

JAC formed against the murder of AK Nonganba urges govt to hand over the case to NIA; Ima lups set deadline by March 20



IT News
Imphal, Mar 17:

Five major Ima Lups (women's organisations) of the state has warned the government of serious agitation if the government fails to hand over the case over the murder of Akoijam Nonganba @ Aging to National Investigation Agency (NIA) on or before March 20.

Akoijam Nonganba @ Aging son of former Minister (late) AK Pilot Langam was found dead at Changgubung Village which is located at a distance of 3 km from

Kangpokpi Police Station on February 12. Police have arrested a Deputy Kilonser (Minister) of NSCN (IM) identified as Moses Gommei, 41, and a 40-year-old woman Thokchom Sonia in connection with the murder case. Another Kilonser of NSCN (IM), namely Stephen could not be arrested.

JAC formed against the murder of Ak Nonganba had earlier called indefinite strike from February 17 midnight however the indefinite strike was suspended following a positive

response from the state government.

Speaking during a press meet held today at Manipur Press Club today afternoon President of the Poiri Leimarol Meira Paibi APunba Manipur, Ima Memchoubi told the media persons that five Ima lups of the state have resolved to launched serious stir if the government fails to hand over the case to the NIA by March 20. Leaders of Kanglamei, EEEKAL, WASESVD and AMKIL were also attended in the press meet.

Ima Memchoubi said

that they have met the Chief Minister of Manipur and had urged him to hand over the case. Earlier the Chief Minister had assured to hand over the case to the NIA however, till today as the case has not been hand over to the NIA the Ima lups and the JAC formed against the murder of AK Nonganba has left with no choice but to launch another serious form of agitation.

Mention may be made that chief minister N Biren Singh had stated that two NSCN (IM) leaders have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing of a former Manipur minister's son during the state assembly session.

He had stated that of the alleged accused, one is an NSCN (IM) Kilonser (a senior minister) another one is a spinster, he said adding another NSCN (IM) man is absconding.

The Chief Minister also stated that unless the state forces are unable to solve the crime, the case would be handed over to the national enforcement agencies either NIA or CBI.

Governor INAUGURATES International Conference on Natural Farming & Resilient Agriculture



IT News
Imphal, Mar 17:

Governor of Manipur Sushri Anusuiya Uikey inaugurated an International Conference on the theme "Natural Farming for Revitalizing Environment and Resilient Agriculture" at the auditorium of Central Agricultural University (CAU) in Imphal today. Governor also opened an exhibition on natural farming products of innovative farmers from Manipur and other North Eastern States.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Governor said, nowadays people are cautious about their health and taking care even in food mostly after the Covid-19 pandemic. She said, keeping in view of the ill effects, people are avoiding inorganic foods and all are talking about organic foods which are free from fertilizers and pesticides. Therefore, large scale adoption of natural farming processes will be the best option available to cater

the need of people. Governor continued that modern agriculture has increased the rate of food production and made the country self-sufficient but at the same time we are facing many problems. By using fertilizers and pesticides, soil degradation has been increased and also causing pollution to our environment.

Governor further stated that, keeping in view of such situations, NITI Aayog organized a national consultation in which Indian natural farming system was discussed. Indian Council of Agricultural Research constituted a committee to develop natural farming courses and materials at UG and PG level. Vice Chancellor of CAU, Imphal, Dr. Anupam Mishra was appointed as Member Secretary. Ms. Anusuiya said, to promote natural farming in the country schemes like National Agriculture Development Scheme and Indian Natural Farming System have been introduced and a total of Rs.4980.99 lakh was released. The government has set a target of helping one crore farmer to adopt natural farming in the next three years, she added. Governor expressed confidence that deliberations in the

convention will yield good steps which will help to develop natural farming not only in India but also in many countries in the world.

Works Minister Govindas Konthoujam while speaking at the function said, as a result of technological advancement and technical know-how, agricultural production has been increased considerably. But there have been many issues on health and environment. Therefore, natural farming is the best farming method and it is to be developed to new heights. Shri Nishikant Singh Sapam, MLA, also spoke on the importance of irrigation in the development of agriculture in the State.

Dr. Anupam Mishra, Vice-Chancellor, CAU, Imphal, Dr. P.S. Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, RLBCAU, Pusa, Bihar, Dr. Indira Sarangthem, Dean, College of Agriculture, CAU, delegates from within and outside the country and students attended the function. Delegates from Bangladesh, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, Germany, England and U.S., will be participating in eight technical sessions in the three days conference which is being organised by Central Agricultural University, Iroisemba, Imphal.

Jiribam admin imposes CrPC - Section 144 in bandh affected areas

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Mar 17:

The District Administration of Jiribam imposed section - 144 Cr.PC in some of the areas along the road passing from Lamlong Keithel of Khungeth Leikai through Bidyanagar, Lamien Khun, Harinagar and Uchathol, road in and around Helipad and Jiribam 50-bedded hospital.

The restriction was imposed by District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner W. Malemnganba Chenglei consideration the prevailing law and order situation in the said areas, there is likelihood of breach of peace, disturbance to public tranquility, disturbance to normal traffic flow along the road including danger to lives

and properties to vehicles passing through the region.

As per the order, assembly of three or more persons in any public place, carrying of lethal weapons and arms, including daggers, sticks, spears and swords, in public places have been prohibited.

The order has come into force with effect from 6:00 am of March 17 to 6:00 pm of March 20.

The order shall not applied to government officials/ machineries involved in the enforcement of law and order, essential services, helipad service including fire service, medical ambulance, helicopter passengers and government officials/ machineries involved in the conduct of the HSLC Examination, media and specific special permit issued by competent authority.

MoS Dr. Ranjan lauds Prime Minister Modi for digital transformation in school education of Manipur

IT News
Imphal, Mar 17:

Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan has lauded the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amid Shah for giving prime importance to the development of the Northeast India for the simple reason that it has been neglected since long; and it is lagging behind in all sphere of development.

"The Government of India transforming the country under the Digital India policy and to revolutionize the detail empowerment processes and growth of the country with high speed", Dr. RK Ranjan in a statement said.

The statement further stated that without changing the National Education Policy

the country could not achieve the SDG-2030. Therefore, National Education Policy 2020 was launched with the beginning of the second inning of the Prime Minister Modi. The NEP2020 targeting a generation of employability and readyfor Twenty-first Century. With this object the Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India has launched the SamagraShiksha an Integrated Scheme for School Education from 2018-19. It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable

quality education at all levels of school education. SamagraShiksha is implemented in partnership with all the States and UTs for various components including strengthening Smart Classrooms. However, the implementation of SamagraShiksha lies with the State/UT Governments as Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the administrative control of the respective State Governments and UT administration.

"In this budget, a financial provision of Onetime Non-recurring grant of Rs. 2,40 lakh and the recurring grant of Rs.0.38 lakh have been allocated per school for a period of five years. Till date 82,120 Smart Classrooms

have been sanctioned under SamagraShiksha and 18,783 smart Class rooms have been made functional throughout the country of which 311 smart classrooms were approved and functional in the state of Manipur for the year 2021-22. Subsequently, in the year 2022-23, only 140 smart class rooms were approved and made functional 77 class rooms only. Now, there are a total of 451 Smart Class approved for Manipur for the year 2020-21 to 2022-23 out of which only 388 smart classrooms are functional. There are 2889 Government School of which only 340 schools having internet connections. Students of Manipur has less access to digital literacy in compare to neighboring states like Mizoram and Nagaland. However, with this

budgetary provision, more students can accommodate for digital education.", Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan said.

He added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a sum of Rs.12.2 crore was sanctioned for development of smart classrooms and Rs. 11.5 crore of rupees for ICT sanctioned for digital transformation to the School Education in the State of Manipur from 2019-20 to 2022-23.

"For this I expressed my gratefulness to the Hon'ble Education Minister (Education) Shri Dharmendra Pradhan ji on behalf of the people of Manipur. I also express the pleasure to the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh for the successful implementation of digital education in Manipur", Dr. Ranjan added.

District administrations Jiribam, Chandel organises Meeyamgi Numit & Hill Leaders Day

IT News
Jiribam, Mar 17:

With a view to establish better connection between the people with the government and in gaining more public trust to district administration and the State Government, the District Administration Jiribam today organized the 9th MeeyamgiNumit (People's Day) in respect of Jiribam District at DC Complex,

Chingdong Leikai, Jiribam. Chandel district administration also organised Hill Leaders & MeeyamgiNumit for the month of March, 2023 was held at multipurpose hall, mini-Secretariat, DC complex, Chandel today. As part of today's programme awareness programme on food Fortification was organised at the venue by the department of Food Safety, Chandel.

contd on page 4

Rahul Gandhi's Political Noctambulation

By-MRLALU

Between Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi, who represents democracy in its complete essence and practice? Modi's personal journey in politics unequivocally presents plenty of testimonies on his growth from the grassroots. Starting his political career as a commoner, the Rashtriya Swamivak Sangh (RSS) the organization he represented before he was deputed into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) must have taken him through enormous organizational experiments indubitably chiseling his personality. As a BJP worker he progressed tremendously throughout his decades of hard work. And today his premiership is known all over the world as one of the golden examples of a practicing democracy that got a 'chaiswala' to the realm of the Prime Minister. Politics for Rahul Gandhi was an inheritance. Born and brought up in the power corridors of India's politics; he had enough of fame, respect, attention and affluence. Never did India's democratic impulse throbbed against him as he stealthily grabbed power during the UPA regime. Except for his political lineage, the Gandhi scion was a complete underserving entrant into the political spectrum of India when it comes to commitment which is an essential prerequisite for an honest politician.

This makes the difference more and more vivid between the leader in Modi and the dynast in Rahul Gandhi. Both represent the same basic democratic framework but in real sense Narendra Modi imbues the vital essence of democracy for his tuning towards leadership was more genuine and the process was hard. Rahul Gandhi's access to various power centers and his rise as the heir apparent of the Congress must have invariably blocked the progress of many leaders in his party. Probably this must be the reason why he failed to understand how democracy works in India. Undoubtedly, when he says his Bharat Jodo Yatra was a mirror on which he could reflect the democratic India's pain and penury; he appears to be dramatically escaping from his ignorance about India's socio-cultural and democratic essence. Now, as a responsible leader of the principal opposition, everybody in the country would want him to speak facts instead of spilling the atmosphere with his irresponsible rants. But that is not the case.

His rage on Modi and India should have embarrassed his partymen and some leaders in the opposition. His talk on the 'craft of listening' at Cambridge did not bring anything new about the leader in him. His lengthy walk across the diverse landscape of India was expected to ignite in him a distinct version of Indianness. But the foreign land he chose to express his views on India was well aware of the fact that the new India under Narendra Modi government handles all global issues concerning humanity better and its voice is heard across the globe with unprecedented adulation. The most embarrassing of all the statements that the Congress leader spelt out to his audience at Cambridge was his narratives on Jammu and Kashmir. A jubilant Rahul Gandhi told the audience that he was really in trouble thinking about the possible terror attack that could have happened on him while he walked on nature's frozen terraces of the beautiful land of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the terrorists did not kill him because of the power of listening. Making teeny-weeny statements on crucial security issues on an area that remained a flash-point for decades shows his ignorance. While making such ludicrous claims, Rahul Gandhi was formally brushing aside the intervention of the country's armed forces who could successfully eliminate terror outfits from the valley in the last few years. Undoubtedly, the Modi government's imaginations to bring about peace in the valley could fruitfully solidify even though the complexity of the situation would take some time to heal with complete resoluteness.

Now, the issue he raked up in the foreign land does not hold much political significance. His accusations levelled against the present dispensation at the center, holding it responsible for the fall of democracy in India was not at all an embarrassment for a genuine citizen of India who understands the history of the Congress party. For Modi, his commitment towards curbing corruption is known from the day he began to hold the chair. And for Rahul Gandhi, though he is away from holding any party portfolio, his sense of hopelessness from the days of the Modi rise in Indian politics was visible. Modi's anti-corruption campaign could see many opposition leaders suffocate in uncomfortable situations. Investigation agencies left no stones unturned when it comes to unearthing the sinful past of the parties. This has become a usual affair. Rahul Gandhi's customary despair has gone deeper into his personality engraving much of his political impulse totally turning against Narendra Modi and India. As the results of the state elections in the three key northeastern states were out, the Congress party's prominent leader was out in a foreign land to give sermons against India and its government. He couldn't stay back to chalk out strategies to come out of the pathetic performance of his party. On the other hand, Modi has always ensured his presence to his partymen well before the campaign for the elections began and to the celebration of its victories and to the sworn in ceremonies, the supreme leader of the BJP stayed with his party workers accelerating the momentum of their enthusiasm. He ensures his presence on all occasions, irrespective of the outcome of the elections.

Rahul Gandhi's vituperation of the present government would pull you through the political hypocrisy of his party. There are various reasons to substantiate the Congress party's duplicity when it comes to its ostentatious lamentations on the fall of democracy in India under the Modi government. The country is well aware of the four generations of the Nehru-Gandhi family that ruled India in various periods. And to pave the way for a dynasty representative as the party president, the same party had thrown Sitaram Kesari, a dalit out of office. Sitaram Kesari was thrashed out of his seat in a bloodless coup by the henchmen of the Gandhi dynasty who cleared barriers for Sonia Gandhi's coronation on March 14, 1998. There can be no period in Indian politics that has brutally buried the idea of freedom of expression. The emergency and its ruthless notoriety had been a catastrophe on the democratic essence of India. Political opposition was silenced and forced to go into exile and institutions were pressed hard to asphyxiate and people suffered terrible anarchy under a dispensation that remained power-hungry and almost autocratic.

Rahul Gandhi's conspicuous insensitivity was not less than a terrible embarrassment to leaders in the political arena. In 2013, Rahul Gandhi, the then Congress Vice President tore into an ordinance that was brought in by the UPA government led by his party. Political immaturity is not a demerit. But to exhibit it with complete insensitivity is harmful. Imagine, if the opposition fury on the Modi government could successfully carve out a unity of the adversaries, India's pace of development would be thrown into perils and the country would turn out to be a space of political skulduggery and instability. Modi may be a persona non grata for many political parties, but the support he enjoys among the country's electorate is still well grounded. Obviously, that cannot be a reason for defaming the world's largest democracy in a foreign land.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Impal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: impaltimes@gmail.com.

For advertisement kindly contact - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 986280745 for any purpose.

Press Reporting : A challengeable job

By- Er. Prabhat Kishore

A journalist believes that the news frame should be such as to provide to readers all different and varied aspects of a given subject. There should not directly be any 'beating around the bush' as the proverb goes, but to hit at the bull's eye. This should include all the background and atmosphere of the news as it developed. It should tell the reader not only what had happened, but also why it had happened. The reader should be given the entire story in an exhaustive manner but within limited and balanced words.

In-depth reporting is simply a good reporting with unchallengeable accuracy and with all the available details. Depth reporting is short of explanatory story of an incident which was published earlier. It may follow news story with photographs to illustrate the story to make it more attractive. Depth reporting often is not a one-man story; rather it is a teamwork which deals mainly with explanatory facts. It should be framed in such a way which will leave no occasion for readers to ask more questions.

Therefore, it is not that type of writing the news, which merely presents facts as they appear first, but which goes deeper into the origin, the logic, the various pressures and the variety of interests involved to allow the readers thoroughly understand not merely 'who' and 'what', but also the most important 'why's'.

In a nutshell, depth news seeks to dig deeper and deeper beneath the surface to come up with revealing facts that are not apparently visible. It should tell the readers of facts to make them judge the whole truth. It should not be unnecessarily long report as length of the report has

nothing to do with the depth. Perspective reporter will surely be able to provide the maximum information in fewest paragraphs.

Investigative Reporting

Reporters, who have done quite well in his work for years to the fullest satisfaction of the editor and other seniors, are gradually permitted to do political reporting, investigative reporting or similar such assignments. One such important assignment, which may be entrusted to those seniors, is interpretative reporting. This is a very serious and responsible work entrusted to very senior reporters. In the present day world readers are not satisfied with mere reading the news. They want to know news behind the news. They want interpretation of any particular important news. Generally, such interpretation on basis of news is given by editors in their editorials. But then readers don't want to wait that long to understand the complications of news through editorials. They want immediate interpretation from the reporter along with the news. This is in the encroaching the jurisdiction of the editors himself. But those reporters, who are allowed to do interpretative reporting, are very senior people and their position is almost like that of the reporter or only next to him. In a way editor gives him the freedom to do interpretation along with the news.

In golden days, there was clear distinction between reporting facts and opinions or comments or interpretation on facts by the reporters and editors. But in course of time it has been found that the old distinction between reporting facts and comments or interpretation on it, does not fit into the reality of today.

Modern world is very compli-

cated and it is very hard for readers to understand all the complexities of news. Therefore, it was increasingly felt the need to simultaneous interpretation of news, to explain it fully to the satisfaction of readers. For a reporter, the reader is the ultimate god. Whatever a reporter writes must be fully understood by the readers. Any laxity in reporting or interpreting the complexities of news will only harm the circulation of the paper which would not be liked, both by the editor and the proprietor.

Of investigative journalism

The dividing line between 'Depth reporting' and 'Investigative reporting' is so thin that it is difficult to differentiate between the two. The general principle is that in 'Investigative reporting' the main object is to ferret out, to analyze and to explain in detail important secret information which some interested people want to keep secret. There is, however, no hard and fast rule that the writer of depth news or feature stories should not present background in details.

A reporter of *The Indian Express*, Ashwin Sarin, in early 1970, got himself arrested in Delhi in a tipsy condition (not truly) so that he should be put in Tihar Jail to know "what the horrible condition inside that jail is?" It was so arranged by his Chief Reporter because they could not succeed to get any inside story about the jail from anywhere outside. Thus, the Chief Reporter (B.P. Sinha) and Sarin decided that he should move about in tipsy condition so that he might be arrested to put inside the jail as he refused the bail offer of the court.

Now he (Sarin) once inside the Tihar Jail got opportunity to collect materials for investigative reporting. He serialised his report in "The In-

dian Express" after spending several days in the Tihar Jail in Delhi. In his serial, he began by stating: "A day more inside that hell I would have been turned mad". He had to spend two days for volunteering himself arrested on minor charge (tipsy condition). He gave in that serial stories of vivid account of what it was to be in jail with the professional criminals.

One important point to remember in 'Investigative' reporting is that when our subject is familiar, one need not labour very hard for explaining things or situations. We can write our story straight as news. But if our investigation leads us to quite complicated issues involved in that case we are to give quite a good deal of explanatory and interpretative materials to convince our reader, our report should be balanced, fair and impartial. We the students of journalism should keep ourselves quite detached from the report, that is, no subjective element creep in the report.

Development Reporting

Politics dominates life in the world today and naturally it gets reflected in the day-to-day news. Besides political goings on, the media would seem to be pre-occupied with only the darker side of life-disasters, wars, coups and assassinations. These certainly have their place in news but the concept of information in its totality cannot be restricted to these events alone to the exclusion of other areas of information especially developmental activity.

Most of the countries of third world which suffered from stagnation during the colonial era are today witnessing a tremendous upsurge in developmental activity.

contd. on page 3

From a student, to whom it may concern, "Dear Dhanamanjuri University"

By- Lourembam Poiraiton Meitei MA 3rd Semester Political Science, DMU University.

Before the establishment of Dhanamanjuri University in 2018, the 5 constituent colleges under DMU (Dhanamanjuri University) were under Manipur University. 'Dhanamanjuri College' was a brand in itself with a legacy of quality education. Today, Dhanamanjuri University faces an existential crisis. To a close observer, it is futile to try to point out the main problems because there are too many. However, we shall try to make sense of this amorphous din that has haunted the university ever since its creation.

Shortage of teaching (and non-teaching) staff, no academic calendar, no classes, no access to library, no marksheets, no platform for literary, sports and extra-curricular events and police brutality are the salient features of the university. In fact, the above grievances have been repeated over and over, to the point where they become meaningless and redundant. In this article, we shall mainly explore the conflict between the DMUTA (DMU teachers' Association) and the DMU authority and what this has meant for the students.

The concerns of teachers are many and justified. Demand for 7th pay commission by FEGOCTA, issue of bifurcation, issue of promotion, application for 12B status and the most pressing is the current demand for classification of teachers between UG (under graduate) and PG (post graduate). This demand for classification is raised by DMUTA (Dhanamanjuri University Teachers' Association). This demand is voiced through abstention from academic activities (boycott of classes), which is greatly detrimental for the students of the

university.

However, regarding this demand, the opinions of teachers are not unequivocal. The DMUTA recommends to list 7 teachers from each department to teach PG courses. However, the strength of teachers in various departments is different. There is also shortage of teachers, for both UG and PG courses. Some teachers offer that they should teach both UG and PG courses for the meanwhile, yet others maintain that there should be a clear-cut classification.

Many teachers who have been teaching PG courses since 2018 do not meet the required qualifications under the UGC (University Guidelines Commission) norms. But they were utilized because of shortage of teachers. Presently, there arises various interests among the teacher community. The DMU authority has been incapable of handling this dilemma. There is also an evident apathy and indifference on the side of both DMU authority and DMUTA on what this conflict means for the student. The students bear a hugely disproportionate cost.

The students initially extended solidarity to various teachers' causes. At the same point of time, we observe that 'boycott of classes' has become a tradition. Boycott of classes as a one-time/ short term measure could be understood but it should not be expected of the students to remain sympathetic to the very process that perpetually victimizes them. There is a need for the teacher community to explore alternative avenues for expressing their grievances.

On December 19, 2020, the University Authority issued an advertisement for 88 Assistant professor posts for 22 departments and 170 non-teaching staff under different categories. The shortage of staff at all departments is at the

heart of all issues at DMU. From this shortage arise all the other problems like the issue of classification, confusion and the breakdown of coordination within and without the departments. Then the natural question is why, in 2023, is the recruitment process still not complete? From the DMU authority we observe stubborn indifference, a stiff inaction to which the teachers respond with equal temper.

This war of attrition between the DMUTA and the DMU authority reflects very self-centered motives on both sides with little room for compromise and solutions. The student is the cornerstone of the university; They are the 'why' which gives meaning and purpose to the institution. Had the teachers' associations or the DMU authority kept this in mind, much of what has unfolded would not have happened.

The above cumulative factors in turn lead to alienation of the student from the learning ecosystem. The relation between the student and teacher which the teaching-learning process nurtures is sacred. This relationship is not the mere transfer of data during classes. But it is the personality of the teacher, the wisdom which the teacher embodies, to which the student responds with respect and reverence, a bond which has sadly been lost.

Simultaneously, the organic voice of the student community also becomes lost. With no proper students' union, there is no channel for students to articulate and formulate a collective and constructive voice. The culture of learning, group discussions, of publication and production of new knowledge becomes irrelevant. Instead, students now look to 'previous year questions' to prepare for exams, which reflect their shallow expectation from the

education system. And amongst all, students from unfavorable socio-economic background are the most marginalized.

Recently, we heard news of some students destroying classrooms because they were not allowed to use unfair means in the exam. A fortnight later, the DMU authority used the police force to physically assault students inside their own university campus. These may look like two separate incidents but on close examination, they both allude to the same thing and clearly draw the picture of the existing condition of academia in the state.

Also, the silence of the government regarding what is happening (and also not happening) at DMU is deafening. It reflects the reluctance of the ruling disposition to intervene in matters that do not translate to electoral gains, no matter how grave and serious. Without political will and executive sincerity, the technical and structural anomalies of the university will not disappear by itself. It is imperative of the state to prioritize and deliver what needs to be done. Immediate completion of the recruitment process for teaching and non-teaching staff, which has been due for years, will be a good first step.

There comes a need for every stakeholder to come together and re envision a collective picture of Dhanamanjuri University; an intellectual, ethical and futuristic perspective that can embody the solutions for various needs of our society. Can the newly established Dhanamanjuri University be a sanctuary for the dreams of the youth of Manipur? Can it conceive and nurture for them an inclusive future, where students and teachers from all communities thrive and thrive together? For now I can only anticipate, for now hope is all I have.

Two Pilots Killed in Indian Army "Cheetah" Helicopter Crash in Arunachal Pradesh



The remains of the ill-fated helicopter "Cheetah" that crashed in Arunachal Pradesh. (Inset: the slain Lt. Col VVB Reddy and Major Jayanth A).

By - Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, March 17:

Two Indian Army pilots were killed after an Army "Cheetah" helicopter crashed near Mandala, West of Bomdila town in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday, Army officials said. The pilot and co-pilot, Lt. Col VVB Reddy and Major Jayanth A, were on board. The helicopter which was on an operational sortie, had taken off from Sengen village in West Kameng district at 9 am and was on the way to Missamari, Assam, estimated to reach there around 9:45 am.

The chopper reportedly lost contact with the Air Traffic Control (ATC) at around 9:15 am. Information was received

around 12:30 pm from the villagers of Bangjalep, in Dirang who reported that a crash chopper was found and it was still burning. After that 05 search parties of the Army, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) were immediately flung into action, Lt Col Mahendra Rawat, PRO Defence Guwahati said. The Indian Army has expressed its condolences to the families of the deceased pilots and has assured them of all necessary support during this difficult time.

The loss of two experienced and dedicated pilots is a huge blow to the Indian Army and the nation. Lt Col VVB Reddy had over 23 years of service and was a highly decorated officer, while

Major Jayanth A had over ten years of experience and was known for his exceptional flying skills.

The Cheetah helicopter is a workhorse of the Indian Army, used extensively for reconnaissance and surveillance missions in difficult terrain. It is a lightweight helicopter that can operate at high altitudes and in adverse weather conditions. Despite its capabilities, the Cheetah has been involved in several accidents in the past, leading to calls for its replacement with more modern and safer helicopters. Around 200 Cheetah and Chetak helicopters, with the IAF and the Army are in dire need of replacement, even as they form the lifeline of the forces in high-altitude areas.

Government announces 10% reservation in CISF jobs for ex-Agniveers

Agency
New Delhi, Mar 17:

Union Home Ministry has announced a 10 percent reservation for former Agniveers in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Former Agniveers would get relaxation in the upper age limit and will also be exempted from Physical Efficiency Test.

This announcement comes a few days after the Ministry had announced a similar 10 percent reservation for former Agniveers in the Border Security Force (BSF).

As per the notification, the upper age limit for candidates of the first batch of Agniveers shall be relaxed by up to five years, whereas the other batches shall get age

relaxation by up to three years.

The central government launched the Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the Armed Forces.

The scheme aims to induct youth between 17-and-a-half years of age and 21 years of age on a four-year short-term contractual basis. It has been designed to ensure a youthful profile of the Armed Forces.

Contd. from Page 2

Press Reporting

Leading among them is India where development activity is going on over a wide field. For this to be adequately reflected in the media, special efforts are required on the part of the news agencies also.

News agencies convey the dramatic impact of only events to which they are directly witness. For the rest including large area of development their source had so far been generally second hand, largely official hand-outs.

With the growth of its own network of correspondents and tele-printer link the news agency has always been attempting to provide original reports on such themes as crop prospects and development of energy sources.

Development like the third world and non-alignment are parts of the vocabulary of the era after the second world during which the old colonial empire disintegrated. It is used to describe the process of economic and social change which the leaders and government of the newly independent countries have tried to initiate.

Critics of development reporting say that it is a hand-out journalism-the replication of half-truths put out by official information agencies. Development reporting tends to be equated with the reporting only of positive news to the exclusion of negative or unflattering news because of corruption, lethargy or ignorance.

But development reporting is not- or at any rate should not be one-sided or propagandist. It should mean reporting of what is going well as much as what is not and why. Some governments' do not permit an objective and many-sided presentation of reality that should not be held against the concept of development reporting. In a country like India with a relatively free press, development reporting is not only possible

but can help in reforming development, policy and implementation.

Coverage of developmental activity can not be superficial. It has to have depth when for instance an exhibition depicting technological advance of the country in some specific field is held devoting a mere couple of paragraphs to the inaugural speech by some political personality does not constitute coverage of development activity.

Developmental reporting will thus entail more leg work and often more expenses than conventional reporting of the political goings-on at the capital of a country or in the metropolitan centres of the world. It is a false notion that investigative reporting of what is happening about the fulfillment of the basic needs of the majority of people in a country-which is what a development reporting is all about-is the province of newspapers or other media and not of news agencies. Development reporting is well within the sphere of activities of news agencies, the over-riding requirement to be met by news agencies being that of strict adherence to objectivity.

Crimine Reporting

Reporters unaware of the rights of citizens often mention a person or persons by name as having been arrested in connection a crime. This is hazardous. While in most cases the agency may get away with it, there can be occasions when it may find itself in deep waters.

Arrest for a criminal offence tends to lower the public image of a person. An arrest is confirmed only when a person is produced before a magistrate or released on bail by a commissioner of police.

Till then a person even if taken to a police station cannot strictly be described as

arrested for he may be allowed to go after interrogation. In this case if an agency has described him as having been arrested, he can sue the agency for liable. The safe way to report the matter is to say that 'A person was detained for interrogation'. The fact of arrest together with the name can be mentioned after the person is produced before a magistrate.

This does not apply to arrests of dacoits or other outlaws or persons declared to be absconding. Similarly, persons taken into custody for political offences can also be named. Since political offences do not involve moral turpitude and there is therefore no question of any lowering of the public image of a person.

Having covered the proceedings in a lower court, including the judgement convicting and sentencing the accused, an agency cannot forget to lose track of the matter. Once an agency takes note of a case it must follow it to the logical end. For, an accused might prefer an appeal in a higher court and secure acquittal. Not to cover the acquittal is unfair to the person who may in an extreme case sue an agency for damages.

A news agency must be extremely cautious about carrying any statement or other matter that may attract the penal provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. P.C.) or other laws.

Natural Disaster Reporting

In covering a natural disaster or a fire, a house collapse, a road, rail or air accident a reporter may describe the scene as he personally sees it, but for facts and figure he would need to quote an authentic source.

On a rain story, for instance, a reporter would obviously not need a source for mention of the fact that there has been a rain or for a description of the flooded condition of the roads. But beyond that when he wants to provide the extent of rainfall he has to find it out from the metrological office and quote it.

In an accident of house

collapse or city fire, the fire brigade is the principal source for figures and other details of casualty. In the case of a rail accident the railway authorities and with regard to a boat accident the district authorities, with the police and hospital authorities providing supporting and supplementary information. In no case should figures of casualty be accepted from so called eye witnesses. An eye witness is one who may have been personally involved in an accident or who may have gone to the scene soon after the occurrence and been able to collect early information about it. Such an eye witness may be able to provide on account of his own limited personal knowledge which can add colour to the report. But eye witnesses are far from a competent source of information regarding casualties.

Even conceding that early official figures are incomplete and subject to revision-which is often the case, especially in rail disasters- since bodies trapped under smashed or overturned bogies take time to be extricated. There is no excuse for excepting any other version with regard to the figures of casualty. The agency should give the preliminary official figure making it clear that the final figure is likely to be different.

Whether a fire or a rail or boat disaster has been accidental or caused by negligence, arson or sabotage it takes time to determine the precise cause which could be known only after a full scale inquiry. Still if a competent authority has formed a view as to the cause of the disaster on the basis of preliminary evidence the news agency copy would be justified in mentioning that the concerned authority does not rule out the possibility of arson, sabotage or whatever it is. The agency itself should not speculate about the cause of the occurrence.

(Author is a technocrat and educationist. He studied Journalism and Mass Communication at Patna University)

Civil Service Exam (UPSC) is about staying consistent



By - Vijay GarG

The mantra for cracking the UPSC Civil Services Exam (CSE), one of India's most competitive and prestigious examinations, is synonymous with consistent efforts, dedication and utmost focus. Many UPSC toppers have reiterated that the success behind cracking the exam is not just intelligence and hard work. It is essential for the candidates to also maintain focus and consistency for long periods, often years. It may be easy for candidates to stay consistent for a week, a month, or even three months. If your target is the UPSC 2024 examination, you need to maintain that level of consistency for one and a half

years. And to help you with tips, we have compiled 7 points to keep in mind while charting your preparation strategy.

1. Setting goals with timelines

The first step in this process is to set your goal and establish the timelines. For example, a 6-month-period is probably too short for a beginner to successfully crack the UPSC. Instead, the candidate should focus on pushing his or her timeline to the next year. Juggling additional tasks together can be overburdening and act counterproductive to staying consistent. Instead, candidates should prioritize tasks and focus on finishing one before moving to another.

2. Benefits of a broad strategy

Note that making a timetable and strategy is something that requires expertise and skill. Know that your specific strategy or timetable will work for you as some past ranker's strategies worked for them. Your strategy must incorporate all the factors and variables that have an impact on your preparation.

This includes the time needed on a daily/weekly basis for preparation, learning style, and financial factors like coaching fees, rent, etc. One also must break down the more than year-long study preparation into small, measurable, and manageable chunks. Do not feel shy to ask for help when it is needed. In case, if you don't have anyone to help you with it, get a UPSC mentor's guidance and expertise.

3. Evaluate your learning

Preparing for the UPSC CSE exams needs long dedicated hours of studying and reading. UPSC preparation is not just about reading alone. You must analyse, retain, and learn how to utilize whatever you are reading, something which is similar to answer writing. Remember that you can improve only what you can measure. So, monitoring your progress and evaluating whatever you have covered through tests becomes essential. Prelims mock, Mains answer writing and discussion with mentors and peers must be incorporated from the first week of your preparation.

4. Create a feedback-improvement loop

You need to be accountable not only to yourself but to that person or system for the completion of a specific task. UPSC mentors, in many institutes, establish such a system through which your planning, target setting, monitoring, evaluation, and feedback-improvement loop is systematized into one. They will use their priceless experience to help you not divert from your goals. Thus, you should outsource accountability to other people and ace your preparation.

5. Focus on daily improvement

UPSC success is all about small measurable gains over a period of time. Remember, consistency always beats intensity. Setting new goals is easy. However, displaying consistent improvement is a daily grind. So, plan and select your suitable life-saving hacks to stay consistent with your daily routines and targets.

6. Avoid prolonged Isolation

You will get exhausted, and feel burnt out in just a matter of a few weeks. Do not wait to recharge your battery when

you are fully drained out. Incorporate breaks in your UPSC timetable with exercise, extra-curricular activities, or any physical activity. Preparing with a group of highly motivated individuals while having a common goal will only take you forward and make you more focused on your goal. At the same time, you won't even feel exhausted.

7. Maintaining emotional stability

Another perspective towards UPSC success is staying emotionally fit during this 1.5 year long journey. The biggest hurdle in achieving your highest level of consistency is the emotional bit of it. Every now and then, there is a tendency to surround yourself with negative thoughts like fear or depression. Instead of resolving negative thoughts and emotional issues like fear or depression, many avoid these. However, you have to understand that ignoring emotional troubles will only worsen the problems. It is time to rely on your UPSC mentors, teachers, friends, and family. Talk to them and spend some quality time with them.

Name Change

I, the undersigned, **Shah Abdul Hye** do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Mohammed Abdul Hei** as I have assumed my new name **Shah Abdul Hye**.

Sd/-
Shah Abdul Hye
Kshetri Chandam Leikai

Name Change

I, the undersigned, **Mohammed Abdul Kalam** do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Mohammed Kalam** as I have assumed my new name **Mohammed Abdul Kalam**.

Sd/-
Mohammed Abdul Kalam
Kshetri Chandam Leikai

Name Change

I, the undersigned, **Rawung Vashum** do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Raung Vashum** as I have assumed my new name **Rawung Vashum**.

Sd/-
Rawung Vashum
Talui Village, Ukhrul, Manipur

Parliament session:

Both houses adjourned till March 20 amid ruckus

Agency
New Delhi, Mar 17:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on Indian democracy and the Adani Group issue continued to rock the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament for the fifth consecutive day today.

Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned for the day following protest by the opposition and treasury benches.

In the Lok Sabha, when the House met this morning, treasury bench members started sloganeering demanding Rahul Gandhi's

apology while members from Congress, DMK and others came into the well demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into the Adani Group matter.

TMC, NCP and other opposition party members were on their feet. Amidst the uproar, Speaker Om Birla kept waiting for order in the House, but agitating members continued with their protest.

Mr. Birla asked them to allow the House to function, assuring that the members will be allowed to speak once the House comes in order. However, amid the pandemonium, he adjourned

the House for the day.

In the Rajya Sabha, when the House assembled for the day, Chairman Jagdeep Thakur disallowed the adjournment notices given by the opposition party members over the Adani Group matter.

Afterwards, Congress, AAP and other members trooped into the well of the house, raising the demand to constitute a JPC on the issue. Other opposition party members including TMC, DMK and Left were on their feet.

Treasury bench members also countered the opposition parties by reiterating their

demand for Mr. Gandhi's apology. As the noisy scene prevailed, the House was adjourned for the day.

Meanwhile, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur has demanded an unconditional apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on democracy in India during his recent visit to the UK.

Talking to media outside the Parliament today, Mr. Thakur said the Congress leader is defaming and spreading lies about a prestigious institution like Parliament.

Two day SCO Tourism Ministers' meeting begins at Varanasi in UP

Agency
Varanasi, Mar 17:

The two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Tourism Ministers' Meeting has begun in Varanasi. The Joint Action Plan on the Development of Cooperation in Tourism would be adopted during the meeting.

The Joint Action Plan will include actions relating to the promotion of the SCO tourism

brand, the promotion of the cultural heritage of the SCO Member States, sharing and exchange of information and digital technology in tourism, and the promotion of mutual cooperation in medical and health tourism.

Varanasi has been designated as the first cultural capital of the SCO. India is the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

The eight-member countries of SCO represent around 42 percent of the world population and 25 percent of the global GDP.

Union Minister for Tourism G.Kishan Reddy is taking part in the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, the Minister visited the ghats of Holy Ganga and also performed Pooja at Kashi Vishwanath temple in the morning.

Chassad Battalion organises Medical camp at Aishi & Kangpat Khullen Villages, Kamjong District

IT News
Imphal, Mar 17:

Chassad Battalion of 10 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ Inspector General Assam Rifles (South), conducted Medical Camp yesterday at Aishi & Kangpat Khullen villages in Kamjong District.

The medical camp was organised to provide medical assistance to the villagers and also spread awareness about major ailments and precautionary measures. The event was conducted under the supervision of Comdt T T Singh, Chief Medical Officer, 8 Assam Rifles.

During the camp, the patients were provided with free consultation and medicines by the team of 8 Assam Rifles.



The local populace from Aishi, Molvaipul, Kultuk & Kangpat Khullen villages actively participated in the said event and capitalised on the opportunity provided by the Battalion. Total of 77 men, 105 women and 99 children were given treatment & medicines for general ailments.

In addition to the medical assistance, the villagers were

also educated on common diseases and its causes and a sincere endeavour was made to make them aware about the importance of timely vaccination, routine medical check-ups and personal hygiene & sanitation.

The villagers urged Assam Rifles to continue organizing such medical camps regularly for betterment of their community.

Algerian Navy Ship "El Moutassadi" Visits Mumbai

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, March 16

Algerian Navy Patrol Ship "El Moutassadi" visited Mumbai from Monday thru Thursday during which the crew interacted with their Indian counterpart and also visited Naval heritage museum located at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai and the Aircraft Carrier Dock.

The ship was under the command of Commandant Takia Fouad and Colonel Arabi Belhamed, Commander of the Anti-Submarine Division of the Algerian Navy. Algerian Navy ships had earlier visited Kochi (Kerala) in 2016.

Mr. Adel Bouda, Chargé d' Affaires, Embassy of Algeria, New Delhi, Colonel Arabi Belhamed, Senior Officer present onboard and Commandant Takia Fouad, the Commanding Officer, called on Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of Staff, Headquarters Western Naval Command on Wednesday.

They interacted with Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, over several matters of mutual interest. During the stay at Mumbai, professional interactions were held wherein both sides gained immensely from their experience-sharing, an official



The combined crew on board "El Moutassadi" during her visit to Mumbai.

statement read.

Over the decades, India and Algeria have cooperated in various international forums and initiatives, most notably the Non-Aligned Movement, and supported each other in numerous international events. "It is hoped that the visit of El Moutassadi will strengthen cooperation between the two navies and enhance their interoperability in the maritime domain further. Both navies nurture an abiding interest in maintaining peace and stability in their respective regions and remain committed to working together to further this objective", the statement added.

"Exercise Sea Dragon 2023"

In another development, Indian Navy's P81 aircraft reached Guam, USA on March 14, to participate in "Exercise Sea Dragon 2023", the third edition of the coordinated multi-lateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise for Long Range MRASW aircraft, conducted by the US Navy.

The exercise scheduled from March 15 to March 30, would stress on coordinated anti-submarine warfare amongst the participating countries. The complexity and scope of these exercises has increased steadily over the past years to include advanced ASW drills.

"Exercise Sea Dragon 2023" seeks to test the capabilities of participating aircraft in tracking simulated and live underwater targets, whilst also sharing mutual expertise. The exercise would witness representation by an Indian Navy P81, along with P8A of the US Navy, P1 from the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, CP 140 from the Royal Canadian Air Force and P3C from the RoKCN.

Exercise aims to achieve high levels of synergy and coordination between the friendly navies, which is based on their shared values and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific, the official statement read.

Sports

All England Open Badminton Championships: Indian pair of Treasa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand to play in quarterfinals today

Courtesy AIR
Birmingham, Mar 17:

In Badminton, Indian Women's Doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will face World Number 14, the Chinese combination of Li Wen Mei and Liu Xuan Xuan in the quarterfinals of the All England Championships in Birmingham today.

The World Number 17 and Commonwealth Games bronze medallists, Treasa and Gayatri upset former World Number one, the Japanese pair of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota in a pulsating contest yesterday.

However, Indian challenge in



the Singles has ended at the tournament. HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen bowed out of the second round of Men's Singles. Earlier, Star Indian shuttler

PV Sindhu made a first-round exit from Women's Singles. Men's Doubles Pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty was also knocked out.

2nd State Women's Polo Tournament Imphal Riding Club defeated MPSC Polo team



IT News
Imphal, Mar 17:

Imphal Riding Club today defeated the MPSC Polo Team by scoring 20 point to 2 points in the ongoing 2nd State Women Polo Tournament organized by the Manipur Horse Riding Polo Association at Polo Ground here in Imphal today.

In the Chakra the Imphal

Riding club score 8 points while the MPSC Polo Club fail to score any points. In the 2nd Chakra the Imphal Riding Club score 3 points while the MPSC Polo club could score one point only. In the 3rd and the 4th Chakra too the Imphal Riding Club kept continued scoring more point and reach 20 point in the last round.

Contd. from Page 1

District administrations Jiribam, Chandel

Speaking to the media persons the District Food Safety officer, Chandel, Brojendra said that such awareness programmes will be organised in different parts of the district. Three (3) fssai registration certificates were also distributed to the FBS.

As part of today's programme, the Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Chandel Md. Firoj Khan gave away various items to beneficiaries under various schemes of different departments.

Under the Agriculture department, Knapsack

Sprayer and Micronutrients were distributed to the beneficiaries.

As usual different departments like Health, Social Welfare, Agriculture, ICDS, and all the other departments of the district rendered services to many individuals of the district. Free medical check-ups were also conducted by the health department at the venue.

Applications of various issues related to developmental works and others were received for further necessary actions. Today's program was attended by, SDOs DLOs and other officials of the district.

Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam Shri W. Malengnanga Chenglei, IAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam Shri Jameson Hangshing, MCS, Sub Divisional Officer Jiribam, Shri Sagolsem Indrajit Singh, MCS and other district level officers of various department attended the event.

Altogether 22 departments which includes Education (S), Social Welfare, Fishery, Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Agriculture, Sericulture, MSPDCL, PWD, CAF & PD and Veterinary and Animal Husbandry opened their stalls for delivering public services and public grievances during the day.

Some of the services provided during the event includes distribution of Library Books for High School and Higher Secondary Schools, Free School Uniforms for 2023 academic session for Class - I to VIII and Science Kits for High School and Higher Secondary Schools to 3 Schools under

Samagra Shiksha (State Implementing Society, Manipur) through Zonal Education Officer, Jiribam by Education (S) Department. While the department of Social Welfare issued 13nos of Old Age Pension Scheme forms under CMST.

As many as 32 applications of various issues pertaining to schemes of the Government, issuance of OBC certificates, Income Certificates, Domicile Certificates and land records etc., were also received for further necessary action.

Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam heard the grievances of the people one by one and instructed the concerned department officials to redress their grievance.

Unlike other months, public turnout was comparatively low in today's Meeyamgi Numit.

It may be highlighted that the District Administration, Jiribam has been conducting Meeyamgi Numit every month since July, 2022. The event is held on every 3rd Friday of the month at the premises of DC Office Complex, Chingdong Leikai. On Such days, all officers of the district including SP, DFO, ADC, SDOs/BDOs and other district level officers attend the event. The main highlight of the event is the opening of stalls by the District Level Officers (DLOs) to facilitate interaction with the public. The public is informed of the event in advance by publication of notification in the local media. People from all walks of life are invited to meet the DLOs of various government departments for on the spot redressal of their grievances.