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Manipur violence highlighted in the UN in Geneva

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEITEI AND KUKIS EXPRESSES

KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU IMPHAL, SEP 20 :

A brief report of Manipur which has been embroiled in an ethnic conflict since May 3, 2023, fought between the Meiteis and Kukis has been highlighted in the ongoing 54th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland on Tuesday, September 19. The session started on September 11 and would conclude on October 13.

Representatives of the two warring communities presented their views in the ongoing session.

Khuraijam Athouba, Vice President of the International Peace and Social Advancement (IPSA) and spokesperson of COCOMI representing the Meiteis later told the newsmen at Imphal over the phone that he was given only 2 minute's time to



L HAOKIP

deliver his speech whereas L Haokip, a female representative of the Kuki-Zo was given around 7 min-



KHURAIJAM ATHOUBA

utes. Kh. Athouba said that he had informed the parliament session on

the ongoing communal violence in Manipur state (India) which was not based on religious issues as accepted by the Western countries as highlighted by the Kukis-Zo communities in the international scenario.

The real cause of the violence is narco-terrorism to which Churachandpur district of Manipur state has been reduced to a new hub of the notorious Golden Triangle.

The communal carnage erupted in the Churachandpur district on May 3 in which over 19 villages belonging to the Meiteis were destroyed. Besides, the churches belonging to the Meiteis were also burnt down by the Kuki Christians in the clashes.

The Meiteis have around 8 lakh population whereas the Christian communities in the state have around 12 lakh in Manipur.

L Haokip in her turn told the parliament that the Indian government is apparently turning a blind eye to the communal clashes that entered 139 days on September 19, 2023.

She said that around 650 cases have been filed so far with the police and 300 people were killed. Over 60,000 people are being displaced by the violence.

Guns were looted by the Meitei terrorists and several tribal women were raped in the violence. Over 360 houses in the Churachandpur district were burnt down. But the government is yet to take action in this matter.

Concerning the 2 minutes given to him, Kh Athouba said that as the session is ongoing, more time would be available for him to highlight the Manipur issues in the upcoming session.

People whose roots are connected to India will not make the mistake of calling women weak: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI, 20 SEP: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah participated in the discussion on Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in the Lok Sabha today. Amit Shah said the long-pending bill providing the right to reservation for women was introduced in the House and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi from core of his heart that he has truly honoured the women power, which constitutes 50 percent of 140 crores population. Shah said that with the passing of this constitutional amendment bill, one-third seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies will be reserved for women of the country. Amit Shah said that women empowerment may be a political agenda for some parties, but for the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, women empowerment is an issue of recognition.

He said that those people whose roots are connected to India will not make the mistake of calling women weak.

This bill will now ensure women's participa-

tion in decision and policy making, Shah echoed.

He said that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought this bill to correct the errors in the social system, to increase the participation of women and to respect them. He said that today, we have an opportunity when this House can give a message to the world that the entire House is unanimous and united in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Women-led Development".

He said as per the current provision, the Modi government has given 33 percent reservation to women in all three categories of members going to be elected to Parliament – General (which includes OBC), Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.

Shah said that the one-third seats to be reserved will be selected by the Delimitation Commission. The commission goes to every state and gives open hearings and decides the policy in a transparent



manner. He said that the only objective behind bringing a Delimitation Commission is to bring transparency.

He added that there will be no delay in the formation of this commission, after the elections both census and delimitation will be done and soon the day will come when one-third of the women MPs will sit in this House and decide the future of the country.

Ray of hope for 10,323 retrenched teachers of Tripura

TRIPURA BUREAU

AGARTALA, 20 SEP: With a relief of thousands, the decision of the High Court of Tripura to constitute a full bench to hear and dispose the plea of illegally retrenched 10,323 teachers for reinstatement in service which is going to be held on September 26 received positive response from all the political parties in the state.

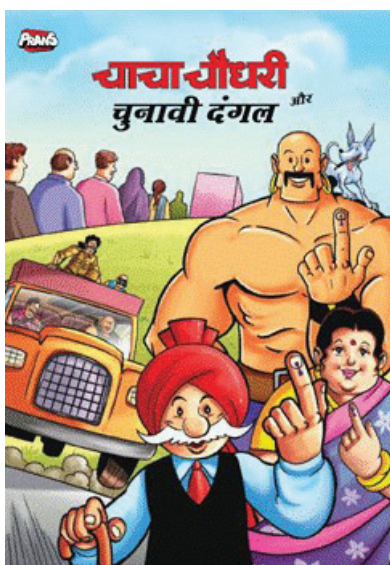
Reacting to the development the Congress state President Asish Kumar Saha said "we definitely welcome the decision of the honourable high court as we want justice to prevail in the case of the retrenched teachers who were illegally retrenched and whose case had been spoilt initially by the then law department of the erstwhile left front government which grossly misinterpreted the mother order passed by chief justice Deepak Kumar Gupta and justice Swapan Chandra Das (specially crucial paras-121 and 127) on May 7 2014; subsequently they were retrenched from jobs completely illegally by the BJP government". Saha said that the Congress party has always been advocates of justice for the illegally sacked teachers who had committed no fault by being recruited in service.

The opposition CPI (M) has also welcomed the special hearing by the high court's full bench on September 26.

Earlier the education minister of the BJP government (2018-2023) Ratan Lal Nath was keen to restore the jobs of the retrenched teachers and consulted the Justice (retired) A.B.Paul twice by visiting his home and was convinced of the strong case in favour of the illegally sacked teachers. However Ratan Lal Nath could not convince the then chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb.

ECI ropes in Chacha Chaudhary & Sabu to educate and motivate young voters

Comic book "Chacha Chaudhary aur Chunavi Dangal" is a joint initiative of ECI & Pran Comics



NEW DELHI, 20 SEP

As we look back on cherished childhood days, we delve into the nostalgic adventures we shared with Chacha Chaudhary comics. The characters of Chacha Chaudhary and Sabu hold a special place in the hearts of readers of all generations, as they have charmed audiences with their captivating dialogues and interactions and evoke a sense of warmth and nostalgia.

Given the immense popularity of Chacha Chaudhary comics, a unique initiative, a comic book titled "Chacha Chaudhary aur Chunavi Dangal" was launched by CEC Rajiv Kumar and ECs Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel today at Nirvachan Sadan. The comic book is a joint initiative of ECI & Pran Comics designed to inspire the youth to enroll and participate in the festival of democracy. It features the iconic cartoon characters Chacha Chaudhary, Sabu, Billoo brought to life by the renowned Cartoonist late Pran Kumar Sharma.

On the occasion, CEC Rajiv Kumar said that comics as an outreach medium is relevant and irreplaceable, even in this age of digital media.

This comic book serves as a multifaceted tool,

addressing various critical aspects of voter awareness. Its primary focus is to encourage young eligible voters to register themselves, ensuring their active participation in forthcoming elections. In the comic, Chacha Chaudhary also plays a pivotal role in introducing readers to various apps developed by the Election Commission of India like eVigil and KYC, thereby empowering them to become an active and informed participant in the election process. Furthermore, the comic book strongly emphasises the significance of women's participation in the electoral process, aligning with ECI efforts to increase women's participation. This comic is available in both print and digital formats, ensuring accessibility across all platforms. Additionally, to inspire young minds, free copies of the comic book will be distributed to schools, educating future voters about the elections. Digital Copy of the comic can be accessed here: <https://ecisveep.nic.in/files/file/2152-chacha-chaudhary-aur-chunavi-dangal/>

Nikhil Pran, Director and Publisher of the Pran Comics and senior officials of the Commission were also present on the occasion.

WHO SAID WHAT



It is a historic leap for our nation as the Lok

Sabha passes the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' today. ~ Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

KRC TIMES

STAY-ENRICHED

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 72

ASSAM CORRUPTION CASE

A political storm is brewing in BJP-ruled Assam. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is on the backfoot refuting charges that his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma's firm Pride East Entertainments Pvt Ltd had received Rs 10 crore as part of credit linked subsidy from the Central government.

The opposition Congress had upped the ante in the Assembly as well as Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi is having a running brawl on 'X' insisting on the charges, quoting Ministry of Food Processing website. Sarma on Thursday last replied on X "...neither my wife, nor the company she's associated with, has received or claimed any amount from the Govt."

If anyone can provide evidence, I am willing to accept any punishment including retirement from public life." And threatened legal action against Gogoi, who is revealing more documents.

The spat has turned ugly and the battle is going to be closely watched.

RELIEF FOR LAKSHADWEEP ADMN

The Lakshadweep administration can heave a sigh of relief. Its order to exclude meat products, including chicken, from the midday meal menu for school kids is no longer under threat, with the Supreme Court saying it cannot decide on what food should be eaten. On Thursday last, it dismissed the PIL saying it was the UT's 'policy decision' which could not come within the scope of 'judicial review' as there's no legal breach.

The PIL finally stands junked as the advocate petitioner was persistent. He had first approached the Kerala High Court in June 2021 pleading the order on midday meals was issued with mala fide intent to change food habits of the island people and alleged that another decision to shut down government-run dairy farms was meant to promote marketing of dairy products from Gujarat, the administrator Praful Khoda Patel's home state!

The case had hit headlines. The HC then had temporarily stayed the two orders. However, in September 2021 a two-judge bench dismissed the PIL, and the apex court ruled there was no error in judgement. Guess, a lesson for petitioners to be wary of not having to eat their own words!

Quote of the day

DON'T LISTEN TO YOURSELF; LISTEN TO THE ADVICE THAT YOU GIVE OTHERS.

- MICHAEL LOTTNER, AUTHOR

Revolutionizing Indian Agriculture: MoA&FW Unveils Game-Changing Initiatives for Farmers



NEW DELHI: In a landmark event on Tuesday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman & Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar unveiled initiatives focused on agrifinance (KCC & MISS) and crop insurance (PMFBY/RWBCIS). The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched three initiatives, namely the Kisan Rin Portal (KRP), KCC Ghar Ghar Abhiyaan, an ambitious campaign aiming to extend the benefits of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme to every farmer across

the nation and a manual on Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS). These initiatives aim to revolutionize agriculture, enhance financial inclusion, optimize data utilization, and improve the lives of farmers across the nation.

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman assured full cooperation of banks for the success of Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyan.

She said that the government under Prime minister Narendra Modi has al-

located enough money under the KCC scheme to ensure easy short-term loans to farmers and their onboarding for the scheme. The finance minister commended the Ministry of Agriculture for its initiatives and successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). She said that over 1,40,000 crores of insurance amount has been disbursed to farmers so far against a premium amount of Rs. 29,000 crore.

She also appreciated real time estimation for rice and wheat crop output and called for the estimation to be extended to Dalhan and Tilhan crops so that better planning can be done for their imports, if needed.

The finance minister said that real time estimation of crops will help the economy and ensure right prices for farmers at the end of crop season. Sitharaman also called for full automation of regional rural banks and cooperative banks and directed the Department of Financial Services to study the gap between loan sanction and loan disbursement for these banks.

Potential of women should get opportunities: PM Modi

TIME OF 'IFS AND BUTS' IN THEIR LIVES IS OVER"

NEW DELHI: The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed the Rajya Sabha in the New Parliament Building on Tuesday. During his address he spoke about Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam that was presented in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister said that when we talk about the ease of life, the first claim of that ease belongs to women. He said that the participation of women is being ensured in many sectors. "Potential of women should get opportunities. Time of 'ifs and buts' in their lives is over", the PM Modi echoed.

He said the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme became a people's programme. He also mentioned women participation in Jan Dhan and Mudra Yojana. He mentioned Ujjwala and elimination of Triple Talaq and stron-



ger laws for women's safety. He said women-led development was the biggest topic of discussion in G20.

The Prime Minister mentioned that the issue of reservation for women in the Parliament has been pending for decades and everyone has contributed towards it in their capacity. Pointing out

that the bill was first introduced in 1996 and numerous deliberations and discussions took place during Atal Ji's tenure, but the bill could not see the light of day due to the lack of numbers, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that the bill will finally become law and ensure 'Nari Shakti' towards nation building with the new energy of the New Building. He informed about the Government's decision to introduce the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam as a Constitution Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha today which will be up for debate tomorrow. The Prime Minister concluded the address by urging the members of the Rajya Sabha to support the bill unanimously so that its power and outreach are amplified to the fullest.

Manipur violence | Attention of the UN drawn over the use of mercenaries in communal clashes

KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU

The Vice President of the International Peace and Social Advancement (IPSA), a powerful outfit in Manipur has drawn the attention of the United Nations to the engagement of mercenaries in the ongoing communal clashes between the Meiteis and Kukis that cost over 175 lives of which 96 are still unclaimed.

Khuraijam Athouba, VP of IPSA was speaking in the 54th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland on Tuesday. He said, "Of the 175 people killed in the ongoing ethnic violence, 96 bodies are still unclaimed and are lying at different hospitals highlighting the involvement of mercenaries employed by narco-terrorist groups during the ongoing upheaval in the state."

Bodies of 79 have been claimed by their relatives as of Wednesday. This was informed by the VP in a statement issued by (IPSA) here on Wednesday.

The use of mercenaries in Manipur is an acute concern that demands immediate and concerted attention. By unequivocally condemning and actively countering the involvement of mercenaries in this region, we can take substantial strides toward upholding the fundamental principles of human rights. In doing so, we can pave the way for peace, stability, and justice for all, Kh Athouba said.

The influence of mercenaries in the ongoing communal clash presents a grave concern that not only challenges the bedrock principles of human rights but also obstructs the inherent rights of people residing in the northeastern state of Manipur, Kh Athouba told the session.

Various Narco-terrorist groups have resorted to recruiting mercenaries to advance their objectives. The inclusion of mercenaries in these conflicts has further complicated an already intricate socio-political landscape, resulting in grave human rights violations and the disruption of peace processes in this sensitive border state.

These narco-terrorist groups, through their utilization of mercenaries, have escalated the conflict and exacerbated tensions, imposing a heavy toll on indigenous communities like the Meitei, Nagas, etc. who



often find themselves on the frontlines.

The deployment of mercenaries in these regions is not only a violation of international law but also serves to intensify tensions, perpetuate human suffering, and protract conflicts that could otherwise be resolved through peaceful means.

It is imperative for the international community to forge close partnerships with the affected nations and communities. Such collaboration should encompass support for conflict resolution, peacebuilding initiatives, and the safeguarding of human rights, Kh Athouba added.

1st NSCCI Business Conclave closes with a vision for regional collaboration and progress



DIMAPUR, 20 SEP: The 1st Northeastern States Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Conclave (NSCCI) concluded today after three days of productive discussions and insights. The event, hosted by the Confederation of Nagaland Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CNCCI) from September 18th to 20th, witnessed the presence of esteemed guests and leaders, including Advisor to the Chief Minister & Chairman of Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), Abu Metha.

In his address at the closing ceremony, Abu Metha expressed gratitude to the organizers for successfully hosting the conclave and commended the delegates who had traveled from across the northeastern region to participate. He acknowledged their valuable ideas and suggestions for future plans.

Abu Metha reflected on Nagaland's journey, highlighting the state's contributions to the nation's development despite facing numerous challenges. He stressed the importance of progress and equitable development across the region, aiming to create opportunities

for the youth to excel in various fields.

Technology was a central theme in Abu Metha's speech. He emphasized how technology has transformed human lives, making them more comfortable and helping overcome challenges. He urged government leaders, stakeholders, policymakers, and implementers to harness technology not only for improved living standards but also for efficient service delivery.

Discussing the geographical advantage of the northeastern region, Abu Metha emphasized that it has become a gateway for both eastern and western regions. He encouraged the business and industrial community in the Northeast to recognize this dynamic and shape the narrative in this direction.

Abu Metha highlighted the potential of the tourism sector in the Northeast, which can contribute significantly to the economy. He noted the growth projections for the Indian tourism industry and the demand for human resources in the hospitality sector. He emphasized that the dynamic tourism sector could be a key driver of the region's

economic growth.

Abu Metha called for collaboration among the northeastern states, emphasizing unity over competition. He stressed the importance of identifying each other's strengths, understanding weaknesses, and overcoming differences to unite as one region. He urged the region to contribute to India's rise as a global power.

In conclusion, Abu Metha assured the delegates of the Nagaland government's support and assistance to strengthen the Northeast. He urged all delegates to work together with a spirit of unity and collaboration to contribute to India's growth.

The program featured a special song performance by Fusion and an acknowledgment by Vice Chairman of CNCCI, Abenthung Ngullie.

On the closing day, discussions centered on devising action plans for implementation.

All stakeholders from the eight northeastern states received certificates and mementos in recognition of their participation.

Manipur Gov highlights issues of communal clashes in the national capital



KRC TIMES Manipur Bureau New Delhi, 20 Sep: For the first time in a public function, the Governor of Manipur, Anusuiya Uike highlighted the issues of the ongoing communal clashes between the Meiteis and Kukis that killed 175 persons as of September 20, 2023.

The governor was speaking while gracing the International Hindi Conference held in commemoration of the 115th Birth Anniversary of the renowned poet, Late Ramdhari Singh Dinkar on Wednesday at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. It is organized by Vishwa Hindi Parishad, New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor highlighted the present situation in Manipur and the continuous efforts for relief and rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who have been taking refuge in various relief camps in the state since the ethnic clash started on May 3.

She reiterated that initiatives are being taken up by central and state governments to restore peace and normalcy in Manipur. The clash broke out on May 3 and over 60, 000 people are being displaced. The governor had visited different relief camps where the displaced persons are taking shelter there.

QUEST!

Ambivert is the balance between introvert and extrovert.

Nandita Gorlosa distributes cheques for medical assistance, Sports & Gym equipment and Cotton yarn at Haflong

ANUP BISWAS HAFLONG 20 SEP

Assam Minister for Power, Sports & Youth Affairs, etc Nandita Gorlosa ceremonially distributed cheques to the beneficiaries for medical assistance received under Chief Minister's relief fund, Gym & Sports equipments under Directorate of Sports & Youth Welfare and cotton yarn under MLALADS fund for the year 2022-23 at District Library Auditorium Haflong on Wednesday.

The ceremonial distribution was attended by Executive Members of DHAC Nojit Kemprai, Biswajit Daulagupu, Nepalal Hojai, Principal Secretary Thai Tsho Daulagupu, ACS, MACs of DHAC, SHGs members, students and general public.

Speaking on the occasion Minister Nandita Gorlosa stated that in Dima District since the last two years there has been an increase in cancer rates. Therefore, everyone should take care of their health and have a well-balanced diet and medical check-up. Perhaps, if there is any kind of problem regarding health issues, one can easily get helpful finan-

cial aid from the government itself. She added that for availing MLA financial assistance scheme one should submit an application form and the application form is available in the BJP office.

Encouraging the youths of Dima Hasao, the Minister further said that to improve in the field of sport there will be facilitation with a sports academy in the Dima Hasao district. For the sports person, she also informed that the Assam government is going to organise 'Khel Maharan' from November 1, 2023, and come to an end by January 10, 2024 to identify and nurture sports talents at the grassroots level.

The competitions will be organised in five disciplines, namely athletics, football, kabaddi, volleyball and kho-kho. Four age categories have also been announced including Under 19 (Men), Under 19 (Women), Above 19 (Men) and Above 19 (Women).

Later Executive Member Nojit Kemprai also gave a short speech praising the effort of the government in helping the people of the Dima Hasao district in need.



District level meeting on Amrit Kalash held in Cachar

SILCHAR 20 SEP: Along with the rest of the state and as a part of "Meri Mati Mera Desh" under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a district level meeting on 'Amrit Kalas Yatra' organised by the Cachar district administration was held here on Tuesday.

The meeting was presided over by the District Commissioner, Rohan Kumar Jha in presence of all the MLAs of Cachar district and distinguished guests including members of all political parties.

Addressing the gathering, Silchar MLA Dipayan Chakraborty said that none of the present generation had the opportunity to participate in the freedom struggle or witness that historical moment. A golden opportunity has come before them to join in the progress of the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to make India a developed country by 2047, let everyone pitch in. That will be their real sacrifice for the motherland.

Speaking on the occasion, Lakhipur MLA Kaushik Rai shed light on 'Amar Mati Amar Desh' campaign and Amrit



Kalas Yatra. He said that no political party will dominate this completely non-political event. The soil will remain at the Gram Panchayat office till October. Then pitchers containing soil will be brought to the block office.

A total of 540 pitchers will be taken to Guwahati from all over Assam. The next day an event will be held in Guwahati on October 26. Apart from the Governor, dignitaries will participate in it. He said, out of 540 pitchers a team

will leave for Delhi on October 27 by Rajdhani Express with the remaining 270 amrit kalash.

The construction of Amrit Udyan will be inaugurated in the presence of the Prime Minister near the National War Memorial in Delhi on October 30. The soil of the state collected from different parts will be used in that garden. He said that a total of 270 pitchers kept in Sankardeva Kalakshetra will be taken to Gohpur on December 22.

And later that soil will be used for the construction of Kanaklata University in Gohpur.

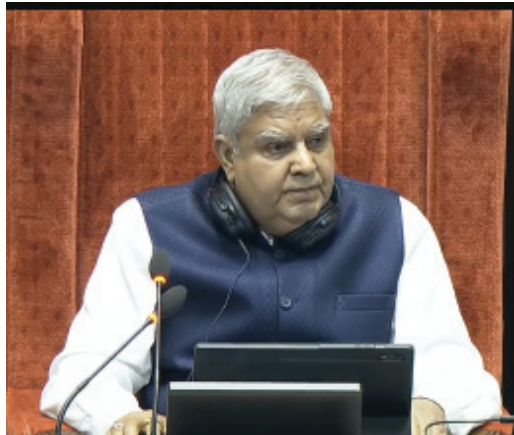
Earlier, Cachar DC Rohan Kumar Jha gave a welcome address and explained the purpose of the occasion.

Udharbond MLA Mihirakanti Som, former Silchar MLA Dilip Kumar Pal, BJP district president Bimalendu Roy urged everyone to make this program a success. The former director of the College Development Council of Assam University said that the day is a historical moment. Bivas Ranjan Dev.

Former MLA Amarchand Jain, Cachar Zilla Parishad CEO Ranjit Kumar Lashkar, Chairman, Cachar Zilla parishad Amitabh Rai, APGCL Director Nitya Bhushan Dey and others were present on the occasion.

Later, a pledge was also taken which was read out by ex principal SMC&H, Dr Sujit Nandi Purkayastha and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma's video message on the occasion of Amar Mati Amar Desh and Amrit Kalas Yatra was presented through the projector.

Sky is not the limit; it is just the beginning: Vice-President



NEW DELHI, 20 SEP: Addressing the Rajya Sabha today at the commencement of a discussion on "India's glorious space journey marked by successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3", the Vice-President drew attention to the fact that the success of Chandrayaan-3 has established India as the first country to achieve a soft landing on the moon's South Pole. With this achievement, India has become a member of the Artemis Accords, the U.S.-led multilateral initiative to place humans on the moon by 2025, he elaborated.

Applauding India's achievements beyond the lunar surface, Dhankhar reminded the House that India's Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) had successfully reached the Red Planet on its maiden attempt in 2014. Highlighting the recently launched Aditya-L1 mission and the upcoming Shukrayaan-1 mission to study Venus, the Vice-President said that the focus on planetary exploration and deep space missions was a natural extension of ISRO's efforts to use space endeavours for addressing the country's developmental

needs. Recognising ISRO's strength of being able to achieve these feats at a "fraction of the cost when compared to major space agencies like NASA and ESA", the Chairman emphasised that this cost-effectiveness is a result of its emphasis on indigenization and reducing reliance on imports. Referring to the Indian Space Policy of 2023 as a "giant leap" towards a more innovative and economically robust future in space exploration, the Vice-President said that the entry of private enterprises into the realm of space exploration would be of great significance for India's space ambitions. Underlining that India's achievements in the space sector have "catapulted the nation onto the global centre-stage", the Vice-President lauded India's space exploration journey as a matter of "national pride". "From Chandrayaan missions to the Moon, Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) and Aditya-L1's solar exploration, India has shown that the sky is not the limit; it's just the beginning," he stressed.

DGCA Clarification about news article on issuance of Pilot Licenses

NEW DELHI: In view of few articles that have appeared in various media, stating that staff shortage at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is causing delays in issuance of pilot licenses, DGCA has issued clarification stating that the news item is replete with inaccurate data and makes claims which are not based on factual information.

Regarding the issue of licences to trained pilots, DGCA says that the application processing time may vary depending upon the complexity and completeness of the application submitted. The indicative timelines published for Issue & Conversion of Commercial Pilot License (CPL) by DGCA are 20 & 30 working days respectively. DGCA has been meeting the indicative timelines despite an increase in the number of applications. Average timelines achieved for applications during 2023 for CPL Issue & Conversion is 22 and 31 working days.

The total number of Commercial Pilot Licenses issued in the year 2022 was the highest in the last decade and this number has already been surpassed in the month of September 2023. The number of CPLs in 2023 are likely to be the highest ever issued. DGCA has been issuing licenses & ratings in record numbers for the last two years (2022 & 2023) with the existing manpower. The number of licenses & ratings issued has already seen an increase of 45% as on 31 August 2023 compared to the entire year of 2022, informed the DGCA communique.

On the issue of staff positions at DGCA, the total sanctioned strength of Operations Cadre in DGCA is 228 informed DGCA. These 228 posts are spread across various Directorates in DGCA, which perform various regulatory functions such as flight crew licensing and examination, ATCO licensing etc. Of these 228, the sanctioned strength of Technical Manpower in Flight Crew Licensing Directorate in DGCA Hqs is 15, against which 12 officers are currently posted. After sanction of posts, DGCA has initiated action for filling up the posts.

Chief Secretary Inaugurates 3rd Mizoram Innovation Competition & Exhibition Fair 'PUM-2023'



AIZAWL, SEPT 20
Dr. Renu Sharma, Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram inaugurated the 3rd Mizoram Innovation Competition & Exhibition Fair 'PUM-2023' today. This event was organized by the Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department (LESDED) and took place at the Industrial Training Centre, Aizawl. Dr. Renu Sharma, in her speech, expressed her appreciation for the program, highlighting its importance for ITI students, graduates, and Mizo

youth. She also congratulated ITI Aizawl for achieving a pass percentage of 98.02% in the recent All India examination and encouraged students and graduates to consider entrepreneurship as a path forward. She emphasized the role of ITI students and LESDED in PM Vishwakarma's Skill Development initiative and invited all participants to make the most of PUM 2023.

This three-day event, PUM 2023, is organized by the LESDED Department under the Ministry of Skill Development &

Entrepreneurship (MSDE). Funding is provided by the Central Government through the STRIVE scheme and Atal Incubation Centre-SELCO Foundation (AICSF) in Guwahati. The competition is divided into two categories: Engineering and Non-Engineering, with 28 participants in the Engineering category, 35 participants in the Non-Engineering category, and 8 special invitees.

Mr. Lalramsanga Sailo, the Secretary of LESDED, explained the event's purpose and objectives and welcomed all participants. The opening ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks from Mrs. Angela Zothanpuii, Director of LESDED. Notable attendees of the event included LESDED Officials, ITI students and faculty, representatives from Atal Incubation Centre-SELCO Foundation, CII Young Indians, Raftaar Agribusiness Incubator (RABI), and Thar thilentu (TiLi).

The fair primarily serves as a platform for ITI students, graduates, craftsmen and innovator to showcase and sell their products during the event. The primary purpose of this event is to encourage innovation among ITI students and promote innovative practices within the State.

5 alleged extortionists arrested with arms and ammunition: Manipur police

KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU IMPHAL, 19 SEP

Manipur police said that 5 persons arrested in camouflage uniforms masquerading as special commandos of the state forces were arrested under the arms act indulging in ruthless extortion campaigns at different locations in the ongoing communal clashes.

Talking to newsmen at the Manipur police headquarters, Imphal on Tuesday, the Additional Secretary Home, M Pradip said that police recovered a total of 5 weapons and ammunition - 1 INSAS rifle with 4 magazines and 78 rounds, 1 SLR with 3 magazines and 50 rounds, 2 numbers of 303 rifles with a magazine and 5 rounds of ammunition and one Bolero after arresting them near the Meitei Mayek High School, Kongba in Imphal East district on September 16. The arrested persons are Moirangthem Anand Singh, 45, who was a drug user, former PLA and joined KCP (Noyon) detained under NSA, Athokpam Kajit alias Kishorjit, 39, drug addict, Loukrakpam Michael Mangangcha, 30, Konthoujam Romojit Meitei, 28, and Kaisham Johnson, 35. They are in judicial custody for 9 days for further interrogation.

In the meantime, several organizations called a 48-hour state wide band since midnight of Monday demanding the unconditional release of these 5 persons. They are the Village Defense Volunteers who are protesting the integrity of the state in the ongoing communal clash that started on May 3.

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NFR continues to undertake various initiatives to improve customer interface



MALIGAON, 20 SEP
N. F. Railway has been adopting several initiatives to improve freight transportation

and provide better customer interface. As part of such initiatives, few more stations have been opened for handling of

both inward and outward goods traffic during the month of August, 2023 to facilitate easier transportation of various

goods by different segments of customers.

To improve customer interface and augment freight revenue, Jirania station under Lumding division is opened for handling of container traffic with Lift On – Lift Off operation w.e.f. 07.08.2023. Rangapani station under Katihar division is opened for handling of inward automobile traffic w.e.f 11.08.2023. North Lakhimpur station under Tinsukia division is opened for handling of outward coal traffic w.e.f 18.08.2023. Azara & Mirza stations under Rangiya division is opened for handling of inward Calcined Petroleum Coke (CPC) consignment w.e.f 28.08.2023

Improvement of customer interface and opening of new terminals leads to increased loading and unloading of freight trains. As a result of which revenue of N.F. Railways will significantly grow in the coming years.

Trudeau's charges against India concerning: Australia

Australia has described Canada's allegations about India's involvement in the killing of a Sikh separatist leader as 'concerning' and said Canberra is 'monitoring these developments closely' and has raised the issues with its Indian counterparts.

These remarks were made by Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong at a press conference in the United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday.

Wong, who is leading Australia's delegation to the high-level 78th session of the UN General Assembly, was responding to a question on allegations by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of the involvement of 'agents of the Indian government' in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF).

"Look, these are concerning reports, and I note that investigations are still underway, but obviously these are concerning reports, and as I've said, we are monitoring these developments closely with our partners, and we'll continue to do so," Wong said at the press conference on Tuesday.


Nijjar was one of India's most-wanted terrorists who carried a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head and was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen outside a gurdwara in Surrey in the western Canadian province of British Columbia on June 18. India has strongly rejected Trudeau's statement made in the Canadian Parliament and said 'allegations of Gov-

ernment of India's involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated'.

In response to a question whether Australia has raised the issue with India, Wong said, "We have, Australia has raised these issues with our Indian counterparts, as you would expect us to do."

She added that Australia has been 'monitoring these developments with partners closely, we will continue to do so, and I will confirm that we have raised our concerns with India. I'm not going to go into any further detail on that'.

When asked if she was planning on raising the issue with Japan, a partner with the US, Australia and India in the Quad group, Wong said, "I'm sure you would not expect the foreign minister of any country to run a commentary on how and what is raised, in detail or what will be raised, but I would say to you, you know, Australia's principal position is that we believe the sovereignty of all countries should be respected, we believe the rule of law should be respected, and our views as a matter of principle reflect those views." Wong was asked if she has concerns about foreign interference from India in Australia, to which she replied: "I think Australia is a robust democracy, and I think the Indian diaspora has a range of views, and you know, we have made clear in relation to democratic debate in Australia that the peaceful expression of different views is a key part of Australia's democracy, and I think most Australians would agree with that."



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