British. Vivekananda knew the real reason that pushed a country with extraordinary cultural resource into the perils of colonial dominance. For Bose, Vivekananda was his spiritual guru, in whom he discovered a blend of unadulterated patriotism and the purest form of spiritual decorum. Subhash Chandra Bose was not only awakened by the spiritual depth of Vivekananda but Vivekananda's unflinching patriotism got more and more engraved in his conscience as he flipped the pages of the saint's teachings. The patriot in Netaji became profound and unequivocally powerful by the insightful views of Vivekananda.

Vivekananda's call was for the youth of India and he told them to love the country unconditionally so that the fight against British dominance was possible. The influence that Vivekananda had on Netaji is reflective in his words. Netaji writes, "How shall I express my indebtedness to Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda? It is under their sacred influence that my life got the

first awakening." Netaji was well aware of the fact that Vivekananda's mission was not only spiritual but also to awaken the country's patriotic sensibility and turn its social intelligence towards self respect and enabling India to inch for its long awaited freedom. This came from a conviction that India's essential character was spiritual since the days of the Vedas. The country was soaked in spiritual wisdom for centuries and with the passage of time the supreme idea of spiritual evolution got settled and the essential values were mischaracterized as ethnic servitude. Colonial dominance, therefore, according to Vivekananda, was a by-product of the genetic disconnect that India was made a victim of for centuries of invasion. Though sunk in the stupor of subjugation, the people of India found immense strength coming from the patriotic eloquence of Vivekananda. Netaji was one among millions who captured the splendour of spiritual values that Vivekananda disseminated.

Extremely elated by the spiritual vision of Vivekananda, Netaji writes, "If Swamiji had been alive today, he would have been my guru, that is to say, I would have accepted him as my Master. Needless to say, as long as I live, I shall be absolutely loyal and devoted to Ramakrishna-Vivekananda." Stigmatised by the impudence of the colonial behaviour of the British, the Indian servitude was slowly but rebelliously unravelling against the colonial barbarity and craving for a fresh air of freedom. The country sprang into an arm struggle with Netaji leading it from the front. When Netaji chose arm struggle as a means to political liberation, Vivekananda's teachings fuelled his spiritual personality, strengthening the deep patriotic behaviour in him to rise into its Himalayan stature. With Vivekananda began

India's modern spiritual renaissance and its cultural nationalism got exposed through the patriotic sacrifices made by numerous people including Netaji.

Historic inscriptions on the conversation between former British Prime Minister Clement Attlee and the then acting Governor of West Bengal Justice PB Chakraborty in 1956 reveals the fact that the British had to ultimately decide to leave India in 1947 because of the erosion of loyalty to the British crown among the Indian Army and Navy as a result of Netaji's military activities. To PB Chakraborty's question on Mahatma Gandhi's influence on the British decision to vacate India, Attlee is known to have replied with a sarcastic smile that Gandhi's influence was minimal. In 1946, about 20000 sailors of the Royal Indian Navy serving on 78 ships are known to have mutinied against the British Empire. They went around Mumbai and Karachi with portraits of Netaji and forced the British to shout 'Jai Hind' and other INA slogans. This could be enough to illustrate the impact of Netaji on India's independence and every year January comes with memories of great patriotism that Vivekananda through his spiritual ideals and Netaji through his patriotic courage gifted to the Indian populace.

Swami Vivekananda's birthday is celebrated as National Youth Day while Netaji's birthday is celebrated as Parakram Divas. Both terms beautifully connote a vision for the youth of the world's largest democracy. The English equivalent of Parakram can be courageous and vigorous. India's Amrit Kaal is for the youth to jump into this transformation mission with Vivekananda's ideals being implemented with Netaji's courage.

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

## Section 300 CrPC Bars the trial of a person not only for the same offence but also for any other offence on the same facts: SC

By: Sanjeev Sirohi, Advocate

While reiterating the clear, correct and convincing legal position, the Apex Court has in a most learned, laudable, landmark and latest judgment titled TP Gopalakrishnan vs State of Kerala in Criminal Appeal Nos. 187-188 of 2017 and cited in 2022 LiveLaw (SC) 1039 that was decided finally on December 8, 2022 in exercise of its criminal appellate jurisdiction has held that Section 300 of the CrPC places a bar wherein, a person who has already been tried by a Court of competent jurisdiction for an offence arising out of the same facts, and has either been acquitted or convicted of such offence cannot be tried again for the same offence as well as on the same facts for any other offence as long as such acquittal or conviction remains in force. It is also made clear that Article 20(2) expressly provides that no person shall be prosecuted or punished for the same offence, more than once. The protection against double jeopardy is also supplemented by statutory provisions contained in Section 300 of the CrPC, Section 40 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, Section 71 of the IPC and Section 26 of the General Clauses Act, 1897. It must be noted that the Apex Court was hearing a Criminal Appeal that was filed assailing the judgment and order passed by the High Court of Kerala in Criminal Appeal Nos. 947 and 948 of 2009 by which the judgment of conviction and order of sentence passed in C.C. No. 24 and 25 of 2003 by the Trial Court had been upheld by dismissing the aforesaid appeals and conse-

quently confirming the conviction of the appellant herein.

At the very outset, this learned, laudable, landmark and latest judgment authored by Hon'ble Justice BV Nagarathna for a Bench of Apex Court comprising of herself and Hon'ble Justice BR Gavai sets the ball in motion by first and foremost putting forth in para 1 that, "These Criminal Appeals have been filed assailing the impugned judgment and order dated 13.06.2016 passed by the High Court of Kerala at Ernakulam in Criminal Appeal Nos. 947 and 948 of 2009 by which the judgment of conviction and order of sentence dated 27.04.2009 passed in C.C. No.24 and 25 of 2003 by the Court of the Enquiry Commissioner and Special Judge, Kozhikode ('Trial Court', for the sake of convenience) has been upheld by dismissing the aforesaid appeals and consequently confirming the conviction of the appellant herein."

In hindsight, the Bench recalls in para 3 that, "The Trial Court vide its judgment and order dated 27.04.2009 in both the aforesaid cases convicted the appellant herein-accused for offences under Section 13(2) read with Section 13(1)(c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 ('the Act', for short) and sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment for two years and to pay a fine of Rupees Two Thousand and in default thereof, to undergo rigorous imprisonment for six months. The accused was further convicted for the offence under Section 409 of the Indian Penal Code,

1860 ('IPC' for short) and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for two years and to pay a fine of Rupees Two Thousand and in default thereof, to undergo rigorous imprisonment for six months. The sentences were directed to run concurrently."

Further, the Bench discloses in para 4 that, "The appellant herein was released on bail vide order of this Court dated 30.01.2017 subject to fulfillment of the conditions imposed by the Trial Court."

### Facts of the Case:

To put things in perspective, the Bench then envisages in para 5 that, "Succinctly stated, the case of the prosecution in C.C. No. 24 of 2003 is that while the accused was working as Agricultural Officer, State Seed Farm, Perambra, for the period 31.05.1991 to 31.05.1994, he abused his official position as a public servant and committed criminal breach of trust and misappropriated an amount of Rs.20,035/-, during the period from 27.04.1992 to 25.08.1992, by not remitting the same to the Sub-Treasurer, Perambra. The amount included Rs.17,449/-, being two-thirds of the proceeds received from the auction of 5510 coconuts harvested and auctioned on 28.05.1992 at the State Seed Farm, Perambra; Rs.2,098/- being two-thirds of the proceeds from the auction of 1049 kgs of half-filled grains auctioned on 28.05.1992; and Rs. 488.80/- being the price of 104 coconuts harvested from the State Seed Farm, Perambra on 24.08.1992 and 25.08.1992 respectively."

Be it noted, the Bench mandates in para 30 that, "Double jeopardy is often confused with double punishment. There is a vast difference between the two. Double punishment may arise when a person is convicted for two or more offences charged in one indictment however, the question of double jeopardy arises only when a second trial is sought on a subsequent indictment following a conviction or acquittal on an earlier indictment. This doctrine is certainly not a protection to the individual from peril of second sentence or punishment, nor to the service of a sentence for one offence, but is a protection against double jeopardy for the same offence that is, against a second trial for the same offence."

Quite significantly, the Bench points out in para 38 that, "The Trial Court has erred in holding that the facts of previous case and misappropriation committed by the accused are not the same as the facts relevant to present case. The Trial Court has held that in the present case, the allegation is that after conducting the auction of coconuts and half filled grains, two-thirds of the amount collected from the successful bidder was not remitted to the treasury, however, in the earlier cases, the allegations were that the accused misappropriated some amount to be paid to the proprietor of Agricultural Marketing Corporation, Kozhikode, Kerala State Coir marketing Corporation, Kozhikode from the State Seed Farm, Perambra by forging and falsifying records.

contd. on page 3



# Why have elected government in Delhi if Centre controls officers' postings, SC asks Centre

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 13:

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned what purpose would be served by an elected government in Delhi if the Centre retains control over postings of civil servants, *Bar and Bench* reported.

A constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud is hearing a dispute between the Centre and the Delhi government about the scope of the Union government's executive powers in the national capital and its control over administrative services.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court that Delhi is a Union Territory and is thus an extension of the Union. "The very purpose of creating a geographical area

as a UT shows that the Union wants to administer the territory," he contended, according to PTI.

To this, Chief Justice Chandrachud asked: "If everything is at the beck and call of the central government, then what is the use of an elected government?"

Mehta said that the elected government will have functional control over officers. He said that he was arguing on the point of administrative control, or the postings and transfers of officers.

However, Chief Justice Chandrachud asked whether the Delhi government cannot transfer officers who do not discharge their functions properly. "You say there is no jurisdiction of Delhi government in such postings like in education, environment etc?" he

asked. "What is the use?"

Mehta said that under the Constitution, there are central and state services, while Union Territories have no public service commissions, PTI reported.

The solicitor general said that Delhi is a "cosmopolitan, miniaturised India" and belongs to the whole country. He cited the status of Delhi as the national capital to argue for the control of the Centre over administrative services.

"If the national capital is under siege and the arterial road connecting to the capital is blocked with permanent structure and if the government of Delhi sends food, it is the responsibility of the bureaucracy to communicate to the LG that this is the capital and the capital cannot be under siege," Mehta said, according

to *The Indian Express*.

The Delhi government on Tuesday argued before the constitution bench that it cannot function unless it has the power to create posts, appoint persons and change them as needed.

Article 239AA(3) of the Constitution grants the Delhi Legislative Assembly the power to make laws with respect to all but three entries in the state list. These entries are public order, police and land.

In 2018, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court had said that the lieutenant governor of Delhi, who is appointed by the president, is bound by the "aid and advice" of the council of ministers of the Delhi government in all matters under its jurisdiction.

# AOC-in-C, South Western Air Command visits Air Force Station, Mumbai

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Jan 13:

Air Marshal Vikram Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Air Command arrived on a three day visit to inspect the operational preparedness of Indian Air Force (IAF) bases in and around Mumbai on Thursday.

AOC-in-C, will visit the Air Station at Madh Island (Madh Hawk) at Malad in North Mumbai and the Air Station at Kanheri Hills in Thane among other Air bases.

Air Marshal Vikram Singh, is accompanied by his wife Dr.(Mrs) Arathi Singh, President, Air Force Families Welfare Association (AFFWA) (Regional). They were received by Group Captain K Praveen Kumar, Station Commander, Air Force Station Mumbai and Mrs Tarun Preet Kaur, President, AFFWA (local).

The Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief is responsible for all IAF Operations along the western border from Rajasthan till North Karnataka. During his visit, the AOC-in-C was briefed on Operational, Maintenance and Administrative aspects of the base.



Air Marshal Vikram Singh was received at Mumbai airport by Station Commander Captain K Praveen Kumar and others.

The AOC-in-C during the interaction with Air Warriors of the base, complimented them for their combat readiness and stressed on meeting all challenges head on in the service of the nation. He also highlighted the need to integrate the upcoming "Agniveervayus" into the IAF seamlessly.

Air Marshal Vikram Singh also interacted with Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command as part of his visit.

**The IAF bases in Mumbai**  
The Kalina Air Force Camp, Santacruz East in North West Mumbai and the Air Force station at Cotton Green in Central

Mumbai. Started as No. 305 Maintenance Units, Royal Air Force in 1945 holding aircraft spares, the Cotton Green Air Force Station was re-established as No. 02 Equipment Depot (ED) in 1948. It was re-designated as No. 22 ED in 1964. In 1967 an element of No. 22 ED was converted into No. 30 ED AF. However in 1981, No. 30 ED Air Force Station was bifurcated into two separate entities, 411 Air Force Station, with Headquarters at Cotton Green and No. 30 ED AF with Headquarters at Kalina. However, this Equipment Depot became a lodger Units of Air Force Station, Mumbai in April 1997. In 2005, the HQ was moved to Kalina.

# CBI conduct raids at 12 locations in connection with Bank frauds

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Jan 13:

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday conducted searches at multiple locations across the country at the premises of six firms for duping banks by loan defaults and unauthorized diversion of funds.

**The complainants: Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, IDBI Bank Ltd, EXIM Bank**

In the first case the raids were conducted on the premises of PSL Limited (PSL) at Andheri East in North West Mumbai, based on a complaint of the Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, IDBI Bank Ltd and EXIM Bank. The CBI registered four FIRs on December 30, 2022 against PSL and its directors for allegedly duping about four banks to the tune of Rs.217.37 crore an official statement read.

As per the complaints, the firm that deals with manufacturing and coating pipes had taken the loans, but diverted the money to its subsidiaries. The alleged fraud occurred between 2010 and 2015. The CBI raided eight places in Mumbai and one each at Delhi, Noida, Kutch and Daman. In Mumbai the CBI raided the Andheri office of D N Sehgal, one of the directors of PSL and seized \$ 90,413 and Rs.1.99 crore, besides incriminating documents and articles.

**The complainants: a consortium of 17 banks headed by Bank of Baroda**

In another case, the CBI raided offices of the Prathibha Industries Limited (PIL) (Navi Mumbai) in Mumbai and Thane. The probe agency had registered the FIR on January 10 against PIL and its four directors based on a complaint filed by Bank of Baroda. The com-

plaintain alleged that the company, which was into development of infrastructure projects, had taken Rs.4,957.31 crore in loan from a consortium of 17 banks, headed by Bank of Baroda, but failed to repay the amount.

The CBI during investigation, learnt that the accused firm had diverted the borrowed money to related parties and subsidiaries between 2014 and 2017. Besides, it had made false sales and purchase transactions to increase its turnover. The company's account was classified as nonperforming asset (NPA) on December 31, 2017.

**The complainants: a consortium of 10 banks headed by Punjab National Bank**

In the third case, offices of the Vadraj Cement Limited (Gujarat) and four of its directors at three locations including Mumbai and Jaipur were

raided for defrauding a consortium of 10 banks led by the Punjab National Bank (PNB) to the tune of Rs.1,688.41 crore.

The accused company had approached PNB and other consortium members for setting up a cement factory at Mora in Surat and Thumdi in Kutch, both in Gujarat. However it allegedly diverted the credit money to related parties and subsidiaries. The alleged fraud occurred between 2009 and 2018. The company's account was declared NPA on March 20, 2018.

The searched were conducted also at the premises of three other private firms in connection with default in loan repayment. The duped banks-Oriental Bank of Commerce (now merged with PNB)-Rs 51.90 crore, the IDBI Bank-Rs 29.06 crore and Export Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)-Rs 105.92 crore.

# India logs 174 Covid cases in a day, active caseload declines by 52

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 13:

India's tally of COVID-19 cases rose by 174 in a day while the active caseload declined to 2,257, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The total number of Covid cases recorded in India so far was 4.46 while the death toll was 5,36,725 with two more fatalities — one reconciled by Kerala and one reported by Maharashtra in a day, data updated at 8 am showed.

The daily positivity was recorded at 0.09 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 0.10 per cent.

India's active caseload declined by 52 in a day and now comprises 0.01 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.80 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,47,775, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.16 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the coun-

try so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 case tally crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

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

Contd. from Page 2

# Section 300 CrPC Bars the trial of a person not....

It is the admitted case of the prosecution that the present cases were based on the re-audit conducted by PW-9- the Assistant Sub-Inspector, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kozhikode. The re-audit was done for the period from 01.04.1992 to 31.12.1994. The charges in the present case are for relevant period from 27.04.1992 to 25.08.1992 and 01.03.1993 to 12.04.1994 which time period is same as in the previous three cases, that is, 28.03.1994 to 02.04.1994, 15.12.1992 to 31.03.1993 and 05.03.1994 to 08.03.1994 respectively. Thus, it can be said that the present cases pertain to the same set of facts and are in respect of same offences, for the same period, committed in the same capacity as the previous three cases wherein the appellant herein was already prosecuted in the year 1999. The core allegation in all these five cases pertains to misappropriation by making false entries in the cash book. The allegation of the prosecution that two-thirds of the auction amount was not remitted to the treasury would be covered under the allegations of

misappropriation of funds, that the appellant has already been prosecuted for in the year 1999. The appellant is right in contending that the charge in the first three cases were framed on 17.08.1999 which is much after the audit and the prosecution would have been well aware of the misappropriation in respect of the present cases on 17.08.1999."

More to the point, the Bench minces no words to hold in para 39 that, "The learned counsel for the appellant has also brought to the attention of this Court, sub-section (2) of Section 300 of the CrPC which states that a person acquitted or convicted of any offence may be tried thereafter, but with the consent of the State Government, for any distinct offence for which a separate charge might have been framed against him under sub-section (1) of Section 220 of the CrPC. It has already been observed hereinabove that the allegations/offences in the instant cases are the same as the allegations/offences in the previous three cases, therefore as per the mandate under Section 300(2) of the CrPC, the consent

of the State Government is necessary. Even if it is assumed for the sake of argument that the allegations are different in present cases from those in the previous cases, the prosecution has failed to obtain the prior consent of the State Government necessary to prosecute the accused-appellant and therefore the trial in the instant case is unlawful."

Most significantly, the Bench hastens to add in para 41 that, "Sub-section (2) of Section 300 of the CrPC states that when the charge of the second trial is for a distinct offence, the trial is not barred. This means that if a person is acquitted or convicted of any offence, he may be tried for a distinct offence for which a separate charge might have been made against him at the former trial under sub-section (1) of Section 220 of the CrPC but the same is subject to a condition precedent being, that the consent of the State Government is sought before such a person could be tried. Applying the said provision to the present case, it is noted that earlier the petitioner was tried in C.C.No.12 of 1999, C.C.No. 13 of 1999 and

C.C.No.14 of 1999 for the offences under Section 13(1)(c) read with Section 13(2) of the Act as well as under Sections 409 and 477A of the IPC. In C.C.No. 24 of 2003 and C.C.No. 25 of 2003, the appellant is being tried once again for the offences under Section 13(1)(c) read with Section 13(2) of the Act and Section 409 of the IPC for the same period. There is no material on record to demonstrate that C.C.No.24 of 2003 and C.C.No.25 of 2003 have been initiated pursuant to the consent of the State Government. It is also not brought on record that the C.C.No.24 of 2003 and C.C.No.25 of 2003 is for any distinct offence for which a separate charge had been made against the appellant and the earlier trials.

(a) Having re-appreciated the evidence of the witnesses and on considering the contentions of the rival parties, we find that the High Court was not justified in affirming the judgment of conviction and sentence passed by the Trial Court.

(b) In view of the aforesaid discussion, we find that the Trial Court as well as the High Court

were not right in convicting and sentencing the appellant herein and therefore, the impugned judgments are liable to be set aside."

Finally, the Bench concludes by holding in para 42 that, "In the circumstances, we find that the initiation of C.C.No.24 of 2003 and C.C.No. 25 of 2003 are not in accordance with law and hence, the said proceedings are quashed. Consequently, the judgment of the Special Judge, Kozhikode in C.C.No.24 of 2003 and C.C.No.25 of 2003 and of the High Court of Kerala at Ernakulam in Criminal Appeal Nos.947 and 948 of 2009 are set aside. The appeals are allowed in the aforesaid terms. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of. No costs."

All in all, it has to be said that the Apex Court has very rightly reiterated that Section 300 CrPC bars the trial not only for the same offence but also for any other offence on the same facts and very rightly grants relief to the appellant. It merits no reiteration that all the Courts must pay heed to what the Apex Court has laid down in this leading case. No denying!

**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

# EPCH marked presence in Int'l Gifts & Home Furnishing Market, Atlanta, USA

IT News  
New Delhi, Jan 13:

The EPCH India Pavilion in Atlanta Int'l Gifts & Home Furnishing Market, 2023 at Atlanta, USA was inaugurated yesterday in the august presence of Dr. Swati Vijay Kulkarni, Consul, Consulate General of India Atlanta, USA along with senior officials and National awardees of Indian handicrafts.

It is a great opportunity for India to showcase its incomparable diversity, rich culture, tradition of arts and crafts at such a big platform like Atlanta Int'l Gifts and Home Furnishing Market 23 informed Rakesh Kumar, Director General - EPCH, America's Mart Atlanta has been a market leader in retail for a number of years with the mission of introducing customers to leading international brands. A new Atlanta International Gift & Home Fur-

nishings Market is being held from January 11-15. As trend-setting designers and retailers congregate to network, connect with thought leaders, and source products from the top suppliers of home furnishings, décor, and rugs in the market, Americas Mart's Home collection continues to expand and innovate. A vibrant and engaging wholesale sourcing location that is home to the largest outdoor living presentation in the country as well as the largest product mix for gifts, home décor, furniture, and apparel. Atlanta Market draws retailers and designers from all 50 states as well as more than 60 other countries.

To promote Indian Handicrafts, EPCH has set up India Pavilion with live demonstrations of Indian Traditional Crafts by 5 Master Craftspersons / Artisans. The office of Development Commissioner [Handicrafts] has

deputed five Master Craftsmen of Terracotta from Pudukcherry, Silver Filigree from Telangana, Hand Block Printing from Gujarat, Kalamkari Printing from Andhra Pradesh, Pressed Dry Flower from Chattisgarh informed R. K. Verma, Executive Director - EPCH. R. K. Verma, Executive Director - EPCH further elaborated, India's participation will increase the fair's vibrancy and diversity, as well as familiarise global manufacturers, retailers, and brands with the vibrant entrepreneurship in the Indian textiles and home furnishing consumer products industry, opening up opportunities for sourcing from India. USA is a major market for Indian Handicraft products and hence Atlanta Int'l Gifts and Home Furnishing Market is an important marketing medium for Indian companies world over. India's exports of handi-

crafts to the USA during the year 2021-22 is Rs. 14117.64 Crores (US \$ 1893.40 Million). Focus on India at this fair will help in further boosting exports.

EPCH is a nodal agency for promoting exports of handicrafts from the Country to various destinations of the world and projecting India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high quality handicrafts goods and services. The Handicrafts exports during the year 2021-22 was Rs. 33253.00 Crores (US \$ 4459.76 Million) registering a growth of 29.49% in rupee terms and 28.90% in dollar terms over previous year. The exports of handicrafts to the USA during the year 2021-22 is Rs. 14117.64 Crores (US \$ 1893.40 Million) registering a growth of 43.25% in rupee terms and 42.60% in dollar terms over previous year, informed by Rakesh Kumar, Director General - EPCH.

## Contd. from Page 1 SN Chand Cine Archive & Museum...



Other awardees included Dammith Fonseka for Sri Lanka for his resolution to save Sri Lanka's film heritage, and Chiranjibi Guragain from Nepal for initiating a digitization project for Nepal's film heritage. Virchand Dharamsey of India received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his extraordinary dedication as a chronicler of the fragile history of India's silent cinema.

Notably, Johnson Rajkumar who was selected as one of the workshop participants, went on to complete the advanced course in Film Preservation and Restoration, covering a broad range of topics regarding film preservation. The intense week-long programme, accredited by FIAF, included both theoretical lectures and hands-on training in the finest methods for preserving and restoring films, both celluloid and digital, as well as paper, photographic, and 3D objects that are relevant to the film industry.

A faculty of international professionals from top institutes of the world mentored the workshop.

The faculty included David Walsh from FIAF, Arike Oke from British Film Institute, Tiago Ganhão from Cinemateca Portuguesa, Marianna de Sanctis from L'Imagine Ritrovata, Maura Pischedda from L'Imagine Ritrovata,

Etienne Marchand from Institut National de L'Audiovisual, Samantha Leroy from Fondation Jérôme Seydoux, Marina Ruiz-Molina from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rio Lopez from Academy Museum of Motion, Shivendra Singh Durgapur from Film Heritage Foundation and others.

Significantly, collections of Manipur's State Film Archive, the SN Chand Cine Archive & Museum, like the only available deteriorated prints of the first attempted feature film of Manipur, 'Mainu Pemcha' was used throughout the workshop as a case for demonstration on advanced course in Film Repair, Treatment of Film in poor condition and Film identifications. Manipuri Film Archivist, Johnson Rajkumar described the international workshop as the most thorough of its kind in the world that has evolved into the template for FIAF's global training initiatives.

"The workshop is immensely helpful for me in terms of how I could contribute to SN Chand Cine

Archive & Museum as an Archivist. It was an intense week long exercise that included various archive strategies to successfully run an Archive. I also got to learn the workflow for chemically deteriorated film; how to do first in-

spection according to the best practice known in the world; what to do before starting any kind of treatment and establishing how to start & check chemical treatments from the learned Film Repair Specialist at L'Imagine Ritrovata, Bologna, mentor, Maura Pischedda. She also agreed to help SN Chand Cine Archive & Museum for any films that need to be inspected and treated from the collection of our Archive." Johnson Rajkumar confided.

Johnson also met the Object Conservator of Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, California, Ms Rio Lopez who also agreed to help how to best conserve and display the objects in SN Chand Cine Archive & Museum. Manipur State Film Development Society Secretary, Sunzu Bachaspatiyum who also attended as an invitee of the inauguration of 'Film Preservation and Restoration Workshop' held at Regal Cinema, Mumbai congratulated Johnson Rajkumar on his winning the "Champions of Film Heritage Award" and said the award and Johnson's participation at the 'Film Preservation and Restoration Workshop' would certainly prove to be an invaluable asset for archiving and preservation of Manipur's film heritage through the activities of SN Chand Cine Archive and Museum.

# PM Modi flags off World's Longest River Cruise, Ganga Vilas; Says, India has great potential in waterways transport

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 13:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off World's Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas at Varanasi via video conferencing on Friday. He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several other inland waterways projects worth more than 1000 crore rupees.

Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister said that India has great potential in waterways transport since the country has more than 125 rivers and it's also a cheap mode of transportation. He said that development works being done in waterways field by the government will increase

Transport, trade and tourism. Mr Modi said, it will help in making eastern part as growth engine of the country. Mr Modi said that this is the decade of transformation of infrastructure in the country. Prime Minister highlighted that the Journey of MV Ganga Vilas is not a simple event as this journey is an example of the development in inland waterways system of the country.

Talking about the phenomenal growth in the sector in last years Prime Minister said that in 2014 there were only five waterways in the country now this number is 111 and around two dozen are functional and transportation of cargo has increased triple times. Prime Minister said that Ganga is not

just a river but an eyewitness to the journey of the country.

Wishing a great journey to the Swiss tourists, Prime Minister said that India has everything that one can imagine and it has many things beyond anyone's imagination. He said this cruise journey will bring many different experiences.

Talking about India's growing clout, Mr Modi said that Cruise tourism and heritage tourism is starting in country at a time when India is attracting people from all over the world. Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Assam, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Union Minister of shipping and Port Sarbanand Sonowal were present during the event.

AIR correspondent reports, MV Ganga Vilas will begin its journey from Varanasi today and travel around 3,200 km in 51 days to reach Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh, sailing across 27 river systems in India and Bangladesh. 32 Swiss tourists became part of the maiden voyage of Ganga Vilas cruise today which has three decks, 18 suites on board with a capacity of 36 tourists, with all the luxury amenities. The 51 days cruise is planned with visits to 50 tourist spots including World Heritage Sites, National Parks, River Ghats, and major cities like Patna in Bihar, Sahibganj in Jharkhand, Kolkata in West Bengal, Dhaka in Bangladesh and Guwahati in Assam.

## Sports

### The Best FIFA Football Awards:

# Messi and Mbappe nominated, Ronaldo misses out

Agency  
Paris, Jan 13:

World Cup finalists Lionel Messi (Argentina) and Kylian Mbappe (France) have been nominated for FIFA's Best awards while Cristiano Ronaldo is a notable omission from the list.

The list of candidates for the 2022 award has been released by FIFA on Thursday night where Messi and Mbappe feature alongside Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema and Neymar in the Best FIFA Men's Player category.

Julian Alvarez also joined teammate Messi among the nominees in the 14-member list. Alvarez, playing his first World Cup, scored four goals while skipper Messi topped the scoring charts for his country with seven goals in Argentina's first World Cup triumph in 36 years. Real Madrid's Carlo Ancelotti, France's Didier Deschamps and Argentina's World Cup-winning manager Lionel Scaloni are nominated for best Men's Coach. Morocco's Walid Regragui also features on the shortlist after

his side became the first African nation to reach a World Cup semifinal.

England's Leah Williamson, Beth Mead and Keira Walsh are nominated in the Women's Best Player category.

Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez and Champions League winner Thibaut Courtois are among the five nominees for The Best Men's Goalkeeper.

Mbappe's late equaliser and Alessia Russo's goal in England's Euro 2022 semifinal win over Sweden are among the 12-goal list of nominees for the FIFA Puskas Award for best goal of the year.

Moreover, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti and Manchester City's Pep Guardiola have been nominated for the men's award alongside Argentina's Scaloni, France's Didier Deschamps and Morocco's Walid Regragui. For the best men's goalkeeper award, Liverpool's Alisson Becker, Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois and Aston Villa's Martinez have been nominated.

Two expert panels - one for women's football and one for



men's football - selected the candidates for the players', goalkeepers' and coaches' categories. The three finalists in each of the seven categories will be announced by FIFA in early February 2023.

### The Best FIFA Women's Player:

Aitana Bonmat (Spain / FC Barcelona)  
Debinha (Brazil / North Carolina Courage)  
Jessie Fleming (Canada / Chelsea FC Women)  
Ada Hegerberg (Norway / Olympique Lyonnais)  
Sam Kerr (Australia / Chelsea FC Women)

### The Best FIFA Men's Player:

Julian Alvarez (Argentina / River Plate / Manchester City FC)  
Jude Bellingham (England / Borussia Dortmund)  
Karim Benzema (France / Real Madrid CF)  
Kevin De Bruyne (Belgium / Manchester City FC)  
Erling Haaland (Norway / Borussia Dortmund / Manchester City FC)  
Achraf Hakimi (Morocco / Paris Saint-Germain)  
Robert Lewandowski (Poland / FC Bayern München / FC Barcelona)

### The Best FIFA Women's Coach:

Sonia Bompastor (France / Olympique Lyonnais)  
Emma Hayes (England / Chelsea FC Women)  
Bev Priestman (England / Canadian National Team)  
Pia Sundhage (Sweden / Brazilian National Team)  
Martina Voss-Tecklenburg (Germany / German National Team)  
Sarina Wiegman (Netherlands / English National Team)  
The Best FIFA Men's Coach:  
Carlo Ancelotti (Italy / Real Madrid CF)  
Didier Deschamps (France / French National Team)

Sadio Mane (Senegal / Liverpool FC / FC Bayern München)

Kylian Mbappe (France / Paris Saint-Germain)

Lionel Messi (Argentina / Paris Saint-Germain)

Luka Modric (Croatia / Real Madrid CF)

Neymar (Brazil / Paris Saint-Germain)

Mohamed Salah (Egypt / Liverpool FC)

Vinicius Junior (Brazil / Real Madrid CF)

The Best FIFA women's Coach:

Sonia Bompastor (France / Olympique Lyonnais)

Emma Hayes (England / Chelsea FC Women)

Bev Priestman (England / Canadian National Team)

Pia Sundhage (Sweden / Brazilian National Team)

/ French National Team)

Pep Guardiola (Spain / Manchester City FC)

Walid Regragui (Morocco / Wydad AC / Moroccan National Team)

Lionel Scaloni (Argentina / Argentinian National Team)

The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper:

Ann-Katrin Berger (Germany / Chelsea FC Women)

Mary Earps (England / Manchester United WFC)

Christiane Endler (Chile / Olympique Lyonnais)

Merle Frohms (Germany / Eintracht Frankfurt / VfL Wolfsburg)

Alyssa Naeher (USA / Chicago Red Stars)

Sandra Panos Garcia-Villamil (Spain / FC Barcelona)

The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper:

Alisson Becker (Brazil / Liverpool FC)

Yassine Bounou (Morocco / Sevilla FC)

Thibaut Courtois (Belgium / Real Madrid CF)

Ederson (Brazil / Manchester City FC)

Emiliano Martinez (Argentina / Aston Villa FC)