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Lessons from Santosh Trophy for AIFF

Joel P Anto

Malappuram witnessed what is probably the most celebrated Santosh Trophy finale since 2013. Despite several challenges like alleged corruption scandals, lack of media coverage, and inconvenience to the audience due to inadequate seating arrangements, the knock-out semi-professional football competition still managed to shine bright.

The reason for the success was attributed to the turnout of fans in large numbers; this large mass of hardcore football fans showed support for their favourite sport with great vigour, despite the comparatively low popularity of the Santosh Trophy.

The provision of decent facilities, including stay and transportation for teams, a well-maintained practice ground, and, most importantly, the two stadiums where the matches were conducted were also credited for the success. "This was a great improvement compared to the past 5 years when the matches were conducted on grounds that did not even have galleries," said, Shafi Muhammed, a Local sevens football player from Malappuram.

Fans hope that the success of this event would make the All India Football Federation reconsider the value of the Santosh Trophy, and conduct the next tournament such that it reaches a large audience, through better media coverage.

Mass movement needed to uproot AFSPA

Saishyam Srikanth

"In those long years of my struggle, many people from Manipur wanted to put the burden of the AFSPA (Armed Forces Special Powers Act) issue on my head. But that, (fighting alone) wouldn't be possible. It's a cause for the masses and needs a mass movement which is collectively fought," said activist Irom Sharmila in an interview with The Beacon.

The Iron Lady of Manipur said that people thought of her as a goddess and expected her to carry the entire weight of the movement. "Despite this immense pressure, I survived those long years, thanks to the encouragement I received from outside Manipur and from the many strangers



Irom Sharmila addressing the students at Open Heart

Siddhant Garud

who wrote letters to me from across the globe," she said. Talking about the possible impact of repealing AFSPA, Sharmila said, "Because of AFSPA, unnecessarily they (governments) waste billions

of rupees on things such as (military) infrastructure. Instead, they can use this money for development." The development must take place through a focus on education and on solving the problem of

unemployment, she said. The activist stated that no government had long-term plans for the North-East region and noted that AFSPA had only created more conflict in the region.

It's a colonial law and has only changed in the name; People in power are treating these regions like a colony despite India being a democratic nation, opined the activist. If AFSPA was repealed from Northeast India and Kashmir, the way the people in these areas viewed the country and the government would completely change, she observed. While speaking about her life's journey, Sharmila said that she did not want to be labelled as an activist and emphasized that she was also a 'social element' like the other members of society. Sharmila mentioned that activism and politics were just part of her journey. "I want to continue with the ideology of non-violence," she added

Heat waves signal wake-up call for world leaders

The summer of 2022 has been particularly concerning as it is one of the hottest summers the country has seen in over 122 years. The heat, which was likely to increase in May as an onset of monsoon, saw an early arrival this year. With four heat waves just in the month of April, many regions in the country have registered record-breaking temperatures. The sizzling temperatures have had a devastating effect on crop yield and water supply across the country; the effect of this will be witnessed in terms of disruption in the global supply chains as the situation

will further exacerbate on account of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Although in the last weekend of April, Bikaner in Rajasthan, recorded the highest temperature in the country at 47.1°C, it must be noted that land-surface temperatures in some parts of northwest India went up to as high as 60°C as shown by images captured via satellites. The constant heat waves are causing the glaciers in the northern regions of the country to melt which in turn increases the risk of floods across the country. Due to extreme heat, there has been

a massive increase in demand for electricity resulting in power cuts lasting up to 8 hours. Previously, such adverse weather conditions were seen in 2010 in Ahmedabad where up to 800 lives were lost. Reports from the World Meteorological Organisation suggest that the temperatures in the subcontinent were "consistent with what we expect in a changing climate. Heatwaves are more frequent and more intense and starting earlier than in the past." Scientists are yet to conduct a formal study on how these heatwaves are linked

to global warming, however, the relationship between the two is well established. As the global temperature rises, heat waves are getting worse across the world. This condition in the Indian subcontinent and the rest of South Asia may specifically intensify over the coming years. The case of the rest of the world is no different from that of the subcontinent. This should put an end to all speculation on the phenomenon of global warming and climate change. It should be treated as a wake-up call to the international community and the world leaders. **Pavana J**

Iron lady of Manipur & icon of Indian folk music enthrall the audience at SJC

Sharon Anna James

"Open Heart 2022", one of the biggest events of St. Joseph's College was organised on Wednesday and featured Irom Chanu Sharmila, the "Iron lady of Manipur," and Raghu Dixit, referred to as the "icon of Indian folk music". Prof. Kiran Jeevan, the PRO of the college, felicitated the celebrities.

The session began with a one-on-one interview with Raghu Dixit, who is an Indian singer, composer, and the frontman of the Raghu Dixit Project, which is a multi-lingual folk band. Prof. Jeevan interviewed him posing fun-filled questions, grabbing the audience's attention. "Find what you love; that's the



Smile that opened hearts

Niharika Bajaj

only area that you are going to excel in. There's a saying that you can't make a fish climb a tree; unless you are interested in that subject, you'll hate for putting yourself on that path said Dixit. Irom Sharmila is an Indian civil rights activist and a poet from Manipur who had fought against the AFSPA Act of 1958

with a hunger strike that lasted for more than 16 years. She was interviewed by Dr Joyce D'souza from the Department of Chemistry. "If you want something, you need to start working for it. You can't wait for others to join you," said Sharmila while addressing the students.

Jana Gana Mana bats for right to hold unconventional thoughts

Subadra Sarath

No amount of speeches or referring to facts and furnishing proof to someone can persuade them to reconsider their deeply ingrained beliefs. A better approach could be to appeal to their preconceptions first, then gradually chip away at them from within. This is the central idea of the film "Jana Gana Mana", directed by Dijo Jose Antony. A University in Karnataka is at the heart of the story. The burnt body of Saba (Mamta Mohandas), an outspoken lecturer who speaks out against the government on a variety of student-related issues, is discovered near the roadway, sparking widespread student

protests. The police savagely beat up the protesting students in images typical of the real world. Sajjan Kumar (Suraj Venjaramoodu) takes leadership of the inquiry at a time when the students' trust in the police is at an all-time low. Much of this has to do with the mystery surrounding Prithviraj's persona, who first appears in the prologue and reappears only at the interval point. The script also relies on the character's speech as a medium to express political ideas and explain the twists in the plot. The film depicts how individuals are branded and targeted for their unconventional thoughts,

India looks to foster growth in the semiconductor arena

Gautam Nagar

India has a crucial role to play in the world of semiconductors and should make efforts to place itself as a spearhead within the global supply chain in the future. This was the key takeaway on Day 3 of the inaugural Semicon India 2022 Conference held in Bengaluru last Sunday. The three-day conference was organized by the India Semiconductor Mission of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to catalyze India's Semiconductor Ecosystem. The event saw in attendance a combination of industry experts, researchers, and intellectuals across the globe.

Nirvuti Rai, Country Head, Intel India, and VP, Intel Foundry Services spoke about the far-reaching applications that the usage of semiconductors could provide, in particular for mobility solutions in the automotive sector. "I believe India has the leading design services in an end-to-end semiconductor ecosystem in the world," she said. Rai further said that the semiconductor industry holds an opportunity wherein every citizen of the country could have access to cars that prevent road accidents. Rai envisions the future of automotive to be a mix between AI, connectivity and electric vehicles. On a concluding note, Rai said, India should aspire to be a world leader in automotive semiconductors and electronics.