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Tragic end to legacy: Wife of freedom fighter burnt alive

Chilling tales of crimes against women unfold in Manipur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The aftermath of ethnic violence in Manipur continues to unveil chilling stories of unimaginable horror. Just days after shocking visuals of tribal women being paraded naked by a mob of men surfaced on social media, yet another tragic incident has come to light. In Serou village, located in the Kakching district, a heart-wrenching tragedy unfolded when an armed group locked the 80-year-old wife of a revered freedom fighter inside her house and set it ablaze. This distressing event was reported to the Serou police station and occurred during the early hours of May 28 amid widespread violence and gunfire.

Once a picturesque location, Serou, situated 45 km away from Imphal now stands witness to the aftermath of the devastation, with burnt houses and bullet-riddled walls as painful reminders of its former tranquility before May 3. The clashes in Serou were

part of a violent conflict between the valley-majority Meiteis and the hill-majority Kuki tribe, centred around the Meiteis' demand for Scheduled Tribes (ST) status.

The victim, an 80-year-old woman named Ibetombi, was the beloved wife of the late freedom fighter S Churachand Singh, a respected figure honored by former President APJ Abdul Kalam. Her tragic fate was sealed as the attackers locked her inside her home before setting it ablaze.

Premkanta, aged 22 and Ibetombi's grandson, bravely shared a heartrending account of the incident with NDTV. Narrowly escaping death, he bore the scars of bullets that grazed his body during his courageous attempt to rescue his grandmother. Ibetombi's last words were a plea for her family's safety, urging them to run and return for her later. The marks on Premkanta's body serve as poignant reminders of the peril they faced that fateful night.

Knowing her advanced age and limited mobility would slow her down, Ibetombi selflessly urged her family to prioritise their safety during the hail of bullets outside, which posed a grave danger for slower movers like her.

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Gender crimes lead to political battle

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The horrifying tales of murder, gang rape, and naked

parading of women in Manipur during the last two months have thrust the issue of crime against women into the center of political exchanges. The BJP has slammed Opposition-ruled States for equally brutal crimes, while the Bengal police have arrested five persons on

Saturday for beating up two women and parading them half-naked on the streets in Malda three days ago.

The day witnessed three important developments on the issue of crime against women.

First, the BJP highlighted alleged atrocities against women in the Opposition-run States of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh. The party asked

Congress, TMC, RJD, and JDU to send women fact-finding delegations to their respective states.

Second, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that his statements about crimes against women in Rajasthan have deeply wounded the pride of the people of the State.

Continued on Page 2

4 officers suspended for taking Yasin to SC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Delhi Prisons has taken strict action and suspended four officials, including two assistant superintendents, a deputy superintendent, and a jail warden, in connection with the physical production of terror-funding case convict and Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik before the Supreme Court on Friday.

The surprise appearance of Malik in connection with another terror-related case left the judges puzzled, as there was no specific direction to bring him from Tihar Jail, where he is serving a life sentence. Director General (Prisons) Sanjay Beniwal attributed Malik's in-person appearance to a lapse on the part of the jail officials concerned and im-



mediately ordered an inquiry into the matter.

"In the matter of the physical production of Malik before the Supreme Court on Friday, the Prisons Department has suspended one deputy superintendent, two assistant superintendents, and one head warden Friday night as they were found to be prima facie responsible based on preliminary inquiry," the statement issued by Tihar Jail said.

Deputy Inspector General (Prisons-Headquarters) Rajiv Singh will conduct the inquiry to determine the lapse and identify the responsible officials.

Continued on Page 2

Lanka plans Indian ₹ for transactions



Colombo: Sri Lanka is considering the possibility of allowing the usage of the Indian rupee for local transactions just like the dollar, euro and yen to facilitate Indian tourists and businessmen, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said on Saturday.

Sabry was briefing the media here on President Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit to India on July 20-21, his first since assuming office last year. He held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

Detailed report on P6

Dog goes missing, Delhi HC former judge fumes

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Former Delhi High Court Justice Gaurang Kanth has lodged a formal complaint to the Delhi Police (Security) about the "disappearance" of his beloved pet dog, a result of the negligence displayed by his security staff stationed at his office bungalow in the presti-

gious Lutyens' zone.

The incident occurred when the assigned security personnel failed to lock the door of his residence, allowing his dog to wander off. In addition to the distress caused by the loss of his pet, Justice Kanth raised serious apprehensions regarding the lax approach of the Delhi Police

security personnel and its potential threat to his life.

In a letter addressed to Joint Commissioner of Police (Security) Mangesh Kashyap, Justice Kanth also forwarded the complaint to Dr Sujoy Thaosan, DG CRPF, and Rajesh Kumar, IG (administration) CRPF.

Continued on Page 2

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Use of Livogrit and Livamrit along with Basti completely cures liver diseases.

Skin diseases

Dermatologists have no permanent cure for Leucoderma, Eczema, Psoriasis. Medicines used in such cases contain steroids and different

types of chemicals which ultimately make the patient suffer from further complications.

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and steroids used to treat such situations give temporary relief and patients lungs get affected for life.

Bronchom, Swasari Gold, Vati and Swasari Pravahi in conjunction with regular practice of Bhastrika, Kapalbhati and Anulom-Vilom Pranayam and Bhujangasan etc. yogasanas are administered to cure Asthma.

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Sri Lanka may accept Indian rupee for local transactions

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka is considering the possibility of allowing the usage of the Indian rupee for local transactions just like the dollar, euro and yen to facilitate Indian tourists and businessmen, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said on Saturday.



Lanka Pay for UPI application acceptance in Sri Lanka after bilateral talks between Modi and Wickremesinghe. On an MoU signed with India on the development of Trincomalee as a regional hub for industry, energy and bilateral cooperation, Sabry saw no objections coming from China.

Paytm to generate free cash flow by year end: CEO Vijay Shekhar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fintech firm One97 Communications, which operates under the Paytm brand, expects to generate free cash flow by the end of this year, a top company official said on Saturday. Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma, in an earnings call, said that growth for the company in the June 2023 quarter came on account of expansion in payments, financial services and commerce business.

"We are on our committed guidelines of becoming free cash flow positive by the year-end," Sharma said. Paytm has reported a narrowing of loss to Rs 358.4 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2023. The company had posted a loss of Rs 645.4 crore in the same period a year ago.



RBI's bar on the onboarding of new customers by Paytm Payments Bank, Sharma said it has submitted a compliance report to the banking regulator, and the same is under review.

pated but it is expected to come soon. During the financial year (FY) 2022, the RBI directed the Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) to stop the onboarding of new customers with effect from March 1, 2022.

Kotak Bank net income up 67% to ₹3,452 cr in June quarter

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Fourth largest private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday reported a massive 67 per cent on-year jump in standalone net income at Rs 3,452 crore for the June quarter. On a consolidated level, the profit, which includes net gains from its brokerage/i-banking, ARC, wealth management and insurance businesses, grew 51 per cent to Rs 4,150 crore, the city-based lender said in a statement.

Indian pharma industry globally admired as 'trouble-shooter': Naqvi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian pharmaceutical industry has been globally admired as a "trouble-shooter" for making available life-saving medical needs to fight and win the "war" against coronavirus, former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday.



Indian pharma fraternity played a key role in keeping the citizens of the country safe while also ensuring the health and well-being of the entire humanity.

Modi's commitment to ensuring happiness and prosperity for all has resulted in India becoming a successful and selfless, "protector" of the health of the entire humanity. He said that the Indian pharma industry has been globally admired as a "trouble-shooter" for making available life-saving medical needs to fight and win the war on coronavirus.

US and like-minded countries including India need to work together to shape course of AI: Arati Prabhakar

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US and like-minded countries including India need to work together to shape the course of artificial intelligence and make sure that it is used responsibly, Dr Arati Prabhakar, the Science Advisor to President Joe Biden, has said.



Her remarks on Friday came as the Biden administration roped in several IT giants like Google and Microsoft to manage the risks of the new AI tools even as they compete over the potential of artificial intelligence (AI). "The work that we are doing includes working with companies to hold them accountable and there's some important progress on that today," Indian-American engineer Prabhakar told PTI in an interview.

Modi and many others," she said. Prabhakar said she had the opportunity to be at Congress when Prime Minister Modi spoke and then at the State Dinner and then again at the luncheon that the Vice President and the Secretary of State hosted. "Artificial intelligence came up repeatedly in those conversations. In fact, the prime minister made a wonderful joke when he addressed Congress and he said he thought AI stood for America, India, which is another way of interpreting it," Prabhakar said.

that is safe and trustworthy so that it really does lift us up in the end," she said. On Friday, Biden announced voluntary commitments that the administration has worked on with seven leading AI companies. These companies include Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Meta, and some of the smaller AI companies.



Yes Bank net profit rises 10.3% as bad loan pile plunges to 2%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Private sector lender Yes Bank, which has been down in the dumps since March 2020, on Saturday reported a 10.3 per cent on-year growth in net profit for the June quarter at Rs 343 crore, buoyed by a massive improvement in the asset quality as bad loans plunged to 2 per cent on-year from 13.2 per cent.

retail advances jumped 31.3 per cent and the SME bond rose 24.1 per cent and mid-corporate loans rose 28.9 per cent while large corporate book contracted 29 per cent, taking new sanctions/disbursement stood Rs 24,730 crore, up 10 per cent on-year.



Garuda Aerospace to tie up with Goa agri dept for promoting use of drone in farming

PTI ■ PANAJI

Drone maker Garuda Aerospace will collaborate with Goa's Department of Agriculture to conduct a drone yatra, an initiative boosting the usage of drones in this sector. The company in a statement said that the Goa Agriculture Department has invited them to collaborate in conducting the initiative of the Drone Yatra aiming to create awareness and promote the adoption of drone technology in agriculture.

ICICI Q1 profit rises 40% to ₹9,648 cr in Q1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Private lender ICICI Bank on Saturday reported a 40 per cent rise in standalone net profit to Rs 9,648 crore for the June 2023 quarter, helped by a decline in bad loans and an improvement in interest income.

period. Its total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to Rs 38,763 crore from Rs 28,337 crore a year ago, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing. Interest earned by the bank improved to Rs 33,328 crore over Rs 23,672 crore in June 2022. The bank's net interest income (NII) increased by 38 per cent year-on-year to Rs 18,227 crore in Q1 FY24 from Rs 13,210 crore in the year-ago



period. At the same time, the net interest margin improved to 4.7 per cent compared to 4.01 per cent a year earlier.

The bank's asset quality showed improvement as gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to 2.7 per cent of gross advances at the end of the June quarter from 3.4 per cent a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs or bad loans declined to 0.4 per cent against 0.7 per cent in the same period of the preceding fiscal. Its capital adequacy ratio fell to 16.71 per cent from 18.04 per cent at the end of June 2022.



Apples to be sold as per kg, not as per boxes: Himachal horticulture minister

PTI ■ SHIMLA

Ending the confusion on the sale of apples, Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi on Saturday said all fruits especially apples would be sold as per weight (kgs) and not as per boxes and arthiyas (commission agents). Negi also stated that those violating the norms would face strict action. "Strict action would be taken against those not following the said norms and licenses of arthiyas would be cancelled and they would be chucked out of the Mandis (fruit markets) in case of violation," he said during his address to the media persons here.

Karnataka will come up with new Industrial Policy: Siddaramaiah

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that the state government will come up with a new Industrial Policy. He said this at an event organised to present the 'State Export Excellence Awards' organised by the Department of Commerce and Industry and the Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC). "In the past, the industrial policy implemented by our government was appreciated by the industry fraternity. It was known to be the most progressive industrial policy. Our government will shortly discuss with industrialists and the exporters to bring out a new and progressive industrial policy," Siddaramaiah said. Stating that his government gives high priority to the promotion of industries, he said generation of employment is possible only with rapid industrialisation.



and it is also committed to providing all support to investors, including exporters, he assured. Noting that the government will strive to have the best single window clearance in the country, Minister of Large and Medium Industries M B Patil said with the 'Ease of Doing Business', the state has the most industry-friendly environment. "Vision groups will be formed in selected seven sectors to promote the growth of industries. Supporting and encouraging MSMEs is the social responsibility of this government. We will be working with Tata Technology to empower MSMEs," he said. The Export Preparedness Index (EPI) ranking by NITI Aayog for Year 2022 has ranked Karnataka as the No.1 State in the country in two parameters namely Policy Pillar and Business EcoSystem Pillar. NITI Aayog's Ranking of States was announced on July 17, 2023. "It is a matter of pride that Karnataka has secured the status of 'Achiever' in the 'Leads Ranking' of the NITI Aayog for the logistics sector in 2022 considering the good infrastructure, good connectivity network and transparent ecosystem," he added.

Titagarh Rail Systems reports ₹61.77 cr net profit in Q1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd on Saturday reported a net profit of Rs 61.77 crore for the April-June quarter of 2023-24 driven by higher income. The company posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 6.46 lakh in the first quarter of the previous fiscal, the company said in a filing to BSE. The consolidated total income in the April-June period more than doubled to Rs 914.64 crore, over Rs 440.78 crore in the year-ago period, it said. Headquartered in Kolkata, the Titagarh group is a leading manufacturer of freight and passenger rolling stock. In March, Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd in consortium with Ramkrishna Forgings emerged as the lowest bidder for the supply of 15,400 lakh forged wheels to Indian Railways. The JV namely Ramkrishna Titagarh Wheels Ltd (RTWL) will be engaged in manufacturing and supply of forged wheels under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative, the filing said.

Ruling on capital raising, he said the core capital ratio stood at 13.6 per cent now up from 11.9 per cent in Q1FY23 and 13.3 per cent in Q4FY23. Commenting on the numbers, Kumar, who is on deputation from SBI, said, the quarter was steady and we demonstrated significant progress in line with our strategic objectives. While the balance sheet granularity momentum continued, we also delivered a strong growth in our fee income at Rs 1,141 crore on-year led by treasury income, while containing our operating and credit cost. The focus of the bank is now firmly aligned towards improving the profitability of the franchise, over the coming quarters, we will continue to work on levers which further accelerate this momentum such as improvement in NIMs and Casa ratios, reducing the drag from legacy PSL requirements, further cross-sell and product penetration into our fast-expanding customer base, while continuing to maintain strict controls over costs.

You have to be the best of whatever you are, but successful, cool actresses come in all shapes and sizes
—Jessica Alba



The appalling incident of parading naked women on the streets and subjecting them to gang rape in Manipur raises unsettling questions about the direction of the evolution of Indian society at large: is it still a beacon of spiritual awakening or has it descended into a pit of moral degradation? In this article, **NAVIN UPADHYAY** delves into these shameful events that demand urgent attention



SHAME

On May 4, two Kuki-Zo women in Manipur fell victim to a brutal attack perpetrated by a group of men from the powerful Meitei community. The women were paraded naked and sexually assaulted, while the administration and police remained passive bystanders. A 26-second video of the incident surfaced on July 19, revealing this shameful happening. Stripped, groped, and assaulted by boys as young as 15, these women from the ethnic Kuki-Zo tribe were led to a field where the worst awaited them. One of the women, aged 21, was subjected to brutal gang rape.

In the FIR, the rape victims narrated the harrowing details. The other woman was 42 years old. The incident occurred near B Phainom, in Kangpokpi district, on May 4, just a day after violent clashes erupted between the Meitei and Kuki communities.

This appalling incident compares with the torture often inflicted on women in far-off regions like Rwanda or Afghanistan. For modern India, which prides itself on its moral values and spiritual awakening, such a barbaric act raises deeply unsettling questions that transcend mere accountability for the state government and administration.

The video of the May 4 incident has caused nationwide uproar, with some people questioning its timing—just a day before the start of the monsoon session of parliament. On the flip side, others are also questioning the inaction of the police all these days in apprehending the culprits until the video went viral. After all, the FIR was registered on June 18 itself. It's crucial that a thorough investigation be launched under a sitting Supreme Court judge to hold those responsible accountable for their inaction.

Chief Minister Biren has gone on record saying that hundreds of such incidents have been reported from across the state during these clashes. The fact that a chief minister can make such an admission and still continue in office raises serious questions about accountability of a government, as his critics point out.

It is an undeniable reality that some politicians are willing to go to any extent, even at the cost of society or the nation, to serve their interests. Similarly, it is a bitter truth that Indian bureaucracy and the police are servile to their political masters, so much so that they cannot question even their worst sins and transgressions. The indifference displayed by them in the face of the burning of Manipur, the rape of women, and the killing of innocent citizens exposes the entire structure of administration and governance.

Despite the incident occurring on May 4, the police only registered an FIR on June 18, and the first arrest was made on July 20. Chief Minister Biren Singh attributed this inaction to the multiplicity of similar incidents in

the state, but such a justification fails to excuse the lack of sensitivity and accountability from those in power.

This tragedy becomes even more heart-wrenching considering that the ill-fated women and two men were fleeing for safety towards the forest. Among the victims were three members of the same family: a 56-year-old man, his 19-year-old son, and his 21-year-old daughter. Additionally, two other women, aged 42 and 52, were part of the group.

The victims were momentarily "rescued" by a team from the Nongpok Sekmai police station while en route to the forest. However, a violent mob intercepted them near Toubu, just two kilometers from the police station, and tragedy struck. The mob killed the 56-year-old man, and all three women were physically forced to undress and were stripped naked in front of the hostile crowd. In broad daylight, the 21-year-old woman endured a brutal gang rape, while the other two women managed to escape with the help of some locals they knew. Tragically, the 21-year-old's younger brother was killed by the mob while attempting to defend his sister's dignity and life.

The shameful and blood-curdling incident raises unsettling questions about the version of India these criminals represent: a beacon of spiritual awakening or a pit of moral degradation?

The brutality witnessed against women in Manipur are unprecedented in the northeastern region, where women play a significant role in running families and society. Even during the peak of ethnic and intra-state violence, such atrocities against women were unheard of in the northeast. It is evident that the narrative of hate, which has strongly taken root in mainstream India, has found fertile ground in the northeast as well, leading to its own grave consequences.

This brutal dehumanization of society, dominated by hate-filled communal extremists, has undeniably tarnished the image of the northeast as a pristine land of swift-flowing rivers, lush forests, and warm and friendly people. It also poses a serious challenge to the unity of India, threatening the fabric that binds our diverse nation together.

The horrifying incident has garnered international headlines and is expected to force the central government to act. The possibility of placing the state under President's rule to rebuild trust with the minority Kuki community and initiate a reconciliation process should not come as a surprise. As things stand, expecting the existing administrative setup, dominated by the Meiteis, to diffuse the situation may prove futile.

It is unfortunate that despite the state witnessing such explosive situation and barbarity, there is no political consensus to address the issue. It is reflected in the bitter discord over the provisions and rules



“THE DEHUMANIZATION OF SOCIETY AND THE BRUTALITY WITNESSED AGAINST WOMEN IN MANIPUR ARE UNPRECEDENTED IN THE NORTHEASTERN REGION, WHERE WOMEN PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN RUNNING FAMILIES AND SOCIETY. EVEN DURING THE PEAK OF ETHNIC AND INTRA-STATE VIOLENCE, SUCH ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN WERE UNHEARD OF IN THE NORTHEAST. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE NARRATIVE OF HATE, WHICH HAS STRONGLY TAKEN ROOT IN MAINSTREAM INDIA, HAS FOUND FERTILE GROUND IN THE NORTHEAST AS WELL, LEADING TO ITS OWN GRAVE CONSEQUENCES



TRIGGER POINT

On April 27, the Manipur High Court directed the state government to consider the inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list within four weeks. The court's order came on a petition filed by the Meitei (Meitei) Tribe Union, which has been demanding ST status for the community for many years.

The order triggered the massive unrest that has engulfed the northeast state into vortex of bloodshed and tales of heartwrenching crime against humanity. The Kukis opposed the order, fearing that it would take away what little privileges they enjoy as tribal community and the dominant Meiteis who are both politically and economically far more influential than the Kukis.

The High court noted that the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs sent a letter to the Manipur government in 2013, acknowledging the Meitei community's request for inclusion in the ST list. However, the state government had not taken any action on the matter since then.

The court said that the

continued denial of the Meitei community's request violated their right to equality and right to life with dignity, as guaranteed under Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

The Meitei people are currently categorized as Other Backward Classes (OBC) or SCs, and they hold a dominant position in more than half of the state's assembly constituencies. The community's demand for ST status has been a long-standing one, advocated by the Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee, Manipur. They assert that they were originally listed as one of the tribes of Manipur before its merger with India in 1949 but lost this status with the drafting of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

However, their plea faced opposition from Adivasi students' unions representing the existing 36 ST communities in the state. These unions argue that granting ST status to the Meitei community would undermine the purpose of protecting tribal communities through reservation.

SUPREME COURT STEPS IN

The Supreme Court has slammed the Manipur High Court's order to include Meiteis in the list of Scheduled Tribes, calling it "factually incorrect" and "against the principles laid down by a Constitution bench."

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud took strong exception to the Manipur HC judgment, which was issued in March 2023. The order had led to violent clashes between tribal and non-tribal communities in Manipur.

Observing that there is a need to intervene and nullify the HC order, the CJI said, "we gave time to justice Muralidharan to remedy his error and he did not. We have to take a strong view against it now. It is clear if HC judges do not

under which the parliament will discuss the Manipur crisis.

While the India parliament is not able to discuss the Manipur humanitarian crisis, the European Parliament on July 13 passed a resolution calling on Indian authorities to take "all necessary" measures to stop the violence in Manipur and protect religious minorities, especially Christians.

The resolution expresses concern about the violent clashes between the Meitei and Kuki ethnic communities in Manipur, resulting in significant loss of life, displacement, and destruction of properties, including places of worship. It also highlights

follow Constitution bench judgments what should we do."

The CJI also said that the Manipur HC's order had "serious implications" for the country's constitutional framework. He said that the order had "undermined" the principles laid down by the Constitution bench in a 1996 judgment, which had set out the criteria for including communities in the Scheduled Tribes list.

The Supreme Court has set aside the Manipur HC's order and referred the matter back to the high court for a fresh hearing. The court has also asked the high court to seek the views of the Union government and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes before issuing a new order.

worries regarding the promotion of Hindu majoritarianism and increased activity by militant groups.

The resolution strongly urges the Indian authorities to take immediate action to halt the ongoing ethnic and religious violence and protect all religious minorities, particularly the Christian community in Manipur. It calls for restraint from all sides involved in the conflict and emphasizes the need for political leaders to refrain from making inflammatory statements. The resolution encourages India's central government and religious leaders to engage in inclusive dialogues with civil society and affected

communities to restore calm and address the root causes of the tensions.

Additionally, the resolution calls for independent investigations into the violence, accountability for those responsible, and an end to the internet shutdown to allow for transparency and access to information. It further recommends repealing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and adhering to the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

It's nobody's contention that merely a discussion in parliament will diffuse the situation in Manipur, but a serious debate on the issue will certainly be a step forward in sending the right message to the people and administration.

For lasting peace, authorities must not forget that the roots of the Meitei-Kuki tensions stretch back to the colonial period when British rule employed a divide-and-rule policy, leading to exacerbated ethnic divisions and tensions between various communities, including the Meitei and Kuki tribes. Land disputes have also been a significant source of contention between the Meitei and Kuki communities, further fueling clashes and violence.

The issue of political representation and autonomy has also played a role in the unrest, with both communities demanding greater political power and autonomy in the state. This has led to conflicts over legislative seat allocations and resource distribution.

The Meitei and Kuki communities have distinct cultural identities, traditions, and languages, which sometimes contribute to misunderstandings and clashes, particularly in regions where both communities coexist. The presence of various armed groups in the region has further complicated the situation, with some claiming to represent specific ethnic communities, leading to violence and insecurity.

Socio-economic disparities and limited access to resources have also contributed to tensions between the Meitei and Kuki communities, as issues like unemployment, poverty, and lack of development can exacerbate existing grievances and create a fertile ground for conflict.

Addressing the situation in Manipur is a complex and multifaceted task, requiring a comprehensive approach that acknowledges historical grievances, promotes dialogue and reconciliation, ensures equitable development opportunities, and provides better representation and participation for all communities in the state's governance and decision-making processes. Above all, it necessitates a genuine political willingness to foster lasting peace and unity in Manipur.

(The writer is Executive Editor of The Pioneer)

THE RELATION BETWEEN PRACTICAL AND SPIRITUAL SPHERES IN MUSIC IS OBVIOUS, IF ONLY BECAUSE IT DEMANDS EARS, FINGER, CONSCIOUSNESS AND INTELLECT
— LUCIANO BERIO

New Delhi, July 23, 2023



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
Your health is now being negatively impacted by stress and anxiety. It is now crucial to strike a balance between activity, food and water intake, and adequate rest. Embrace a positive mindset by surrounding yourself with positive people. Your questions will be answered shortly. You might be stuck in a job that is tough or non-existent. You are not required to remain in a circumstance that is unhealthy or ineffective for you. There might be a lot of confusion all around you. If you have faith in the Almighty and yourself, change is possible. Things will get better. This might be a crucial period if you are already committed to someone. Now is the time to decide exactly what you want from your relationships and then take the necessary steps to make it happen.
Lucky number 28 | **Lucky colour** Sky Blue
Lucky day Saturday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
You have a great week ahead of you in terms of health. Health will improve, and people who are anxiously expecting test results will be happy. You will have a better life as a result of your positive outlook on life. A new energy will be experienced at work, moving you forward with little effort and reaping enormous rewards. New business opportunities, such as projects or transactions, will give you hope for the future. Relationship-wise, you need some time and space to fully understand the complexity of relationships, especially romantic ones. Patience is essential if the person you're in love with is controlling and demanding.
Lucky number 10 | **Lucky colour** Mustard
Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
Pay attention to your health this week. Things may be made evident in a much more planned way. Preventative measures have kept everything in check. A morning or evening stroll will also help strengthen your tired muscles. Some folks are anticipating a promotion at work. Having positive relationships with elders will be beneficial. There will be plenty of opportunities for those who prefer reading and speaking to do so. A little journey for business will be educational. For those who want to pursue international studies, the time is right. Singles will receive romantic letters. This is the time to be happy and content. You'll lead a happy life and be well-liked by your family.
Lucky number 13 | **Lucky colour** Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
You shouldn't need to worry about your health. Consider your current efforts to increase your energy and well-being at this time. You will surely perform better if you exercise often, eat foods high in fibre, drink plenty of water, and drink less coffee and tea. You're likely to have a prominent job. Your earlier efforts will be well acknowledged. Estate owners will thrive. You'll find a good balance between your work responsibilities and spending time with your loved ones. Unexpected benefits from competitors might arrive this week. Everything will seem to be in order when desire is present. If you travel now, you could run across someone you find very appealing.
Lucky number 12 | **Lucky colour** Maroon
Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
You'll have a busy and exciting week. You are vibrant and inspiring to those around you. You want to utilise your time in an innovative way. You are bursting with new concepts and ideas. You'll remain active in one or more pursuits thanks to your inquisitive intellect. Your muscles are prone to spasms, so exercise regularly. Workwise, you must make intelligent judgements about your job and be proactive and forceful in your marketing efforts, or you risk losing a great opportunity. The week will be fantastic for physicians, engineers, and editors as well. On the personal front, keep your word and give your spouse everything you have to give. You will probably argue with the elders at some point.
Lucky number 11 | **Lucky colour** Silver
Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
Those who are putting on weight may have to alter their eating routines. You'll come to appreciate the value of both money and good health, and you'll develop plans to live in accordance with nature to maintain good health. This week, priorities will shift from work to other things. You are either slow at work or don't have enough time. The hard work and efforts of the previous week were in vain. This period will soon pass. This week is probably going to mark a major occasion on the personal front. You've made a good connection and are emotionally busy. You have total faith in your spouse. Between the two, there is now a great deal of understanding, and the relationship is anticipated to get stronger.
Lucky number 30 | **Lucky colour** Peach
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
The work that was finished in previous weeks will be examined and assessed. You will gain knowledge from your past mistakes. You still have a lot of hard work to do, despite using a lot of energy already. You haven't, however, made use of the fruits of your effort. If a new job offer, assignment, or business opportunity appears out of nowhere during the week, you could feel content and happy. The time is now to start a new business or generate big money for investments. Numerous offers will come your way and then disappear. You must eliminate options and choose the best one. Additionally, since there is a chance of overspending, you must adhere to your spending plan.
Lucky number 25 | **Lucky colour** Brown
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
This week, you'll win over a lot of admirers thanks to your ability to bounce back from difficult circumstances. Maintain good health, paying specific attention to your eyes, which need special care. As working long hours on a computer might strain your eyes, you might need to make an appointment with an eye specialist. On the professional front, certain unanticipated workplace events could cause you to halt and reevaluate your working methods. When interacting with coworkers of a different gender, exercise caution. Some people might have to make a quick business trip. Your personal life is fulfilling, and you are happy. Your emotional needs are given a lot of consideration.
Lucky number 19 | **Lucky colour** Purple
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
Your charm and appeal will grow in a positive, upbeat environment. You'll develop on both a physical and mental level. This is a fantastic week to unwind and treat yourself to some pampering at a spa. If it improves your personality, spending money won't bother you. Students will particularly benefit from this week. Some people may change their place of work. For those hoping to build a relationship, this is a bad week. Success is higher at home than abroad. Keep your funds and restless thoughts under control, as you have a tendency to overreact. You should use extra caution while handling money. You are likely to discover an influential companion who is ambitious when it comes to dating. You are a generous and caring person who goes above and beyond to win over your spouse.
Lucky number 20 | **Lucky colour** White
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22
You seek healing and caring energy, which you anticipate from your mother, sister, or other female help. Self-love and self-support are important, especially if you are struggling with health concerns. Think positively and have trust in the healing power of the universe. Use your creative ideas to shift the scales in your favour on the professional front. Reconsider your strategies. This is a wonderful time to look for a job. We value your work. Maintain your current course of action. Love hurts you deeply on a personal level. A stranger you meet while travelling could catch your attention and eventually transform it into an obsession. The love life this week should be rather interesting.
Lucky number 21 | **Lucky colour** Pink
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
You should trust your instincts when it comes to your health. Consider getting a second opinion or seeing a new doctor if a diagnosis—positive or negative—does not feel right or if you are not at ease with your present doctor. The time is also ideal for reading the best spiritual writing ever written. You are most creative when working, and your reputation will soar. At work, a rise in pay or a promotion are anticipated. The unemployed will find respectable employment. Entrepreneurs will benefit. People seeking love may have to wait or make the wrong choice when it comes to partnerships. Existing relationships may be at a standstill or face stagnation. As the week goes on, you will be able to win over your situation with style.
Lucky number 18 | **Lucky colour** Black
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
You have the power to change the situation. You may let go of old grudges and feel great about the future once more with the help of unexpected discoveries and an enormous amount of hope. On the professional front, this is a good time to explore new opportunities. A fantastic week for politicians and the media. The engineering and medical students will succeed. This week, anyone who desires to study abroad will be able to do so. The lovebirds will have a great time. If you are dedicated, this will lead to a strong bond that is beneficial to both of you. The time is here to meet the person you are looking for.
Lucky number 15 | **Lucky colour** Grey
Lucky day Tuesday

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**ASTROTURF**
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Purify Mind for a better tomorrow

Growups too unmindfully pick up negative impressions, which adversely affect their psyche. Two desperate young men came looking for their future prospect. I asked them: Why you two look so low? "Sir, despite our best efforts, we thrice failed to clear mandatory qualifying examination that a foreign educated medical graduate needs to pursue medical profession in India. Now, we need to either get back to the country where from we graduated to pursue our profession. Else look for alternative means to earn our living here in our native land." They responded. Question arose: Were they incompetent or simply destined to meet failure? For answer, I asked them: "Were the questions out of your syllabus?" "No, we could not recall the answer in time." It, thus, came out that their problem was rooted in the sense of failure to find a birth in any medical school here in India. To pursue their dream, they then joined a medical school abroad. The impression of failure made a deep impact on their psyche. That bred in a sense of insecurity and

thereby identity crisis. That, however, did not play out during their study abroad. For, all other fellow students were similar - all having secured admission by paying heavy capitation fee. But once back to India, the sense of insecurity lying dormant thus far got triggered. They, thus, began with a negative note - apprehensive of failure at the qualifying examination. Their disoriented mind did not let them recall what were very much there in their memory. They were offered lesson in how to come out of their negative bind. They sincerely followed the advisory and within a month there after they cleared their examination. The sense of identity crisis takes a still devilish turn, if it ever gets into the consciousness of group existence. All the communal flare up and societal conflicts owe their genesis to this very factor. Here, the role played by *ahamkara* deserves attention once again, as it is this very faculty of mind that wills upon how to negotiate the callings of life. More often *ahamkara* unmindfully gets carried away with inherent tendencies of mind, which then becomes



its defining principle, as if that would be its end task. Whence it doesn't feel the necessity to invoke *buddhi* for reality check. They won't look beyond for better options if any in sight either. Say for instance, by any chance a saint and a thief, both happen to retire at the same place. In deep slumber, both forget what and who they were. Once awake, their respective inherent ten-

dencies involuntarily begin driving them. Ahamkara does also get drawn toward delusionary tempting influences of seeming world and takes them on their face value. They then get tempted to set them as dream destination and chase them blindfolded. Even while responding to external provocation, often *ahamkara* takes them on their face value. Following which, *manasa* (sense aided mind) unmindfully reacts animal like on instinctive judgment. One, thus, is unable to act with prudence. In both situations one fails to invoke one's discriminatory faculty for due diligence and with obvious consequences. So, often we fail to make use of our most profound empowerment tool - *buddhi* (faculty of discriminate intelligence) - an exclusive human preserve. It is on this very strength human beings qualify to be termed as the most privileged creation in this living world. It is again pertinent to note that this very empowerment tool also enabled civilization having evolved thus far out of its primitive stage. Ostensibly, if we don't use of our own

empowerment tool, who else is to be blamed? We thus, fail to put in our qualitative best, and become a victim of the vagaries of our own mind. The question now is: How to reclaim wholesome powers of mind, mostly lying dormant, and come out with our best? Given our power of freewill, which is duly aided by the faculty of discriminate intelligence, it is very much within our reach. It is, however, easier said than done, as habits die hard. They keep pulling us back again and again. To go beyond those limitations, you need to turn your attention inward to figure out what plays out within mind. That will help you identify and acknowledge inherent infirmities of mind. The ground is thus laid down for corrective initiatives with the help of fresh educative inputs. Following which, you may be able to negotiate the callings of life with relative ease and comfort. Life may then turn into a beautiful experience. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com