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Manipur stir intensifies; total curfew reimposed in Imphal valley



WAARI SINGBUL NETWORK IMPHAL, 21 SEPT : Tensions reached an intense pitch in restive Manipur on Thursday following the arrest of five village defence volunteers (VDVs) on September 16, leading to widespread protest demonstrations in the valley areas, demanding unconditional release of the volunteers.

Intensifying the stir, large number of

womenfolk stormed several police stations in the twin capital districts of Imphal East and Imphal West and courted mass arrest, triggering a commotion during which the police resorted to fire tear gas canisters and stunt bombs to disperse them, and in the melee nine protesters were injured.

A lady journalist working in a local English daily, covering the incident, was reportedly injured in the confrontation.

The agitators categorically shouted at the police that they are also VDVs to safeguard the Meiteis at the fringe and vulnerable area and asked the cops to arrest them.

To overturn the heightened agitation, district magistrates clamped total curfew in the twin capital districts under 144 of the CrPC.

As part of the stir, a 48-hour shutdown was enforced in the state since midnight last Monday by locals, paralyzing life in all valley districts.

Additional secretary home, M. Pradip Singh, addressing a press conference on last Tuesday, had said that the 5 detainees were arrested by the police with arms looted from the police armories masquerading as special police commandos, and one of them was slapped under UAPA.

During Thursday's protests, the womenfolk blamed the state government for keeping a blind eye when Kukli miscreants with sophisticated weapons continued to attack Meitei villages in the ongoing ethnic conflict and extort money openly on the highways.

Over 40 protesters injured in 'mass court arrest' agitations in Manipur

KRC TIMES Manipur Bureau

Imphal, 21 Sep: In its efforts to control the prevailing situation, the state government imposed indefinite curfews in Imphal West and Imphal East districts from 5 p.m. on Thursday.

The move is being taken up following skirmishes between the throngs of protesters and police near the gates of different police stations in the valley districts on Thursday.

The 'mass court arrest' agitations called by several Meira Paibis and Social Voluntary Organisations demanding the unconditional release of 5 village volunteers arrested by police turned out to be a battlefield in and around different police stations. The protesters intensified the agitations after the 48-

hour statewide bandh that ended on Wednesday.

Over 40 protesters, mostly women, sustained injuries when the police fired tear gas shells to disperse them at different locations near the premises of the Singjamei, Irilbung, Porompat, Kwakwa, Andro, Bishnupur and Heingang police stations. The protesters caused damage to the gate of the Irilbung police station. The residences of the Officer-in-charge of the Singjamei and Imphal West district police stations were also vandalised in the protesters' actions. A policeman also got injured.

It is reported that over 5 protesters were arrested, the police said. The injured persons were rushed to the RMS and JNIMS hospitals.

Govt issues Advisory to TV channels

NEW DELHI 21 SEP: Govt of India have issued an advisory for television channels and asked them to refrain from giving any platform to reports or references about and views and agenda of persons of such background including those against whom there are charges of serious crimes and terrorism and belonging to such organizations which have been proscribed by law.

The advisory is issued in reference to the restrictions laid down under Article 19(2) of the Constitution and mentioned under sub-section (2) of Section 20 of the CTN Act: GoI The Ministry of Information and broadcasting had come out with the advisory when it came to know that a person in a foreign country against whom there are serious cases of crime including terrorism, belonging to an organization

which has been proscribed by law in India was invited for a discussion on a television channel.

The said person had made several comments/remarks which were detrimental to the sovereignty/integrity of the country, security of India, friendly relations of India with a foreign state and also had the potential of disturbing public order in the country, stated the Ministry note.

ISRO trying to reestablish communication with Chandrayaan-3's solar-powered lander Vikram and rover Pragyan



NEW DELHI, 21 SEP: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh informs that the 2nd Phase of Chandrayaan-3 will begin a few hours from now, when dawn breaks on the Moon after a gap of 14 days.

Replying to over Eight Hour Debate in the Lok Sabha, on the subject of "Success of Chandrayaan-3 and other achievements of our Nation in the Space Sector", Dr Jitendra Singh said, ISRO is in the process of trying to re-establish communication with Chandrayaan-3's solar-powered lander Vikram and rover Pragyan, to revive them so that they can continue with scientific experiments.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphatically as-

serted that India will become the first country in the world to start the 2nd phase of Lunar Mission after activation of the communication circuit.

It may be recalled that the Lander and the Rover were put into sleep mode

earlier this month on September 4 and 2 respectively, ahead of the lunar night of 14 days' duration. He added that there is huge variation of temperature ranging from minus 150 degrees at night to 100 degrees during day time, and therefore, we all are hoping and praying that solar batteries and solar panels will help the beginning of the unprecedented 2nd Phase of Moon Mission.

Replying to concerns raised by some of the opposition members that the Modi Government has cut the budget for ISRO, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the budget saw a jump of over 142 percent from Rs 5,168 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 12,543 Crore in the current financial year.

'Humankind no longer pins its hopes on the UN,' Zelenskyy tells Security Council

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday called for expanding the UN Security Council and reforming the right of veto granted to its permanent members, in his first in-person address around the iconic horseshoe table.

UN NEWS

GENEVA: "Regardless of who you are, the current UN system still makes you less influential than the veto power possessed by a few and misused by one: Russia. That is to the detriment of all other UN Members," he said, speaking through an interpreter.

World leaders and Foreign Ministers attending the annual debate in the UN General Assembly packed into the Security Council chamber for the meeting, which focused on upholding the UN Charter through effective multilateralism in the context of the war in Ukraine, now entering its 20th month.

The Charter is the UN's founding document and codifies the major principles of international relations, including the sovereign equality of States and the prohibition of the use of force in international relations.

"We should recognize that the UN finds itself in a deadlock on the matters of aggression. Humankind no longer pins its hopes on the UN when it comes to the defense of the sovereign borders of nations," Mr. Zelenskyy told the Council.

"World leaders are seeking new platforms and alliances that could reduce the disastrous scope of problems - the prob-



lems that are met here within these walls with rhetoric, rather than real solutions; with aspirations to compromise with killers, rather than to protect lives."

The Ukrainian President said he was confident that the UN Charter can work effectively for the sake of peace and security globally. "However, for this to happen, the years-long discussions and projects on UN reform must be translated into a viable process of UN reform," he added. "And it should not be only about representation here in the Security Council. The use of veto power, that is what requires reform." He said the right of veto "should not serve those who are obsessed with hatred and war" and that the

General Assembly - which comprises all UN Member States - "should be given real power to overcome the veto."

Mr. Zelenskyy said he has welcomed proposals to expand the Security Council to reflect current realities.

Fifteen countries sit on the Council, five of which - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States - are permanent members who have the power to veto any resolution or decision. Ten non-permanent members are elected to serve for two-year terms.

"Ukraine considers it is unjust when billions of people do not have their permanent representation in the Security Council," said Mr. Zelenskyy.

Mandatory testing of Transport Vehicles extended till 1st Oct 2024

NEW DELHI: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued a notification which provides for extension of date for mandatory testing of Transport Vehicles through Automated Testing Stations. The date for mandatory testing is now notified as 1st October 2024. It is also mandated that fitness testing of the vehicle shall be done only through automated testing stations with effect from the publication of this notification where the automated testing station registered under is operational in the jurisdiction of a registering authority.

WHO SAID WHAT



Glad to share and announce that Kiriteshwari in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal has been selected by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, as the Best Tourism Village of India.

~ Mamata Banerjee, CM, West Bengal

KRC TIMES

STAY-ENRICHED

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 74

There is a need to develop mechanism to control coaching centers fees and quality

Coaching centers are being operated indiscriminately across the country against the rules. The government has not even made any concrete bill or rules for running the coaching institutes, most of the coaching classes running without law are running the centers arbitrarily by charging huge fees, keeping the minor rules in mind. Not only this, the network of these coaching centers has now spread to rural areas. They are charging huge fees without providing complete facilities to the students.

The responsible officials of the education department across the country are sitting silently despite seeing the lives of the students being played with. This puts their functioning under doubt. With the rise of the for-profit education industry, some institutes have started demanding exorbitant rates for their coaching services. As education has become more marketable, substandard coaching centers have also proliferated, most of which are doing more harm than good to their learners.

Nowadays, every day we hear of increasing cases of suicide by students taking coaching for exams. As student suicides rise, our governments blame the coaching mafia for the burden of education loans. The burden of educational loans on parents is one of the reasons for stress among students.

Apart from the fees, there can be huge additional charges for study materials, transportation, and accommodation. Parents are also forced to take loans to cover coaching expenses.

Students who depend solely on coaching centers for academic achievement may fail to build the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the long term. They may depend too much on the controlled learning environment and personal attention given by the coaching center, which may lead to a lack of self-confidence and initiative. On the other hand, their external expenditure often breaks the backs of those poor families who have to participate in this race of fear. The coaching industry in India is not providing any net value addition to our student community and society at large. We have to assess the adverse impact of coaching centers on established formal schools and educational institutions. They are suffering because many of their regular teachers leave their jobs and take up part-time private tuition.

Many students have developed a "rat race mentality" in which they are willing to sacrifice their morals and principles to succeed. Our education industry should be productive, creative, innovative, and progressive for all sections of society. As education has become more marketable, substandard coaching centers have also proliferated, most of which do more harm than good to learners. Our government should understand this harsh truth and take strict action against the coaching mafia that is playing with our society.

Needless to say, the government should establish good standard public institutions to meet the needs of the increasing population. Encouraging startups and entrepreneurship on a large scale will also reduce the immense competition arising due to limited seats in educational institutions and limited money and posts in government organizations.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Jay Sur, Kolkata

At a time when discord often reigns,
Let's break those shackles and chains,
A global wish, our hearts unite,
For harmony to shine so bright...

Let's cast aside our swords and hate,
Embrace the chance to educate,
In peace and love we find our way,
To brighter and kinder, better days...

Let prejudice and anger cease,
In unity we'll find our peace,
For every soul, in every land,
Deserves the touch of peace's hand...

Let bridges rise and walls grow thin,
And let the healing now begin,
For peace begins in you and me,
A peaceful gift to all humanity...

Let kindness be our guiding light,
As we stand together, day and night,
For peace is not just a distant dream,
It's a reality, or so it may seem.

May love and peace forever bloom,
And banish darkness, chase the gloom,
On this International Day of Peace,
Let harmony and hope ever increase...

Quote of the day

IF OPPORTUNITY DOESN'T KNOCK, BUILD A DOOR

- MILTON BERLE, COMEDIAN, ACTOR

India-Canada Ties THE KHALISTAN FACTOR



PROF. DKGIRI
(SECRETARY GENERAL, ASSN FOR
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM)

India-Canada relations seem to have hit a new low following the allegations by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that Indian 'agents' may have a hand in murder of the Canadian Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar last June. He further asserts that the evidence had been shared with India and the issue had been raised in the bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the fringe of G-20. This has set off a chain of actions and retaliations by both countries.

Canada has expelled a senior Indian diplomat. In retaliation, New Delhi has expelled the Canadian station chief on charges of spying. A business delegation from Canada planned in October has been called off. Discussion on the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and India is put on hold. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has issued an advisory, which is strongly worded. It reads, "In view of growing anti-India activities and politically-condoned hate crimes and criminal violence in Canada, all Indian nationals there and those contemplating travel are urged to exercise utmost caution."

The advisory basically warns Indian nationals in Canada and those wanting to visit the country, against "anti-India activities" and "politically-condoned hate crimes". It further says, "Recently, threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose the anti-India agenda... Indian nationals are therefore advised to avoid travelling to regions and potential venues in Canada that have seen such incidents."

Obviously, the usual fallout of such a travel advisory is that official visits or those sanctioned by the Indian government will not take place. Visits by private individuals on tourist, business, and student visas, however, can continue. But it may be that such a travel advisory is hard to follow and implement, since the two countries are closely linked through people-to-people ties — through families, studies, and business.

On the wider ramification, the current spat between the countries portends unwanted consequences for bilateralism. Both countries are political democracies and plural societies irrespective of their domestic political problems and compulsions. Canada is a NATO member and is closely associated with the Western block. In face of a common threat from China, which ironically works as a catalyst for many countries to come together, New Delhi and Ottawa were coming close. Michael Kugelman, the Asia Program Deputy Director and

Senior Associate for South Asia at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, USA, put the current Indo-Canadian relations, pithily, commercial ties were robust and strategic convergences, especially shared concerns about China, were strengthening cooperation. Seeking to diversify the Canadian economy, Trudeau saw India as a critical partner under its Indo-Pacific strategy, given the country's growing economic and demographic importance in the region. As recently as May, both sides appeared optimistic about the Free Trade Agreement.

The startling allegation made by the Canadian Prime Minister has upset the apple cart. Clearly, Justin Trudeau is a political hostage to a party of the Sikhs in his country who have active sympathy for a separatist movement, read Khalistani in the Indian state of Punjab. The Khalistani support in Canada is not new. It goes back some over 40 years. But it was handled somewhat with goodwill and understanding between the leadership of both countries. What has changed under Justin Trudeau is his tacit support and even open dalliance with Khalistani forces. One feels sorry for Trudeau as captain Amarinder Singh, the former Punjab Chief Minister said, "Trudeau has unknowingly walked into a mortal trap by allying with the militant Khalistani sympathisers". What is the issue at hand now? Trudeau has said the Canadian agencies have investigated the murder and have apparently found the involvement of Indian agents. The government of India has dismissed the charge as 'absurd and motivated.' It is perhaps silly to argue over it. As suggested by a few commentators, the Indian Home Minister should sit down with his Canadian counterpart and thrash this out. Anybody found guilty should be brought to book. It is another matter that Nijjar was a "wanted criminal" accused of various offences. But murder of any person bypassing the judicial system is not allowed in either of the countries.

Let us dig a bit deeper lest one should be accused of simplifying the present impasse. In early June, India's Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, expressed deep concerns that Canada giving space to Sikh separatists "was not good for the relationship" between the two countries. The comments were made in response to a question over a social media clip of a parade held by Khalistan separatists in Brampton, Ontario, on June 4. He added "For us, how Canada has dealt with the Khalistani issue has been a long-standing concern because, very frankly, they seem to be driven by vote-bank politics." This

was a reference to the sizable Canadian Sikh voters who could sway the electoral verdict either way. Ten days after Jaishankar's warnings, Nijjar was shot dead at a Sikh temple in Vancouver.

However, the link between Jaishankar's remarks and the murder of Nijjar could not be automatic and is in fact, ridiculous to suggest so. On the other hand, the deterioration in the relationship could be attributed to growing Sikh activism, not only in Canada but also in the U.K., U.S., and Australia, including widespread protests held in March over the manhunt for another Sikh separatist leader, Amritpal Singh. "The stepped-up activism has sharpened New Delhi's concerns while Canada, citing freedom of speech, holds back from taking actions.

To be sure, Trudeau's track record in dealing with Khalistan supporters in Canada is dismal. On the contrary, he has overlooked open incitement to violence against Indians. Sikh extremists have celebrated the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, they have put up "Kill India" posters calling for violence against Indian diplomats and vandalized Hindu temples. Trudeau has even attended and participated in events that have glorified militants. His visit prior to his presence in G-20 Summit was vitiated by objectionable events he was involved with.

That said, New Delhi should see Indo-Canadian relations without and beyond Trudeau and encourage and facilitate multiple contacts in Canada to deal with any support for Khalistan emerging from that country. Remember, Canada is home to the world's largest Sikh population outside India, numbering nearly 770,000 people, or 2.1% of the country's population.

At the same time, Canada hosts one of the largest Indian diasporas in the world counting to 16 lakh people of Indian origin, accounting for over 3 percent of the total Canadian population, including 7 lakh NRIs. As per the last year's data, India became the top source of foreign students studying in Canada — 2.3 lakh. Indian companies in Canada are active in information technology, software, steel, natural resources, and banking sectors. Canada remains the most attractive destination for Indian youths to study and work. Trade and commerce are bound to grow between the two countries.

It is therefore prudent and pragmatic to deal with the current tensions with care. Canada should not become China or Pakistan for India with ongoing conflicts spiralling out of hand.---INEA

Another phase of BSF personnel arrived in Manipur

Over 1, 00, 000 forces deployed in Manipur



KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU IMPHAL, 21 SEP: With the arrival of a total of 200 personnel of the Border Security Forces (BSF) arrived at the Imphal International Airport on Thursday, over 1, 00, 000 (1 lakh) central

armed forces and state security personnel are being deployed for the restoration of peace and normalcy in this ongoing communal clash state, official sources said.

200 BSF personnel arrived at

Imphal by a special Air India flight as the first phase of the 1,100 BSF personnel scheduled to arrive in the state in a day or two. These combined forces are helping the Manipur administration in restoring peace during the current ethnic disturbance and also providing assistance to internally displaced civilians (Kukis and Meiteis).

Over 80,000 security forces - army, RAP, CRPF, BSF, Assam Rifles, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, SSB are being deployed in addition to around 30,000 strength of the state forces - the Manipur police, India Reserve Battalion, Manipur Rifles, Commandos, Border Affairs of police, Village Defence Forces for early achieving peace.

In the ongoing communal violence, over 175 individuals lost their lives and over 60,000 people were displaced. The violence erupted on May 3, 2023.

Manipur: Cache of arms, explosives, and ammun recovered in a series of operations



KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU IMPHAL, 21 SEP: In a series of operations launched by a joint team of Special

wires, one single barrel gun, 50 live rounds of 12 Bore, four mortar shells, and some electric wirings in the area adjacent to

Operation Groups (SOGs) of Manipur police and Assam Rifles recovered several arms, ammunition, and war-like stores during the past 36 hours in the state, the police said.

The SOGs recovered two pump guns (made from GI pipes) with

Sangaithel and Longa Koireng villages in the Imphal West district.

The team in the follow-up actions also recovered one arm, two local-made pump guns, fifty ammunition, and eight explosives in the fringe and vulnerable areas of Imphal West, Kangpokpi, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Kangpokpi, and Churachandpur districts. In another search operation, one 9mm Carbine Machine Gun, one Single Barrel Rifle, three Hand Grenades, and war-like stores were recovered from the foothills of Haokhong near Irong village in Manipur's Thoubal district. The recovered items have been handed over to the concerned police stations and cases have been registered with an investigation underway, the police added.

Nagaland state-level marathon flagged off to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and healthy living



KOHIMA, 21 SEP: In a significant stride towards promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and fostering a culture of healthy living among the youth, the State-Level marathon of the Youth Fest was ceremoniously flagged off at PHQ Junction, Kohima today. The event was graced by S. Tainiu Khiamniungan, Additional Secretary of the Department of Health & Family Welfare, who launched the marathon with a pledge to create awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Chaired by Dr. Ahu Sekhose, Project Director of the Nagaland State AIDS Control Society (NSACS), the event saw a fervent gathering of participants and supporters. Dr. Sekhose, in his address, highlighted the significance of the Red Run Marathon under the Youth Fest initiative, which is backed by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO). This initiative aims to engage young people in a healthy lifestyle and physical activities to maintain well-being and reduce the risk of lifestyle diseases and HIV/STIs.

Dr. Sekhose elucidated the campaign's objectives, including raising visibility for HIV/AIDS and drug abuse issues, promoting safe sexual behavior among youths, and increasing basic

knowledge about HIV/AIDS and related services. The journey to the State-Level marathon began with district-level marathons held on August 12, 2023, in all 12 districts of Nagaland to commemorate International Youth Day. A total of 519 students from 58 institutions participated, with 24 exceptional participants (both male and female) selected to compete at the State level. The winners of the first and second positions in both male and female categories will represent Nagaland in the upcoming National-level Red Run Marathon scheduled to be held in Goa on October 8, 2023.

The marathon commenced at PHQ Junction, Kohima, and concluded at Ruzhukrie Government Higher Secondary School, Kohima. Metevino Sakhrie, Joint Director (IEC&MS) at NSACS, delivered the vote of thanks.

The event aimed to educate peers, family members, and the community about HIV prevention practices, promoting support and empathy for those affected by HIV/AIDS, and combating stigma and discrimination. The organizers hope to inspire others to join the fight against HIV and commit to a future free from HIV/AIDS.

Youth from Nagaland located by Manipur Police



KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU IMPHAL, 21 SEP: A 34-year-old tribal youth from Nagaland alleged to be abducted by unknown persons in Imphal East district on Wednesday night, was located by Manipur Police here on Thursday. Konyak Union of Nagaland had earlier sought the intervention of the two governments - Nagaland and Manipur for rescuing and safe release of the abducted person at the earliest.

The abduction of Peyao Konyak, 34, from the Mon district of Nagaland came to the notice of the state government when an FIR was lodged with the Andro Police station in Imphal District at around 10 am on Wednesday, the police said. P Konyak went missing while he was working at the Victoria Ply Wood Factory, Yairipok Yambem at around 9 a.m. on Wednesday. However, Manipur police had been able to locate the youth and informed them that the youth went missing under the influence of drugs. He had been admitted to a rehabilitation centre for the necessary care and support. Yanthungo Patton, the Deputy Chief Minister of Nagaland had thanked the Manipur Government for a quick action in locating the youth and providing necessary support.

QUEST!

Studies suggest that writing down your worries before taking an exam can help you score higher.

NEZCC invites applications for empanelment

DIMAPUR: Directorate of Art & Culture has informed that the North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has invited applications from artists, performers and cultural groups from the North Eastern States for formal empanelment with NEZCC.

The mandate of NEZCC is to preserve, innovate and promote

the projections and dissemination of arts of the region and to upgrade and enrich the consciousness of the people about their cultural heritage. Special efforts are made to propagate folk arts, crafts and to preserve and strengthen the vanishing art forms. To achieve these objectives, the NEZCC provides opportunities to the Folk and Tribal

Cultural Troupes, Crafts persons, Artisans, Traditional Chefs (Ethnic Cuisine Artisans), Mime, Puppetry and Traditional Games performers to participate in cultural festivals and melas organized in the region and other parts of the country.

Interested Folk and Tribal Cultural Troupes/Crafts persons/Artisans/Artistes may submit their

application for empanelment with NEZCC. Those who have empaneled with NEZCC should also apply for renewal.

The application form for empanelment can be downloaded from <http://www.nezccindia.org.in> or it may be obtained from the Directorate of Art & Culture, Kohima on or before 31st October 2023.

Meghalaya's Bold Leap Towards Prosperity: CM-ELEVATE PROGRAM Officially Launched



SHILLONG, 21 SEP: A momentous day in Meghalaya's history unfolded as the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, officially inaugurated the much-anticipated CM-ELEVATE PROGRAM at the Vivanta, Shillong. This transformative initiative sets the stage for empowerment, entrepreneurship, and economic development in the state, promising a brighter future for Meghalaya's youth.

Distinguished personalities graced the launch ceremony to

pledge their support to this flagship initiative. Conrad K. Sangma, the Chief Minister of Meghalaya graced the event as the Chief Guest.

Launching the CM-ELEVATE PROGRAM, Conrad K. Sangma aimed at engaging, employing, and empowering the youth of Meghalaya through entrepreneurship, which he believed serves as a holistic solution for fulfilling the business needs. He said, "We aim to create entrepreneurship opportunities for over 20,000 indi-

viduals across various sectors over the next three years. This initiative comes with a substantial investment of approximately 300 crores." Speaking about the partnerships that the Government has established with both public and private sector banks to facilitate easy access to credit for the aspiring entrepreneurs, the Chief Minister stated that financial support ranging from 35 to 75 percent of the project cost to mitigate credit risks can be offered. He said, "To mini-

mize risks and barriers, we extend upfront financial aid to entrepreneurs and have collaborated with banks for financing. The program offers term loans covering up to 95% of the project cost, with varying loan terms (ranging from 5 to 15 years) and moratorium periods (between 3 to 18 months), coupled with variable interest rates across different schemes. We have created three lakh jobs in the private sector in the last five years, and I am sure the number will increase in the coming years. I have always held the belief that the government's role should be limited to formulating policies, fostering a conducive ecosystem, and providing essential facilities to support entrepreneurs. This is just the beginning, and as we progress, we will refine and adapt our approach, allocating additional funds as necessary."

The CM-ELEVATE PROGRAM is a comprehensive solution tailored to the diverse business needs of Meghalaya's citizens. Notably, the program features a user-friendly single-window portal for applications, ensuring a seamless experience for aspiring entrepreneurs.

President of India inaugurates first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show

NEW DELHI 21 SEP: The President of India, Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at Greater Noida today.

Addressing the gathering the President said that Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show is a welcome step for taking the products of Uttar Pradesh to the markets of India and abroad. She was happy to note that more than 2000 manufacturers are displaying their products and more than 400 buyers from 66 countries are participating in this trade show. She expressed confidence that this event would become a powerful medium for the manufacturers and entrepreneurs of Uttar Pradesh to establish their reach in the national and international markets.

The President said that showcasing various products from 'One District One Product' in this trade show is commend-

able. She was happy to note that along with handicrafts based products, young entrepreneurs of the state, especially women entrepreneurs are also showcasing their products. She emphasised on the need to increase women's participation in entrepreneurship and labour force.

She further noted that despite being a land-locked state, exports from Uttar Pradesh are continuously growing. She was happy to note that the state's exports have increased from around Rs. 88,000 crore in the year 2017-18 to about Rs. 1,75,000 crore in the year 2022-23.

She pointed out that the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration included the goal of local value creation and identifying the challenges faced by MSMEs and connecting MSMEs at the international level. She expressed con-



confidence that the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show would advance our

national and international priorities in line with the goals of the G20.

Chairman constitutes all-women panel of Vice-Chairpersons in Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI, 21 SEP: In a historic move, the Vice-President & Chairman Rajya Sabha, Jagdeep Dhankhar, reconstituted the panel of Vice-Chairpersons comprising 13 women Rajya Sabha Members for the day as Rajya Sabha discusses the Nari Shakti Vandan Vidheyak Bill, 2023. The Vice-President emphasized that their presence on the chair would send a powerful message to the world at large and it would symbolize that they held a 'commanding position' during this epochal moment of change.

The women Rajya Sabha Members nominated to the Panel of Vice-Chairpersons are 1 P. T. Usha, S. Phangnon Konyak, Jaya Bachchan, Saroj Pandey, Rajani Ashokrao Patil, Dr. Fauzia Khan, Dola Sen, Indu Bala Goswami, Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, Kavita Patidar, Mahua Maji, Dr. Kalpana Saini & Shrimati Sulata Deo.

National Medical Commission Achieves Prestigious WFME Recognition Status for 10 Years

NEW DELHI: The National Medical Commission (NMC), India has achieved the remarkable feat of being granted the coveted World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition Status for a tenure of 10 years.

As part of this recognition, all the 706 existing medical colleges in India will become WFME accredited and the new medical colleges that will be set up in the coming 10 years will automatically become WFME accredited. The recognition will further enhance the quality and standards of medical education in India by aligning them with the global best practices and benchmarks.

It will also enable Indian medical graduates to pursue postgraduate training and practice in other countries that require WFME recognition, such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. It will increase the international recognition and reputation of Indian medical schools and professionals, facilitate academic collaborations and exchanges and promote continuous improvement and innovation in medical education and foster a culture of quality assurance among medical educators and institutions.

With NMC being WFME accredited all the Indian students become eligible to apply for the Education Commission on Foreign Medical Education and United States Medical Licensing Examination.

Trek leaders training programme participants to be trained in Darjeeling and Uttarakhand



SHILLONG: The Tourism Minister Paul Lyngdoh of Meghalaya attended the send-off programme for trek leaders training on September 19 wherein he encouraged the first batch of participants to stay focused in the training and come to the state enriched with knowledge. The programme was attended by C.V.D. Diengdoh, Director Department of Tourism, Government of Meghalaya.

Speaking at the programme the minister Paul Lyngdoh said, "Adventure tour-

ism is an integral and a very significant set of tourism in Meghalaya. It delights me that 25 trails have been mapped and identified. I am sure that in the subsequent year, we will be able to be in a position to identify more such trails. Most of the trails happen to be connected with local history or folklore. The government has invested money and time in preparing for your trip. I would sincerely urge each of you to invest your time very wisely. Make sure to stay focused and come back enriched."

The Trek the Himalayas is an agency empanelled by Meghalayan Age Limited (MAL) for identifying multi-day Trekking and Hiking Trails in Meghalaya.

Trek the Himalayas is a certified member of ATOAI (Adventure Tour Operators

Association of India), their expeditions cover over 100 peaks across the Himalayas that are permitted by the IMF (Indian Mountaineering Foundation) and their team consists of members who are qualified with Basic Mountaineering Course and Advanced Mountaineering Course.

The key objectives of the project are to prepare a detailed Master plan for setting up Trekking and Hiking activities in which 25 multi-day trails have been identified.

The project aims to create a user-friendly Booklet and an App that lists all the identified sites for reference by the tourists even as the booklet and app is currently under review. It also aims to provide an experiential training or exposure trip to the local resources which is ongoing and the schedule of the training is for 120 participants. The training dates for the first batch is September 20-30, 2023 with 30 participants in Darjeeling, the second and third

batch comprises 60 participants will be on September 27-October 6, 2023 in Uttarakhand and Darjeeling and the fourth batch will be on October 3-12, 2023 that has 30 participants.

The participants of the first batch are from Pashum, Laitsohum, Diwon (3 participants from each village), Wakhken, Laitiam, Nongblai (5 participants from each village), Mawlyngbna and Lapalang (1 participant from each village), and Mawten (4 participants only).

The team departed from Shillong to Guwahati Railway Station in the late evening of 19th September, 2023.

A team briefing was held on September 15, 2023 at Shillong Club and the Founder, Mr. Rakesh Pant, of the Trek the Himalayas briefed the participants through video conference. The session was also attended by Gregory Warjri as a local coordinator, Founder of Nomads.

NE first Vande Bharat Express being highly patronized by passengers

MALIGAON, 21 SEP: With the operation of the State-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express in Assam, people of Northeast, Assam in particular are experiencing speed and comfort while travelling by rail. The indigenously manufactured Vande Bharat Express is transforming rail travel in the country. Northeast first Vande Bharat was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29th May, 2023.

The Vande Bharat train has registered exceptional occupancy rates from the originating station as well as at enroute stations since its inauguration. Train no. 22227/22228 (New Jalpaiguri - Guwahati - New Jalpaiguri) Vande Bharat Express connecting New Jalpaiguri with the Gateway to the Northeast, Guwahati, has greatly reduced the average travel time of passengers of both the direc-

tions by nearly one and half hour. Welcomed by traders and businessmen apart from various sections of people around New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar and New Bongaigaon, the service has been registering good patronage since its introduction. Train no. 22227 (New Jalpaiguri - Guwahati) Vande Bharat Express has registered 96.93% occupancy and train no. 22228 (Guwahati

- New Jalpaiguri) Vande Bharat Express has registered an average occupancy of 93% since its inception till 13th September, 2023. This new age train has enhanced the connectivity between the two states and various neighbouring cities. The train has proven to be a boon for the rail commuters who travel frequently in this route as the train is a convenient and time-saving option for travellers.

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IIT Madras' Centre for Memory Studies launches 'MovingMemory' app

It is a spatial app that uses Augmented Reality & Virtual Reality simultaneously & was developed with the potential to inhabit Metaverse world to capture various moving models of memory through digital reconstruction

CHENNAI, 21 SEP: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Centre for Memory Studies has launched a 'MovingMemory' app that uses the technology of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality simultaneously. It captures various moving models of memory through digital reconstruction.

'MovingMemory' can be accessed either through mobile apps (Android and iOS) or through browser-based platforms, making it uniquely inclusive in quality. It is a spatial app, developed with the potential to inhabit the metaverse world.

The functions of the app enable the user to select any desired avatar and navigate through

three-dimensional spaces. It is embedded with additional layers of video, audio, 3D images, and interactive elements which may be used as models for sustainable and heritage-oriented pedagogic and research approaches.

The 'MovingMemory' was launched during the second annual Indian Network for Memory Studies conference titled 'Memory, Ecology, and Sustainability', an international conference being conducted by the Indian Network for Memory Studies and the Centre for Memory Studies at IIT Madras from 20th to 22nd September 2023.

The conference was inaugurated on 20th September 2023 by

Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, in the presence of Ms. Seema Massot, Director, American Centre, US Consulate General, Chennai, Prof. Jyotirmaya Tripathy, Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras and the faculty coordinators Dr Avishek Parui and Dr. Merin Simi Raj.

Addressing the inaugural session, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, said, "It is crucial that we foreground the urgent need to incorporate collective memory in our understanding and ability to anticipate policies related to ecological issues such as climate change. Human as well as non-human forms of memory (such as the memory of water

and the memory of nature) such as the Spanish Flu and the 2015 Chennai floods may be studied through interdisciplinary and collaborative formats in order to further memory studies as a discipline."

This international conference saw around 100 presenting and over 500 non-presenting participants from all across India as well as from the USA, U.K., Germany, New Zealand, Morocco, Canada, Sweden, and Bangladesh, among others. The Conference aims to examine the various human-centric technologies and policies apropos of cultural memory and sustainable development goals in India as well as globally.



Advisory for Indian Nationals and Indian Students in Canada

In view of growing anti-India activities and politically-condoned hate crimes and criminal violence in Canada, all Indian nationals there and those contemplating travel are urged to exercise utmost caution.

Recently, threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose the anti-India agenda.

Indian nationals are therefore advised to avoid travelling to regions and potential venues in Canada that have seen such incidents.

Our High Commission/Consulates General will continue to be in contact with the Canadian authorities to ensure the safety and well being of the Indian community in Canada.

Given the deteriorating security environment in Canada, Indian students in particular are advised to exercise extreme caution and remain vigilant.

Indian nationals and students from India in Canada must also register with the High Commission of India in Ottawa or Consulates General of India in Toronto and Vancouver through their respective websites, or the MADAD portal madad.gov.in. Registration would enable the High Commission and the Consulates General to better connect with Indian citizens in Canada in the event of any emergency or untoward incident.

20 September 2023



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