

PIB Imphal organizes media workshop Media's role in information dissemination is paramount: Thoubal DC

PIB
Thoubal, Mar 15:

Press Information Bureau (PIB), Imphal organized a one-day media workshop "Vartalap" in Manipur's Thoubal district on Wednesday.

The workshop was organized as a part of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting media outreach strategy that conceptualized to act as a bridge between the masses and the government by empowering the journalists with authentic information about government schemes and policies.

More than 30 journalists from across Thoubal and Kakching districts attended the workshop held at the Election Counting Hall of Thoubal DC office.

Deputy Commissioner A Subhash Singh of Thoubal district graced the inaugural function of the workshop as chief guest presided by Premalata Loitam, Media and Communication Officer (MCO) of PIB, Imphal. Senior SP Jogeshchandra Haobijam also attended the function as guest of honour.

In his address as chief guest of the function, DC A Subhash Singh appreciated the efforts of PIB Imphal for organizing the media workshop which he termed as the best platform for dialogue between media and government.

Media people need to have an in-depth knowledge of the government schemes and policies as the flow of proper information is very important so that people get authentic information at the ground level.

While speaking on the importance of media interaction with the government, the chief guest assured the district administration of organizing a similar workshop in the district sooner or later.

He said, "Media's role in

information dissemination is paramount. It is the most efficient mechanism to inform people of the policies and schemes of the government."

The workshop will help improve the capability of the media people in disseminating policies and schemes of the both Centre and state governments to the masses, Senior SP Jogeshchandra Haobijam said in his address as guest of honour.

He termed the PIB as one of the most important nodal agencies that disseminate government's information to the people through the media.

The SP further said that the journalists should amplify the information shared by various government agencies and help propagate the message of development among the masses.

In her presidential address, MCO Premalata Loitam of PIB categorically stated the purpose of organizing the workshop while asserting that the PIB Imphal is playing an important role in passing government's information to the masses through the media.

The main purpose behind organizing the workshop is to reach out to the local media to highlight different initiatives of the Central government for the benefit of the common people, she asserted.

Earlier, Information Assistant (IA) Pushpa Maibam of PIB Imphal welcomed the chief guest, president, guest of honour and participants of the workshop while delivering the keynote address of the workshop.

Being the fourth pillar of democracy, media need to be very well informed about the schemes of the government so

that it reaches the masses, she said.

This vartalap will also provide a platform for free flow of conversation between government agencies and the media, she hoped.

Three resource persons presented their papers on the government policy and welfare schemes during the technical session that followed the inaugural function.

District social welfare officer, Thoubal district Kanghujam Nongpoknganba Salaicha and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Thoubal Zilla Parishad Kshetrimayum Umananda presented papers on social security schemes of the Central and state governments being implemented in the district respectively while Dr Chinglen Maisnam, professor of Economics Department of Manipur University talked on "The India's Act East Policy and its Impacts in Manipur".

Giving a detailed presentation on the social security schemes being implemented in the district, Nongpoknganba Salaicha emphasized on recently launched new schemes of the state government.

CEO Kshetrimayum Umananda, in his presentation, highlighted the problems being faced in the implementation of MGNREGA scheme in the state, particularly in Thoubal district.

Presenting his paper on "The India's Act East Policy and its Impacts in Manipur" Dr Chinglen Maisnam termed the policy as a symbol of India's attention for the North East Region.

"In the absence of economic, social and physical

infrastructures, mere opening up of the NE region to the global capital flow, trade and the much-hyped Act-East Policy and Make in Manipur will further increase regional divide and development disparities," he said.

Later, an engaging interactive session was held with the journalists. The workshop saw an active participation of more than 30 journalists from the city.

National Pride Award Conferred



IT News
Imphal, Mar 15:

Heirom Dhamendra Meitei of Chanam Sandok, who is also the secretary of People Alliance for Social Services (PASS) was conferred on by the National Pride Award - 2023" by SP Foundation, Imphal in recognition to his valued contribution in the field of Social service over a period of 20 years. He also received another award in the field of social work.

Large number of timbers found hidden while trying to rescue forest fire at Thangjing Hill Range



IT News
Imphal, Mar 15:

Three days after a wild fire broke out at Thangjing Hill Range in Churachandpur district another wild forest fire broke out at the hill range yesterday evening just close to the Langjing Manbi Reserve Forest and near KK Haotak Village.

Volunteers of Anti Drug Campaign Bishnupur district, Police and Forest Personnel along with fire brigade extinguished the fire before it destroyed more. What is more interesting is that the volunteers of the Anti Drug Campaign Bishnupur and the staffs of the Forest department as well as the police found huge quantity of timber hidden near KK Haotak Village.

According to RO of the Bishnupur Forest Division Sukham Ratanakumar there were no proper TP tag in the timber hidden in large quantity at the place which showed that the Timber were hidden at the place for smuggling. As per the Range Officer of the Forest Division

the number of timber is near around 137 and each one has a diameter equivalent to the shoulder of a grown person.

The hidden timbers were later seized by the Bishnupur Forest Division. So, far no person has claimed the ownership of the timbers.

Meanwhile, Khongjom Police has arrested three individuals allegedly involved in causing wildfire in Tenthla Kangla Chingdol. As informed by a source, on Tuesday at about 3.30 pm, information was received from the SP Thoubal control room stating that a wildfire accident took place at Tenthla Kangla Chingdol. Acting on the information, teams of Khongjom Police Station under the command of OC Khongjom Police Station with fire tender of Thoubal district under the overall supervision of the SP Thoubal rushed to the spot without any delay and put off the fire safely at around 5 pm. During the fire accident safety operation, three individuals suspected to have been involved in causing the wild fire were

detained and verified. On verification they identified themselves as Ningshen Moshang (52), son of Late Ng. Thanni of Mumlo Ringpam village, Tengenoual; Shinglai Reishangsing (27), son of S. Wungshunhmi of Mumlo Ringpam village, Tengenoual and Shimphrui Thotchan (26), son of Late Sh. Tamashing of Mumlo Ringpam village, Tengenoual.

On further questioning, they revealed that the fire accident started when they ignited dry grasses while collecting honey from beehives built in the forest. One Bajaj Pulsar 180 motorcycle black in colour bearing registration number MN02AD-5752 was also seized from the foothill of the fire accident area, the source divulged.

The apprehended individuals along with the seized vehicle will be handed over to the authority of Divisional Forest Officer, Thoubal District for taking up further necessary legal actions under relevant forest laws, added the source.

Nagaland's opposition-free government must remain one-off India cannot replicate dysfunctional democracy at national level

By Kalyani Shankar

After the recent Assembly results, all parties in the tiny State of Nagaland formed an Opposition-free government to get a share in the power pie. All the parties unconditionally supported the ruling alliance, and all parties were in the Government with no Opposition.

It isn't the first time Nagaland has chosen an Opposition-free government. In 2015 and 2021, there were such governments, but this was the first-ever Assembly where there was no opposition party even before the elected members had been sworn in.

The stakeholders justified their decision in their plea to bring all sections together for Naga's political solution. The State faces serious development challenges attributed to long years of insurgency. This complete lack of Opposition shows the convulsions of democracy in its

worst form.

The ruling NDPP (Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party)-BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) alliance retained power for a second straight term. In the 60-member House, the BJP won 12 seats, and its ally NDPP got 25. Independents won four and Nationalist Congress Party 7. Congress, which ruled the State earlier, did not open its account in the current or the previous Assembly. Sadly, the grand old party is almost disappearing from the North East, where it was a dominant force earlier.

To explain the historical perspective, the Naga movement, the longest-running insurgency in the country, began during the British regime and continued even after independence. In 1997, the Centre signed a ceasefire agreement with the Nagaland Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSC-IM), the largest rebel group.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi renewed the negotiations

after he came to power in 2014. As a result, the Naga peace accord was signed to end the six-decade-old insurgency on 3 August 2015. All the parties formed an Opposition-free government before that.

The Government's interlocutor for Naga Peace Talks, R. N. Ravi, signed it on behalf of the Government of India. Lt. Isak Chishi Swu, Chairman, and Thuingaleng Muivah, General Secretary, signed on behalf of the NSCN in the presence of Modi. For a second time, in 2021, the NPF and Independents joined the NDPP-BJP alliance to seek a collective solution to the Nagaland problem and formed an Opposition-free government.

However, as the circumstances differ, the Nagaland experiment cannot be extended to other States or the Centre. Suppose such a thing happened at the national level? Our founding fathers would shiver in their graves.

Former Chief Justice of India

N. V. Ramana, addressing Rajasthan Assembly before his retirement, expressed concern over the diminishing space for the Opposition in legislative bodies. He lamented that the laws were passed without detailed deliberation and called for a robust, vibrant, active Opposition.

As a larger question, there are many reasons for the declining Opposition space within the state Assembly. They include an increasing number of dynastic leaders, lack of debate in the Legislature, absence of a good counter-narrative, and their adoption of an obstructive agenda.

The BJP has been aggressive in its expansion. PM Modi and his deputy Amit Shah worked feverishly to expand the party. Even nationally, the opposition space has been systematically eroded in the last decade, mainly after Modi took over.

In contrast, the main political party, the Congress, unable to protect its turf, has

continuously declined in its electoral performance. The Left parties, too, face a similar situation. The regional leaders needed the numbers that could only come through alliances with these national parties. Above all, the Opposition parties needed an alternate vision and an engaging narrative to check the ruling BJP.

While drafting the Constitution, our founding fathers went into all aspects, including the role of the Opposition. Ideally, in genuine parliamentary democracies, governments and oppositions have equal obligations and responsibilities to the people who elected them to represent their interests. There is no democracy without Opposition, and theoretically, at least, it is as powerful as the Government. Power, though, has the potential to be misused, as witnessed by the adage: absolute power corrupts absolutely.

However, the success of

democracy depends on the constructive role of the opposition parties as they provide an alternate viewpoint. They also scrutinize and challenge the ruling parties and hold them accountable for their actions.

Opposition is strong when people join it. Today, it is ordinary Indians who are performing the role of a formal Opposition to the Government. The effectiveness of the Opposition lies in raising the right questions. Any opposition party, civil society group, any organization willing to engage with the issues can be a vehicle for opposition politics.

The moral of the story is that democracies can survive authoritarianism; they cannot survive the absence of vigorous Opposition. It performs a restraining role and constantly challenges the government of the day by promising a viable alternative.

(IPA Service)

NEET-PG 2023 results declared

Agency
New Delhi, Mar 15:

The result of NEET-PG 2023 has been announced. Candidates who appeared for the examination can check and download their results online from the official website - nbe.edu.in.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has congratulated all students declared qualified in results. He said, the National Board Examination in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has again done a great job by successfully conducting NEET-PG exams and declaring results in a record time.

Women entrepreneurship, a key pillar for India at G20

By Dr Sangita Reddy and Ms Anna Roy

Promoting women's entrepreneurship is among India's most important growth and equality priorities. It is a powerful vehicle that can speed up India's journey of becoming a \$5-trillion economy. Moreover, it is one of the most significant factors that will help raise household incomes, alleviate poverty, and help us achieve the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG-5 on gender equality.

India's promotion of nari shakti is reflected in various government initiatives. The National Rural Livelihood Mission supports rural women's entrepreneurship, with over 80 million women participating in 7.5 million self-help groups. The Mudra scheme enables access to finance and the GeM portal reserves 3% of all government procurement for women entrepreneurs.

Research by Niti Aayog indicates that women's entrepreneurship needs support to make them sustainable and autonomous and bring them into the formal sector. The employment-generating capacities of these enterprises are well-documented and create collateral gains for the society and economy.

Under its G20 presidency, India has identified eight priority areas, including inter alia women-led development and public digital infrastructure. In addition, the G20 Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (G20 EMPOWER), led by the ministry of women and child development, aims to shift the narrative from women's development to women-led development. Women entrepreneurs are at the heart of this shift, leading G20 EMPOWER.

We must transform challenges into opportunities and accelerate the shift towards greater inclusion of women in the workforce and women-led entrepreneurship. As SDGs demonstrate, adopting a gender lens and creating a culture to provide more opportunities to women requires collaborative and concerted action within our country and globally.

Digitalisation is a powerful tool that can help strengthen women's economic participation. In addition, there are several sectors where remote working can be a permanent feature and offer the opportunity to employ women workforce.

G20 Empower platform's three priority areas are to convert these dialogues to action through the following approaches.

One, focus on women's entrepreneurship: Increase women's access to skill, capacity building, support infrastructure, and finances to promote women-led and women-owned businesses. Two, create a partnership for promoting women's leadership aimed at increasing their public representation, access to public amenities, and enhancing participation in the labour force in public and private sectors. Three, work towards education that facilitates women's representation in decision-making roles.

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a key conduit to bridge the knowledge gap: As Indian women and girls make rapid strides and transition from the education system into the world of work, India is creating a strong entrepreneurship pathway for an additional 55 million women who could enter the workforce by 2030.

Announced at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017, the idea and incubation of WEP happened at Niti Aayog. Today, it is a shining example of a robust public-private partnership, providing multisectoral support to women entrepreneurs. It is building the pipeline of women entrepreneurs through awareness, training, skill, access to finance and marketing needs. WEP has also emerged as a thought leader by producing data that help better understand women's entrepreneurship needs with a sharp focus on leadership and mental health. Also planned is an emphasis on technology, lowering barriers to allow women to avail multiple efficiencies without mandating a traditional brick-and-mortar approach to optimising growth.

In this year of India's G20 presidency, the world will witness the best collaboration between institutions, countries, initiatives, and people. It will showcase India's nari shakti, all of whom will emerge as pioneers of prosperous societies and economies.

Sangita Reddy is joint MD, Apollo Hospitals, past president of FICCI, chair of EMPOWER20 and co-chair of the Steering Committee of WEP. Anna Roy is senior adviser, Niti Aayog and mission director, WEP. The views expressed are personal.

Poetry

Ballad For Gloom

By - Adison Moirangthem

God please help me.
It's my SOS call.
Wouldn't you hear my words?
Send me a saviour of my life.
Deep inside the bottom of strong whirlpool,
Life of mine is in extreme danger.
The quagmire of life pull down every step.

Love to see my destined end point.
I don't want to leave this world.
I wanna smile, enjoy.
Born to this Earth,
the desire to see my final destiny still run in my blood.
Is it the purpose for my life being born in this world?

In the middle of nowhere,
there I exist waiting for your reply .

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Reddmatter: A Miracle Superconducting Material

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Scientists have discovered a new material that could be set to change the entire world. The fact that the conductivity of the material is successful in practical conditions further glorifies the discovery. When a material is superconductive, electricity flows through it with zero resistance, which means none of the energy involved is lost as heat. But every superconductor made so far has required extraordinary high pressures, and most have required very low temperatures. Researchers say they have created a superconducting material that works at both a temperature and a pressure low enough to actually use it in practical situations. It reaches a breakthrough that scientists have been chasing for more than a century, in making a material that is able to transmit electricity without resistance, and pass magnetic fields around the material. The world of energy and electronics may transform as a result of the discovery of a new superconductor material, according to a team of scientists. Its discovery could lead to power grids that are able to seamlessly transmit energy, saving up to 200 million megawatt hours that are currently lost to resistance. It could also contribute to nuclear fusion, a long-awaited process that could create unlimited power. The breakthrough might pave the way for hovering trains and ultra-efficient electrical grids and new kinds of medical equipment and highly efficient MRI machines for diagnostic purposes.

According to the *New Scientist*, an assistant professor named **Ranga Dias** at the **University of Rochester in New York** and his colleagues claim to have made a material from **hydrogen (99%), nitrogen (1%), and lutetium** that becomes superconductive at a temperature of just 69 degrees Fahrenheit and a pressure of 1 gigapascal. That is nearly 10,000

times the atmospheric pressure on Earth's surface, but still a far lower pressure than any previous superconducting material. In a paper published in scientific journal *Nature*, the researchers describe how they combined the three components to create the material by pressing it between two diamond anvils, a device that compresses materials to extremely high pressures. Its colour shifted from blue to red when the substance was crushed. The material has been nicknamed "**reddmatter**", after its colour and as a nod to a material from *Star Trek*. It found that name during the process of creating it, when scientists found that it surprisingly switched to become a "**very bright red**" while it was being created. Professor Dias and the team made the material by taking a rare earth metal named lutetium and mixed it with hydrogen and a small part of nitrogen. They were then left to react for two or three days, at high temperatures. The compound came out as a rich blue, according to the paper. But it was then pressed at very high pressure, when it turned from blue to pink as it reached superconductivity, and then again became a rich red at its non-superconducting metallic state.

To work, the material still requires being heated to 20.5 degrees Celsius and compressed to about 145,000 psi. But that is vastly less intense than other, similar materials — including those announced in 2020 by Professor Dias that brought excitement and skepticism from scientists. Hydrides created by combining rare earth metals with hydrogen, and then adding nitrogen or carbon, have provided researchers a tantalizing "**working recipe**" for creating superconducting materials in recent years. In technical terms, rare earth metal hydrides form

clathrate-like cage structures, where the rare earth metal ions act as carrier donors, providing sufficient electrons that would enhance the dissociation of the H₂ molecules. Nitrogen and carbon help stabilize materials. Bottom line: less pressure is required for superconductivity to occur. Lutetium has highly localized fully-filled 4d electrons in its forlorn configuration that suppress the phonon softening and provide enhancement to the electron-phonon coupling needed for superconductivity to take place at ambient temperatures. "The key question was, how are we going to stabilize this to lower the required pressure? And that's where nitrogen came into the picture. "Nitrogen, like carbon, has a rigid atomic structure that can be used to create a more stable, cage-like lattice within a material and it hardens the low-frequency optical phonons. This structure provides the stability for superconductivity to occur at lower pressure.

"With this material, the dawn of ambient superconductivity and applied technologies has arrived," according to a team led by Ranga Dias, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering and physics. "A pathway to superconducting consumer electronics, energy transfer lines, transportation, and significant improvements of magnetic confinement for fusion are now a reality," said Professor Dias in a statement. "We believe we are now at the modern superconducting era. "According to these scientists, this miracle material has superconducting properties that could enable: (i) **Power grids that transmit electricity without the loss of up to 200 million megawatt hours (MWh) of the energy that now occurs due to resistance in the wires** (ii) **Frictionless, levitating high-speed trains** (iii) **More**

affordable medical imaging and scanning techniques such as MRI and magnetocardiography (iv) **Faster, more efficient electronics for digital logic and memory device technology** (v) **Tokamak machines that use magnetic fields to confine plasmas to achieve fusion as a source of unlimited power.** Dias predicts that nitrogen-doped lutetium hydride will greatly accelerate progress in the development of tokamak machines to achieve fusion. According to him, tokamaks, another method of trapping plasma instead of lasers, could produce an enormous magnetic field when combined with the material he discovered. According to him, this is exactly the "**game changer**".

The new material is described in a paper, "**Evidence of near-ambient superconductivity in an N-doped lutetium hydride**", published in *Nature* today. It found name "**reddmatter**" during the process of creating it, when scientists found that it surprisingly switched to become a "**very bright red**" while it was being created. And it is practical enough that the scientists involved in the paper say that it will mark a new era for the practical use of superconducting materials. "We believe we are now at the modern superconducting era. "Those practical applications might include using the material to accelerate the development of "tokamak machines" that are being developed to achieve nuclear fusion. The world of energy and electronics may transform drastically and efficiently as a result of the discovery of this new superconductor material. **And it is practical enough that the scientists involved in the paper say that it will mark a new era for the practical use of superconducting materials.**

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Unchallenged Patriarchy and Domestic Abuse



By-MRLALU

International Women's Day this year came with startling revelations from two reputed women personalities in India. The severity of the disclosure was so intense and their statements indeed were finger-pointing on the double standards that exist in the society when it comes to the rights and protection of girls and women. Call it the feminine dilemma. The nurtured belief is that girls are naturally inferior to boys and therefore, they need to be under the imposed protection of the male. Khushbu Sundar, a famous film actress and politician from Tamil Nadu came out revealing the instances of brutal molestations she had suffered at the hands of her father when she was a child and the Chief of Delhi Commission for Women Swati Maliwal also recounted similar instances that rattled the conscience of a large number of sensible Indians. Their childhood, according to them, had been a nightmare as they had been subjects of torture and domestic sexual savagery. How isolating and terrifying such experiences would be when a girl child discovers that her father is a sexual pervert.

Indignation and meaningless consolidation of judgemental apprehensions make the experience horrendous. An unimaginable predicament of a girl realising the worst in her father. This is a social issue. It is not a delicate dilemma and the impulse to silence alternative voices against familial acrimony on young girls with increasing intolerance, conflict and abuse needs strict vigilance and punishment. Revelations by reputed individuals help the press to catch the wind but what about those uncountable children and women who suffer the horror of a masculine patriarchal dominance both at home and outside.

From the spiritual perspective of an essential motherhood to that of the reverence rendered to the womenfolk in every field of life, India has been an exemplary landmass that propitiated and propagated the genuine value of the feminine in its all possible forms and principles. To substantiate this, we need to get the most ancient records which laud the feminine gender in India's civilizational journey. Surprisingly, our understanding and acceptance for the womenfolk begins from the days of Vedas or beyond. Rigveda's beautiful aphorisms not only narrate the importance of women as an important social being but it vividly elucidates the significance of women education and scholarship as well. "A scholarly woman, the entire life of society depends on you. You provide us with the right knowledge. May you bring knowledge to all segments of society", says one of such mantras in the Rigveda. This Rig-Vedic

aphorism alone is enough for us to visualize the depth of understanding that the Vedic society had been intertwined with and the importance that it had given for girl child education. The Vedic tradition accorded women the highest respect and treated her as the holiest of all divine forms, the mother.

India is where the idea of motherhood is attributed to the nation. For us, it is not a piece of land but a divine motherhood encapsulated in its soul. A nation, which is adorned with the status of a mother, had its entire edifice of freedom struggle spiraling around the idea of her emancipation from the evil clutches of foreign dominance or rescuing the mother from the demonic hold of invasion and colonial aggression. How deeper did the nationalist revivalist sentiments in the song written in praise of a nation by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay ignite love in the minds of Indians. Vande mataram brought the latest of the best thoughts on India's motherliness in its poetic glory. Depicting India as a divine being, carving the beauty of the landscape in the most beautiful manner, the National Song juxtaposes its glory with complete munificence. Imagine the level of sacrifices made by millions of people. See the supreme satisfaction reflected on the faces of those patriots who walked to death for her freedom. The unfathomable essence of human sacrifices of the highest order tells us stories of love and enigmatic desire to live and die for a noble cause called the divine motherhood.

Modern society's bizarre notions underestimate the substance of these ancient values. Gurukuls of the olden days had overabundant opportunities for women to intellectually flourish and socially grow with exuberance and excellence. Undoubtedly, many families across India overloaded with material intentions and westernized thoughts have lost the cognitive domain to keep the families together with love, respect and compassion. Born-chilling revelations by these women not only calls for a better approach towards the feminine but also reveals the ruthlessness of the calamitous hypocrisy that girls and women are subjected to in the Indian families. It is an identity crisis that engulfs the family atmosphere, wherein the beautiful relationship between parents and kids becomes a metaphorical mechanization. And of course the intense influence of social media and the gadgets that the conscience keepers in families bury themselves in keep pulling the deeper intimacy between the children and the parents to unrecognizable realms. International Women's Day also brought alarming signals of suppression that the religious patriarchy presses hard on a large number of women in Afghanistan and Iran. Agitations shaking the basic tenets of religious fanaticism have spilt a lot of blood of women who spoke louder for their rights.

Families all over the world must be suffocating with a silent protest brewing against the male dominance inside their circumscribed spaces.

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Second Education Working Group meeting of G20 countries to begin in Amritsar

Agency
Amritsar, Mar 15:

The Ministry of Education is all set to host the 2nd Education Working Group meeting at Amritsar in Punjab today, March 15. Twenty-eight G20 member countries, guest countries, and invited organizations (OECD, UNESCO & UNICEF) will be participating in the three-day event consisting of seminars, exhibition, and working group meetings.

Today, a seminar on 'Strengthening Research and Promoting Innovation through richer Collaboration' will be organised at Khalsa College by IIT Ropar with collaborative inputs from prominent Higher Education Institutions such as IISC Bengaluru, IIM Amritsar, and TISS Mumbai.

The seminar will begin with a presentation by IISC Bengaluru on 'Research



Initiatives in G20 countries' with inputs provided by G20 members and invitee countries in the seminar. A multimedia exhibition is being organised with 90 stalls with participation from UAE, China, and Saudi Arabia, NSDC, NCERT, National Book Trust, Indian Knowledge Systems Division (IKS), and several start-up initiatives.

G-20 delegates will also visit the Golden Temple, Jallianwala Bagh, and the Partition Museum. The district administration will also host a Sufi festival at the Gobindgarh Fort during the event.

Meanwhile, security is beefed up in the border city and all arrangements are made for the smooth functioning of the G-20 events.

Joint India Singapore exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra' concludes at Jodhpur

By a Correspondent
Jodhpur, Mar 15:

The Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armoured exercise from 06-13 March 2023 at Jodhpur Military Station, India.

For the first time in the exercise series, both armies participated in a command post Exercise, which involved Battalion and Brigade level planning elements and computer wargaming. Hosted by the Indian Army, the exercise involved soldiers from the 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment and an Armoured Brigade of Indian Army.

The ten-day joint training that commenced on 05th March fostered common understanding of mechanised warfare in emerging threats and evolving technologies, developing inter-

operability through a computer simulation-based Wargame using joint operational and tactical procedures controlled through a joint command post. Both contingents not only learnt about each other's operating drills and procedure, but also exchanged ideas and best practices being followed in a modern combat zone.

Exercise Bold Kurukshetra is conducted under the ambit of the bilateral arrangement for the joint Army Training and exercises between the Singapore Army and the Indian Army. First conducted in 2005, this exercise underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both countries and enhances cooperation between the two armies. Both defence establishments also interact regularly through high-level visits, policy dialogues, courses and other professional exchanges.



One Day Seminar On Digitalization of Indian Banking Industry

By a correspondent
Malout (Punjab), Mar 15:

Ankush Kumar, relationship manager, HDFC Bank, Malout branch was the distinguished speaker in this seminar. He discussed various new techniques of ebanking. He shared his vast experience about credit cards, ATMs, SMS banking, mobile banking and Internet banking. He replied satisfactory answers of students regarding RTGS, NEFT, and various functions of ATMs etc.

The Govt. College, Danewala, Malout (Punjab) is renowned for its excellent activities and committed to the overall development of its students. Under the guidance of Dr. Jyotsna, DDO/officiating principal of the Govt. College, Danewala (Malout) organized a one Day Seminar on the topic "Digitalization of Indian Banking Industry" in accordance with directions of DPI, Colleges, Punjab. This seminar was held under the theme G 20 and India's Presidency 2023. Ankush Kumar, relationship manager, HDFC Bank, Malout branch was the distinguished speaker in this seminar. He discussed various new techniques of ebanking. He

shared his vast experience about credit cards, ATMs, SMS banking, mobile banking and Internet banking. He replied satisfactory answers of students regarding RTGS, NEFT, and various functions of ATMs etc. The students of various classes participated with full enthusiasm.

A college official, Mrs. Kirti Sukhija, emphasized the importance of such seminars in the life of students. The college will organize more activities under this theme in the future, she said. She also highlighted the significance of such seminars in life. She said without digitalization India cannot develop. Dr. R. K. Uppal spoke about G 20. He said India is a lucky country that is going for presidency G 20 for the first time. This event is a great privilege to be hosted by India, he said.

He said ebanking is a need of the hour in the ages of liberalization, privatization and globalization. All the faculty members, senior faculty member Madam Asha, dept. Of English, Kaiziyia dept. of Commerce, Dr. Arun Kalra, Dept of Punjabi, and Madam Neelam Uppal, dept. of Hindi were present.

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Unchallenged Patriarchy

But most of the cases wouldn't come out as the abysmal patriarchal interventions would hammer heavily on the agitative impulse of the feminine. Starting from the darkened corners of the families to the complicated and populated environment of the schools and colleges to the public spaces, suppressed despair of a girl child or a woman could be heard. There have been hearts wrenching inputs from Iran about the poisoning of more than 1000 girls in schools across that country.

It is seen as part of an extremist response probably with the tacit administrative support to the agitation propelled by the death of Masha Amini, the lady who blew the whistle against the patriarchal aggression. Violence against women and girls has become a normal routine in India. With the effect of advanced systems of education involving more girl children and the perceived notion of enhanced role of women becoming louder in a progressive society, there needs to be proactive efforts

to strengthen the feminine impulses in a familial atmosphere.

Though the constitution of India carved a genderless Bharat out of the long stretch of landscape from the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean, the cultural reminiscence of the country naturally carried the conception of a graceful femininity, accepted it and nurtured its importance. Bharat is Bharat Mata for most of the Indians despite waves of criticism lashing out calling it a suffragette terminology establishing majoritarian supremacy. India's spiritual cognition throughout its cultural lineage has eminently established this respect for women and their role in the society was undoubtedly defined and protected. Khushbu and Swati Maliwal had broken the cord of hypocrisy by accentuating the need for more action oriented discourses to happen. Our girls and women need more support and strengthening in this direction.

Indian Army takes lead in awarding first contract for Idex Project as per the revised procedure

IT News
New Delhi, Mar 15:

The Indian Army has taken a lead in awarding the first ever procurement order of an Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) project as per the revised procedure. The contract for procurement of an indigenously developed 'Integrated Mobile Camouflage System (IMCS)' for Mechanised Forces was signed with Indian Startup M/s Hyper Stealth Technologies Pvt Ltd on March 14 2023, in presence of the Lt Gen JB Chaudhari, Deputy Chief of the Army Staff (CD&S) and Mr Anurag Bajpai, Joint Secretary, DDP in Sena Bhawan.

The Integrated Mobile Camouflage System (IMCS) comprises of low emissivity and/or CAM-IRR coatings and Mobile Camouflage System materials providing the ability to the Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) to merge with a terrain background. The

technology comprises of low emissivity coatings and mobile camouflage system material and will provide significant capability enhancement in stealth for AFVs. The niche technology will be a great leap in indigenous stealth technology and provide a boost to Aatmanirbharta. IMCS will achieve a reduction in the detection range of AFV when viewed through Hand Held Thermal Imager (HHTI) / Battle Field Surveillance Radar (BFSR) tank-based thermal camera under given environmental and weather conditions and signature management by controlling the Visual, Thermal, Infra-red & Radar Signatures of object.

iDEX was launched by Hon'ble PM during Def Expo India 2018. The aim of iDEX was to create an eco-system to foster innovation and encourage technological development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging R&D Institutes, Academia,



Industries including MSMEs, Start-Ups, Individual Innovators and provide them grants/ funding and other support to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption by Indian Defence and Aerospace Organisation.

iDEX is funded and managed by Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) under MoD (DDP). Over past four years, iDEX under DIO has been able to emerge as a front-runner in

establishing the right kind of contact with the Startups and Innovators and has gained substantial traction in the Defence Startup Community.

Currently, there are a total of 48 projects of the Indian Army as part of Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC), Open Challenges, iDEX4 Fauji & iDEX PRIME scheme which involves handholding of 41 Startups for the development of the latest state of art solutions for the challenges posed by Indian

Army. For each challenge, a dedicated Nodal Officer & Establishment as Centre of Excellence from the Indian Army is nominated for handholding and providing continuous support in progressing their respective projects.

A further boost was given to the initiative in April 2022 as the revised methodology for iDEX was approved by the Raksha Mantri which ensures significant reduction in timelines of procurement to approx 24 weeks.

IMCS was the first system to be trial evaluated as per 'Single Stage Composite Trial' methodology based on revised DAP 2020. RFP was issued to the developing agency in September 2022 and within a record time of six months contract was signed on 14 March 23.

Balance AoN accorded iDEX projects of the Indian Army are also under finalisation with a contract likely by mid-April 2023.

Face Examinations Without Fear



By - Vijay GarG

If you are a student and are restless and nervous about the Board examinations, you are probably overcome with anxiety and fear. You find it almost impossible to concentrate, worrying that you might forget whatever you have studied so far. In a booklet titled Letter to a Student, Swami Purushottamananda discusses the crucial problem of examination fear.

He says fear of exams is the

biggest enemy of students. Under its stress, some even fall physically ill. The word "examination fever" has been coined in this context. Even students who have put in long hours of study become nervous at the time of exams. So, the Swami says, don't lose heart, you can definitely gain control of the situation. To get out of the fear psychosis, Swami Purushottamananda requests students to ask themselves what they would gain by feeling afraid. For, fear brings sickness. But by being bold and brave, even an average student can do reasonably well in exams. But if a student shelters fear, it will deprive his mind and body of strength. "The only results can be this: You will "forget" all that you have studied while writing the exam. It is this fear that makes you write confused answers". He says, "Root out the fear

complex lurking in your mind by combining self-confidence with disciplined study; have faith in your own strength and faith in your studies... The strong conviction that you would write the exams well, with a calm mind, is self-confidence. If you can develop this, fear vanishes and enthusiasm springs up in its place".

Students can draw inspiration from the encouraging words of Swami Vivekananda, who had great faith in the power of faith. He exhorted the youth to first have faith in themselves. He said: "The history of the world is the history of a few men who had faith in themselves. That faith calls out the divinity within. You can do anything. You fail only when you do not strive sufficiently to manifest infinite power". On different occasions Swamiji emphasised that "whatever you think, that you

will be. If you think yourselves weak, weak you will be; if you think yourselves strong, strong you will be". He would say: "Never say, "I cannot", for you are infinite. Even time and space are as nothing compared with your nature. You can do anything and everything, you are Almighty".

Vivekananda's prescription for success is: "To succeed, you must have tremendous perseverance, tremendous will. "I will drink the ocean", says the persevering soul, "at my will, mountains will crumble up". Have that sort of energy, that sort of will; work hard, and you will reach the goal...". He further said: "If there is one word that you find from the Upanishads, bursting like a bomb-shell upon masses of ignorance, it is the word fearlessness... Strength is life; weakness is death. Strength is felicity, life eter-

nal, immortal; weakness is constant strain and misery...".

For students who cultivate fearlessness, and who face the exams boldly, success is waiting round the corner. True, sometimes, unfortunately, even the most hardworking and dedicated of students find that the results are not good. However, even in the worst-case scenario of failure you should not think that it is the end of the world. Swami Vivekananda has taught that there is success and failure in every work. In fact, failures make us even wiser. Constant practice makes one perfect, so no one should lose heart in the process of trying.

For "tomorrow is another day" with fresh hopes and opportunities, and you should look forward to taking up new challenges and responsibilities.

NMDC celebrates International Year of Millets at Business Women Expo 2023



PIB
New Delhi, Mar 15:

At the forefront of popularizing Millets, NMDC distributed the Superfood at the Business Women Expo 2023 in Hyderabad. In the backdrop of the International Year of Millets 2023, NMDC inspired women entrepreneurs to build Millet businesses and contribute to the food security of the nation. On behalf of the company, Shri K Praveen Kumar, ED (Personnel and Law) and Shri K Mohan, CGM (Personnel) distributed the Millets and interacted with

the participants on its benefits for a healthier future. The United Nations, at the behest of the Government of India, declared 2023, the International Year of Millets. In its effort to increase the consumption of Millets, NMDC recently invited IIMR recognised Ahobilam Foods of Hyderabad to conduct a Session on - Millets as Smart Food. The session was followed by a Millet Lunch. The CPSE is also engaging with stakeholders on its Social Media platforms to create awareness and is distributing Millets at platforms of public importance.

Anurag Singh Thakur to inaugurate IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi

Agency
New Delhi, Mar 15:

The IBA Women's World Boxing Championships will begin in New Delhi today, March 15. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur will attend the opening ceremony at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex this evening.

International Boxing Association, IBA President Umar Kremlev, and Boxing Federation of India, BFI President Ajay Singh will also

be present on the occasion. BFI is hosting the biggest boxing event till the 26th of March. The Championship is taking place in India for the third time after 2006 and 2018, the most for any country. The tournament will witness the participation of more than 350 boxers from around 74 countries. The Indian team of 12 boxers for the event includes 2020 Tokyo Bronze medalist, Lovlina Borgohain and the current world champion in the 50kg category, Nikhat Zareen.

Chief of Defence Staff inaugurates DRDO's two-day workshop on 'Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms'

PIB

New Delhi, Mar 15

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan inaugurated a two-day workshop on 'Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms' in New Delhi on March 15, 2023. The workshop has been organised by Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), a Delhi-based laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The aim of the workshop is to evolve a policy framework and practices to ensure scientific implementation of Human Factors Engineering (HFE) in the defence sector, thereby providing an impetus to the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. The HFE is a science concerned with the design of

tools and systems by taking into account human capabilities & limitations for safe and effective use.

The certificates were presented by Shri A Ashok, GM (CSR) and other officials of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of RINL. To make it convenient for the beneficiaries, RINL management provided the skill training at their respective Day care training centres, in various skills such as tailoring, preparation of home needs like agarbattis, candle making, phenyl making and detergent making through special trainers from JSS (Jan Shikshan Sansthan). The duration of the training in tailoring was for 3 months and training in preparation of home needs was for 2 months.

Govt. College, Danewala, Malout, Organized Essay Writing Competition Under, "G 20 and India's Presidency 2023"

By a Correspondent
Malout (Punjab), Mar 15:

The Govt. College, Danewala, Malout (Punjab) is renowned for its excellent activities. Under the guidance of Dr. Jyotsna, DDO/officiating principal of the Govt. College, Danewala (Malout) organized an "Intra - College Essay Writing Competition" in accordance with directions of DPI, Colleges, Punjab. G-20 Presidency 2023 was the theme of the Context. The students of various classes participated with full enthusiasm. A college official, Mrs. Kirti Sukhija, emphasized the importance of such activities in the life of students. The college will organize more activities under this theme in the future, she said. She congratulates all the winners of this competition. She also motivated other students to

participate in the future. Dr. R. K. Uppal spoke about G 20. He said India is a lucky country that is going for presidency G 20 for the first time. This event is a great privilege to be hosted by India, he said. Participants discussed climate change and disaster risk reduction, the future of work, social media and its impact on human lives, youth in democracy, politics is a dirty game, peacebuilding, and reconciliation, students and discipline, semester system good or bad, etc. Ms. Summanpreet, Sumanpreet Kaur (bracted), Rani, and Simran declared first, second, and third respectively. All the faculty members, senior faculty member Madam Asha, dept. of English, Kaizyia dept. of Commerce, Dr. Arun Kalra, Dept of Punjabi, and Madam Neelam Uppal, dept. of Hindi were present.

AMYPACO questions inclusion of Kukis in ST list

Imphal, Mar 15:

The All Manipur Youth Protection Committee (AMYPACO) has questioned the circumstances under which the Kukis were inserted in the Scheduled Tribe list of Manipur State in 1976.

According to a census report of Myanmar (then Burma) published in 1947, the total population of self proclaimed Burmese Kukis was around 1,00,000 but it declined to just around 40,000 in 1990 as stated by the Myanmar military Government, the AMYPACO remarked in a statement.

The self proclaimed Burmese Kukis are considered to be a tribe of the Chin group of people. The drastic decline of the Kuki population from 1,00,000 in 1947 to just around 40,000 in 1990 was published in the Irrawaddy on January 6, 2016 by one Lhu Khopao who was said to be a member of the 'Myanmar Census Kuki Representative Committee', it pointed out.

One major factor for the decline of the Kuki population in Myanmar was mass exodus to Indian States particularly Manipur after India adopted its Constitution on January 26, 1950.

The benefits given to Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution turned out to be a strong pull factor to the Kuki people of Burma's Chin State who took full advantage of the porous international border and settled unlawfully in the hill areas of Manipur, the AMYPACO alleged. The Manipur (Village Authorities in Hill Areas) Act 1956 and the Article 371(C) only gave impetus to the exodus of Kuki people from Chin State to Manipur. Even though the alleged

fabricated tribe of Kuki claimed that they have their origins in the Chin State of Myanmar, the Kuki tribe is not yet included in the Myanmar Government's list of 135 officially recognised ethnic groups, it said.

How the Kukis were inserted in the Scheduled Tribe list of Manipur State in 1976 when they (Kukis) are not yet recognised by the Myanmar Government is highly questionable, it said. On the other hand, all the indigenous people of Kangleipak (Manipur) have strong attachment to the land, its natural resources including mountains, lakes, rivers etc and they have been protecting these natural resources for centuries.

Because of the organic relationship the indigenous people shared with nature, a very salubrious environment existed in Manipur. However, following the advent of some nomadic/illegal migrants, the State's environment and ecology were destroyed wantonly, the AMYPACO decried.

It said that large tracts of hill/mountain ranges were rendered barren and extensive poppy cultivation was launched on the bare hill ranges with a sinister design to exterminate all the people. Subsequent upon large scale deforestation and extensive poppy cultivation, all major rivers and streams have dried up.

In addition, those illegal immigrants instead of paying any heed to the people's voice, started forest fires at different places quite contemptuously, it said. As a result, the blue sky of Manipur has turned dark as if the State has been ravaged by a nuclear bomb.

It would take years for the people to restore the devastated forests to their

earlier robust conditions or they may not be able to regenerate the forests, it continued.

The AMYPACO then questioned how one could call those people directly responsible for such devastating acts as indigenous people of the land.

It's time for the indigenous people to unite and take corrective measures collectively and urgently, it said.

Noting that the State Government has been evicting encroachers both in the valley and the hills without any discrimination, the AMYPACO remarked that the particular step is a necessity though it is a little late.

There is no valid ground for anyone to interpret the Government's eviction drive on political or communal lines, it said.

Pointing out that all the people who see Manipur as their motherland have not been saying anything to the Government's drive, it asked as to why some people have been opposing the same drive tooth and nail.

"How could one call those people as indigenous people of the land? The reason is quite obvious", it continued. Those people do not share any love for the land. Their only intention is to exploit the resources of the land to the maximum limit, it alleged.

By opposing the Government's activities taken up in the collective interest of Manipur, those people only expose who they really are, it said.

It would serve the interest of all if those people correct their misdeeds and instead focus on peaceful co-existence and collective development before it is too late, the AMYPACO added.

Sports

India became the capital of women's boxing: IBA President Kremlev

By a Correspondent
New Delhi, Mar 15:

The International Boxing Association (IBA) President Umar Kremlev on Tuesday termed India as the capital of women's boxing as the country is all set for the biggest boxing event with the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships 2023, kickstarting on Wednesday at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi Sports Complex.

Hosted by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), the prestigious tournament is taking place in India for the third time—the most for any country in the history of the championship. The previous two editions took place in 2006 and 2018 in New Delhi.

"India became the capital of women's boxing and now we are witnessing historical moments together. Generally, 250 to 260 boxers compete in such championships but this

year it's a huge championship," Kremlev said while addressing the press conference which was also attended by the BFI President Ajay Singh along with the Rio Olympics champion Estelle Mossely of France and the reigning African champion Sara Haghighat-joo from Sierra Leone.

The upcoming 13th edition of the tournament will witness participation of more than 300 boxers from 65 countries competing for the title as well as the massive prize pool of INR 20 crore across 12 weight categories.

"I think the fact that India is hosting the championship for the third time is testimony to the fact that India is a real power in boxing and as the IBA President said it is indeed a capital of women's boxing in the world. What gives us even greater pleasure is the fact that the sport has



enabled us to empower women in our country. And we look upon boxing as one of the paths by which women from backgrounds, which are not often the best, rise up and become champions of the world," said BFI President Ajay Singh.

An IOC monitoring team, led by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), has also arrived in India and the PwC team will

work in parallel with the IBA onsite as Prof Richard McLaren and his McLaren Independent Investigation Team (MIIT) will be responsible for the background vetting check of the competition officials at championship. Kremlev further added that there will be no doubts about the integrity of the competition with the monitoring team and the

bout review rule in place.

The opening ceremony on Wednesday will be attended by the Honourable Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Mr Anurag Singh Thakur, IBA President Umar Kremlev and BFI President Ajay Singh along with brand ambassador of the event MC Mary Kom, six-time world champion, and guest of honour Bollywood star Farhan Akhtar.

HS Prannoy & Lakshya Sen advance to men's singles second round of All England Open Badminton Championships

Agency
London, Mar 15:

In the All England Open 2023 badminton championships, India's HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen registered dominating victories to advance into the second round of the men's singles event yesterday March 14.

Prannoy registered a thrilling win over Chinese Taipei's world No. 24 Wang Tzu Wei 21-19, 22-20 in the opening-round clash. World No. 9 Prannoy will meet third-seeded Indonesian, Anthony Sinisuka Ginting, in the round of 16. Lakshya Sen, who made the All-England final last year, started slowly but overcame the world No. 5 Chou Tien Chen, also from Chinese Taipei, by a 21-18, 21-19

scoreline. Lakshya Sen will either face the winner of the all-Danish tie between Anders Antonsen or Rasmus Gemke in the next round.

Today, March 15, world No. 22 Kidambi Srikanth, who is yet to win a single match on the BWF World Tour 2023 so far, will take on France's world No. 25 Toma Popov in round 1 of men's singles. World No. 9 PV Sindhu will begin her women's singles campaign against China's Zhang Yi Man. In the men's doubles, the Indian pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy will meet compatriots Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala while MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila will battle Xiang Yu Ren and Qiang Tan in the opener.