

# BOOK REVIEW – URBAN HEALTH | THE NORTH EAST TIMES

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**THE NORTH EAST TIMES**      **NORTHEAST**      WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021      **3**

## Urban Health - Emerging Health Perspective: A praiseworthy resource for a potential urban health crisis

**U**RBAN Health - Emerging Health Perspective is a new book compiled and edited by Dr Edmond Fernandes and Dr. Indu Grewal. Published by global health strategies, the book looks at health in emerging and evolving urban settings.

**By MAHESH CHOWDHURY**

The book is a compilation of 20 chapters written by different authors, covering a wide variety of topics ranging from road safety, water & sanitation to drug abuse in an urban context.

The book highlights how populations are preferring to move to cities for and how that influences social, commercial, environmental and legal determinants of health.

Considering that India is going through rapid urbanization, industrialization and globalization, there are new challenges that demand new algorithms and thoughts aligned with urban health issues, living space, crowding and diseases and rapid transmission of infectious diseases, the editors do a praiseworthy job of bringing these diverse themes within the umbrella of Urban Health.

The editors have brought global researchers from various backgrounds and hence offer varying and unique perspectives to urban health as a concept, hence, saving the book from becoming an advocate for a certain school of thought or otherwise. The book is an important read for Students, Public Health & Public Policy Professionals, policy makers, Government & UN Officials, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. What remains missing from the book is some focus on smart cities and urban architecture. It also fails to include the end game diseases like malaria, dengue, Tuberculosis. Inclusion of those could have built greater value to the same.

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Vehicle cross a water-logged road, following heavy rain, at Hatigan in Guwahati on Tuesday, 19th September.

# Mizo nationalism our driving force: CM Zoramthanga

MIZORAM, SEPT 21: Mizoram chief minister and Mizo National Front (MNF) president Zoramthanga on Tuesday said Mizo nationalism is the main driving force behind the martyrdom of Mizo heroes, is pivotal to the survival of Mizoram and the Mizo.

The ruling MNF observed martyr's day to pay tribute to those who laid down their lives for the cause of the state and the Mizo.

Speaking at the grand observance of 42nd martyr's day held at Vanapa Hill here, Zoramthanga said each nation has its own form of nationalism. However, the Mizo nationalism is unique and different from others as it stands for "God and the Mizo nation," he said. Citing that the MNF party has been facing up and down, the MNF president said the party would not have reached its present position had it not believed in God and used Him as its refuge.

and function without the help of God. This is the covenant of not only the MNF but also the Mizo nation," he said, adding that the MNF is one of the oldest parties in the country. He claimed that the party is awarded by a divine blessing once Covid-19 subsided.



"If we carry on the covenant, we will be protected by God. We should stray but carry on this covenant and fulfil it," he said. MNF senior vice president and deputy chief minister Tawntula also spoke on the occasion. During the observance, floral tributes were paid to thousands of Mizo, who laid down their precious lives during the insurgent movement.

The MNF was founded by former Mizoram chief minister late Laldenga to protest against the location of the Centre towards the famine situation in the Mizo areas of the Assam state in the late 1950s.

After a major uprising through peaceful means, the group took up arms and was involved in underground activities between 1960 and 1986.

After coming overground in 1986, the MNF was converted into a political party and is now a recognised regional or state party. The MNF has won assembly polls in 1986, 1994, 2003 and 2018. Due to the incumbency wave, the party suffered a heavy defeat by winning only 3 out of 40 seats in the 2008 assembly elections. With its strong total prohibition agenda and the incumbency wave on the ruling Congress, the MNF came back to power in 2018 assembly polls under the leadership of Zoramthanga by sweeping 26 seats and later won one more seat in the assembly bypoll.

# Teacher shortage pushes local leader to issue recruitment advt

ITANAGAR, SEPT 21: The lack of subject teachers in the government schools of Anupachal Pradesh, especially in the East Kameng district, has compelled a local paritayal leader to step forward and carry out a teacher's recruitment drive of his own.

Moik Bagang, a zilla parishad member (ZPM) from the Chayang Tajo Zilla Segment in East Kameng district has recently put out an advertisement to hire post graduate teachers (PGTs) for the Government Higher Secondary School in Chayang Tajo. The advertisement seeks to appoint two PGTs, one each for Geography and History on contractual basis for a period of 6 months and for which Bagang has offered to pay a salary of Rs 33,000/- each, per month, to the educators from his personal expenses. Besides the remuneration, the teachers would additionally get 20 kgs of rice and 2 kg dal (lentils) every month during their stay in Chayang Tajo.

According to Bagang, the Government Higher Secondary School, Chayang Tajo which needs around 23-28 teachers has only 16 tutors at present. Those interested in the vacancy can send their resumes to moikbagang@gmail.com on or before September 24 and the preferred candidate would be called for an interview at Bagang's residence on September 25.

"We on behalf of the student community of the All East Kameng Students Union (AEKSOU), which has been spearheading the movement for filling up of the vacant posts of subject teachers in the East Kameng district for the past 3 years, took to social media to appreciate Bagang for his philanthropic gesture towards the helpless student. We can proudly say that this is the biggest donation ever for the greater interest of the district," the Union's post in social media read. Several government schools of the East Kameng district, which is represented by 4 MLAs including a cabinet minister, have been suffering since long due to the lack of subject teachers in the institutions. According to a letter written by the Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Seppa to the director of education earlier this month, the school alone lacks 4 post graduate and 10 trained graduate teachers, besides a librarian and a peon. Among others, the posts of chemistry, biology and physics teachers (TGT) have remained vacant in the school since 2012, while English teachers (TGT) have not been posted in the school since the year 2005. Seppa is the headquarters of East Kameng district. The Anupachal Pradesh government has declared 2021 as the 'Year of Education'.

# Meghalaya Education Minister unveils Dr BR Ambedkar's statue at USTM

9TH MILE, KHANAPARA, RI BHOI, SEPT 21: A 10-feet-tall statue of Dr. B.R Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, was unveiled at the campus of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya yesterday by Education Minister Rymbul Lakshmin Rymbul. The statue was unveiled at the campus of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya yesterday by Education Minister Rymbul Lakshmin Rymbul. The statue was unveiled at the campus of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya yesterday by Education Minister Rymbul Lakshmin Rymbul. The statue was unveiled at the campus of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya yesterday by Education Minister Rymbul Lakshmin Rymbul.



Statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar unveiled at the campus of USTM on 20 September 2021 by Meghalaya Education Minister Lakshmin Rymbul. Rymbul said, "This statue will remind us of the unity in diversity in India". He said that Dr Ambedkar has taught us the values of equality, inclusion which he enshrined in the Constitution of India. Addressing on the occasion Chancellor of USTM M. Hoque said that Dr. Ambedkar gave justice to all weaker sections by providing affirmative action in the Constitution and showed us the path towards equality. The statue of Dr Ambedkar was unveiled at USTM as a mark of tribute to the visionary leader, scholar, eminent jurist, scientist, economist and social reformer. The Education Minister along with other dignitaries paid floral tributes to the newly unveiled statue of Dr Ambedkar.

# Surya Cement awards prizes to Vaccine Lagao Inaam Pao contest winners

GUWAHATI, SEPT 21: Surya Cement, one of the preferred and leading brands of North East India's building material industry, awarded prizes of vaccine incentive program Vaccine Lagao Inaam Pao contest — Get Vaccinated Get Rewarded. Surya Cement launched "Vaccine Lagao Inaam Pao" contest from 1st July 2021 for construction workers across its dealer network in Kamrup (M) and Kamrup (R), Assam. Vaccine Lagao Inaam Pao Contest concluded on 15th September, 2021 with the announcement that Dhanswar Das from Sijonagar, Kamrup Rural won the first prize. Kishore Kumar Das from Suakuchi, Karrup Rural won the second prize at a ceremony in Puthaliha from Mirza, Kamrup Rural was the third prize.

"I would like to congratulate the winners and everyone who has been immunized and participated in the contest — you have helped protect yourself, your loved ones and your country," said Madhur Agarwal, M.D. Purbimahal Cement Ltd. The draw of lots to select the first three winners were done by Mukesh Gupta of M/s Dhanswar Steel, Guwahati, Gauhati Bhatnagarjee GM (Sales & Marketing) and Ranjeet Singh, OGM (Sales & Marketing) in presence of Parikar Sarkar, Sr. Manager (Brand) and other officials of the company. Drawing the winners, Ranjeet Singh, Dy Gen.Mgr (Sales & Marketing) said, "We're glad to be able to reward people for doing the right thing. We know that the vaccine is best way to prevent the spread of the virus and to prevent serious illness if contracted. The contest also awarded 1000 nos. construction workers with gifts who have submitted single dose vaccination proof within the contest period. The three winners were presented the winning trophies at a ceremony in Puthaliha from Mirza, Kamrup Rural was the third prize. The giveaways are being distributed through the company's dealer networks. The company has a vast network of over 500 nos. of dealers and sub-dealers across these two districts. The contest was launched with the goal of increasing vaccination rates and to encourage workers connected with the construction sector to receive COVID-19 vaccination.



Sonitpur Journalist Union members receive 'National Corona Warrior Award' from Human Rights International Federation at Sonitpur Journalist Union, Tezpur on Tuesday, 19th September.

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Director

# Byatikram celebrates 78th birth anniv of Jayanta Hazarika

GUWAHATI, SEPT 21: Byatikram MASOJ in association with Indian Tourism North, Assistant High Commission for Bangladesh and Gauhati Artist Guild in Guwahati had observed the 78th Birth Anniversary of the legendary singer and music composer Jayanta Hazarika paying tributes to the legendary singer of Assam on Monday at IIA Mackhones Hall, Guwahati. Popularly known as Nanda, Jayanta Hazarika was the younger brother of legendary Indian musician Bhupen Hazarika and the first Assamese composer to fuse western musical forms such as rock and roll, jazz, and Western Classical with traditional Assamese melodies and created a new sound. He was a pioneer in introducing several western instruments in his compositions. The musical events 78th birth anniversary was graced by the presence of Manisha Hazarika, eminent singer and wife of legendary singer Jayanta Hazarika, Sarika Duttra Debbarman, the Regional Director of India Tourism North-

east, Govt. of India, J.P Das, Renowned Singer, Dewashish Sharma, Commissioner, GMC, Madhurima Banah Sen, Secretary, Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Mayor Bora, Writer, critic and public speaker, Meghuk Hazarika, popular singer and son of Jayanta Hazarika, Kishor Thakuria, Director of Cultural Affairs, Govt of Assam, K.K. Choudhury, Director of CBSE, Dr. Saumen Bharatiya, President of Byatikram MASOJ and many others. The program had a beautiful cultural program, which was followed by a Prestigious award segment. "Jayanta Hazarika Byatikram Purona Award 2021", awarded to J.P Das, the legendary singer of Assam recognizing his immense contribution in the Indian music industry. Attending the program, the eminent singer and wife of Jayanta Hazarika, Manisha Hazarika said that, "This day is always special for me. Though Jayanta Hazarika is not with us but his presence is always missed by everyone. His music and compositions make me alive. His melodious voice still remains in our hearts. Byatikram as usual had organized this program in a very beautiful way. I feel privileged to be an integral part of this program." Receiving the prestigious award, J.P Das, the Renowned singer of Assam said that "Jayanta Hazarika is a legendary person. His composition, his voice are still different from others. I would like to thank Byatikram for this wonderful initiative and for the felicitation, which will definitely inspire me to do more work in the near future." Dr. Saumen Bharatiya, President of Byatikram MASOJ, said, "We have taken the initiative to celebrate the day for the first time and it will continue for a month from 20th September to 15th October 21 with various programmes. Our main purpose is to promote his unique compositions and works among the young generations."

North East Times cover's a book review on Urban Health - Edited by [Dr. Edmond Fernandes](#) and Dr. Indu Grewal