

## Manipur by-election: Confirmation for BJP tickets to resign Congress MLAs still awaiting Chief Minister N. Biren, State BJP President S Tikendra rush to Delhi

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 21:

With rumours about some congress MLAs who have recently resigned and joined the BJP unlikely to confirm BJP ticket for contesting the by-election which is knocking at the door, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and State BJP President S Tikendra along with 3 others today rushed to New Delhi to apprise the leadership about the necessity of ticket confirmation for the said

ex-MLAs. A source however said that the visit may be related in connection with the NPP's stand challenging the BJP. The Chief Minister and the state BJP President may explain about the need for Ministerial reshuffled by not taking into account the important of NPP's present in the BJP led government as done earlier. The visit of the Chief Minister and the state president showed signed of urgency and extreme importance on the BJP party organizations. A

special charter flight was hired for the proposed and the team left in the Charter Flight at exactly 11.5 am. The two leaders has been accompanied by PRO to CM Sanajaoba and PSO Sashikumar. For reason not known MLA RK Imlu who had been expelled from the Congress Party also joined the team to the visit at New Delhi. Source said that the attitude of the NPP which is a coalition partner of the government angered both the Chief Minister as well

as the BJP state President. The announcement to contest the by-election without consulting them provoked them some immediate action to make sure that no hindrance stand against BJP in the by-election as the result is an important factor of stabilizing the BJP led government in the state. Some source said that the state BJP leaders may pursue the central leadership to replace at least two ministers of the NPP by BJP MLAs.

## PM Modi unveils nine highway projects worth over Rs 14,000 Cr in Bihar

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept. 21:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today laid the foundation stone of nine highway projects worth 14,258 crore rupees in Bihar through video conferencing. These highway projects involve a road length of about 350 kilometres at a cost of four thousand two hundred 58 crore rupees. Prominent road projects are six laning of 39 km stretch of Patna Ring road, four laning of Aramohania section of NH 30, Bakhtiarpur-Rajauli section of NH 31 and four laning of Narenpur-Purnea section of NH 131A. Paving the way for development of Bihar, these roads will enhance better connectivity, convenience and economic growth in and around the state. Movement of people and goods will also improve substantially, especially with the neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

The Prime Minister had declared a special package for significant infrastructure development of Bihar in the year 2015. This included 75 projects worth 54 thousand 700 crore rupees, of which 13 projects have been

completed, work is underway at 38 white others are in DPR, Bidding or Sanction stage.

Bihar will get a major boost in the bridge sector too as the Prime Minister laid three mega bridges during the event. The bridges include four lane bridge parallel to existing Mahatma Gandhi Setu in Patna, four lane bridge over Kosi river and four lane bridge parallel to existing Vikramshila Setu in Bhagalpur. With the completion of these projects, all rivers in Bihar will have bridges conforming to 21st century specifications and all major National Highways will stand widened and strengthened.

Under the Prime Ministers package, the total number of bridges over Ganga river are going to be 17, with a lane capacity of 62. This way, on an average, there will be a bridge over rivers in the state at every 25 Kilometres.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Optical Fibre internet services where all the 45 thousand nine hundred 45 villages of Bihar have been connected through Optical Fibre Internet Service. The project will be executed by combined

efforts of Department of Telecom, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Common Service Centres (CSC). The project would also entail implementation of one wi-fi and five free of cost connections to Government Institutions like Primary Schools, Anganwadi Centres, Aasha Workers and Jeevika Didi.

This project will help in easy availability of digital services like e-Education, e-Agriculture, Tele-Medicine, Tele-law and other social security schemes to all citizens of Bihar at the click of the button.

PM Narendra Modi also inaugurated Optical Fibre Internet services. Mr Modi said six lakh villages across the country would be connected through the internet in the coming one thousand days. He said rural people will be empowered with availability of high speed internet in villages. The PM said internet connectivity in villages will help in easy availability of digital services like e-Education, e-Agriculture, Tele-Medicine, Tele-law and other social security schemes to all citizens at the click of the button.

Speaking on this occasion Prime Minister Narendra Modi said nine highways in Bihar will enhance better connectivity, convenience and economic growth in and around the state. Mr Modi said movement of people and goods will also improve substantially. Mr Modi said Bihar will get a major boost in the bridge sector with inauguration of three mega bridges. With the completion of these projects, all rivers in Bihar will have bridges conforming to 21st century specifications and all major National Highways will stand widened and strengthened.

## Eight Rajya Sabha MPs suspended for remaining part of Monsoon Session for their unruly behaviour in Parliament

New Delhi, Sept 21:

Eight Rajya Sabha members have been suspended from the Upper House for the remaining part of Monsoon Session for their unruly behaviour during the passage of two farm Bills yesterday. They are Congress members Rajiv Satav, Ripun Bora and Nazeer Hussain, TMC members Derek O'Brien and Dola

Sen, CPI(M) MPs K.K. Ragesh and Elamaram Kareem and Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, V. Muraleedharan moved a motion to suspend these members for creating ruckus and disrespecting the Chair by their unruly behavior. The motion was accepted with voice vote and Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu announced the

names of the suspended members. Mr. Naidu also condemned yesterday's incident terming it unacceptable and condemnable. He also said that the incident has tarnished the image of the Upper House and it was a bad day. Mr. Naidu also said some members used unparliamentary language and threatened Deputy Chairman Harivansh. Mr. Naidu added that the

agitating members also defied social distancing and other Covid norms. The Chairman rejected the no confidence motion moved by the 46 opposition members against the Deputy Chairman citing that the notice was not in the proper format. He said, it does not fulfill the requirement of 14 days notice period for no-confidence motion.

## WinG condoles the demise of Helam Haokip

Imphal, Sept. 21:

Women in Governance - India (WinG-India) mourned the sudden and untimely demise of its core member Ms. Helam Haokip from Manipur on September, 17, 2020 following a brief illness.

Helam was born in Urangpat village in Manipur and held Masters degree in Science. Since 1998 was actively associated with the social work. Her active involvement in social work inspired many in her community and she is the first generation of women who voiced against patriarchal norms among the tribal community in Manipur. She became the first female executive member of Kuki Inpi, Manipur. She worked as secretary of Integrated Rural Management Association in Urangpat, Manipur.

As a core member of WinG-India, Helam was part of decision-making in the organization and immensely contributed towards its establishment and advocacy initiatives with great enthusiasm. She was also associated

with the state chapter of WinG Manipur and shaped its mission and vision by empowering rural women and building their leadership. Helam was a strong, dynamic and deeply committed towards the reformation of traditional practices and customary laws. Through her determined personality, she could overcome the ethnic barriers among the communities in Manipur and worked for all.

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 21:

The Manipur State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Manipur has conducted a One Day Workshop Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, skilling projects for rural unemployed youths of Manipur at PN Regional Institute of Skill Development at Lamlong,

## Workshop on Grameen Kaushalya Yojana skilling projects held

Imphal East today. The workshop was attended by 18 Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) of the state. The event was solicited by Robita Yumnam, IAS, State Mission Director, Manipur State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM). Speaking at the occasion Robita Yumnam, SMD congratulated the Director of the PN Regional Institute of Skill Development, Gouchunglen Kom for setting

up such an Institution which is also the second-largest skill provider (Institution) for the differently-abled in India. Further, the Director of the Institute assured that his institute will become the highest job creator of the country in the times to come. The director further stated that his Institution will strive harder to impart skills to the maximum number of unemployed youths of the state and the

country, so that they become self-dependent and help augur the economic growth of the country it added. Kh Bobby Chief Operating officer further stated that the Workshop assessed the readiness of the PIAs to reopen the Training Centres with the new COVID-19 SOP for Skills Training. Various strategies on mobilisation, re-employment and monitoring of DDU-GKY Skill program were discussed along with stakeholder.

## Covid-19 vaccine: Serum Institute to start final phase of trial from this week

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Sept 21:

Over 300 volunteers will be administered the vaccine candidate dose in Pune and Mumbai this week in the final phase of human clinical trial of Oxford-Astrazeneca's Covishield, following permission given by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune to continue its trials. Around 150 to 200 volunteers will be

administered the vaccine candidate dose in Pune's Sasson General Hospital, while 260 volunteers are expected to be given dosages in KEM and Nair Hospital in Mumbai. Nearly 350 volunteers have enrolled themselves with KEM, while 110 volunteers have enrolled at BYL Nair Hospital. About 100 volunteers will be given dosages at the Nair hospital. Although DCGI has given permission to conduct trials at KEM, the

Nair Hospital is yet to receive such permission. However it is expected soon. All the volunteers will be provided a Rs 35 lakh insurance cover. Some volunteers have already come forward for the trial and around 150 to 200 volunteers will be administered the vaccine candidate dose," Dr Muralidhar Tambe, dean of Sasson General Hospital said. As per the study design, each subject will be administered two doses 4

weeks apart (First dose on Day 1 and Second dose on Day 29) following which the safety and immunogenicity will be assessed at predefined intervals. A timeline of the Covishield trial in India is: On August 3, the Drug Controller General of India permitted SII to conduct the second and third phases of human clinical trials of Covishield, On August 25, SII began the second phase of trial, On September 8, Oxford and Astrazeneca

confirmed that one person who was administered the shot reported illness, after which the trials in the UK were stalled on September 6, SII also stopped preparations for any further trial, On September 12, Astrazeneca announced that it is resuming the trial as the UK authorities have declared the vaccine shot safe, SII said it would wait for DCGI nod to resume the trials in India and DCGI gave a go-ahead to continue human

clinical trial to SII on September 15. The Sasson General Hospital began enrolling volunteers for phase III from September 19. Under phase-II, trials were conducted at Bharti Vidyapeeth Medical College and also KEM Hospital in Pune. The SII has partnered with British-Swedish pharma company AstraZeneca for manufacturing the COVID-19 vaccine candidate, developed by the University of Oxford.

# ★ Editorial

## Significance of September 19

September 19 of 1948 and this same day of 1949 are two significant days in the history of Manipur. Revisiting the two historic events that have changed the fate of Manipur is to create awareness among the people of today's generations as well as to the future generation on the importance of thinking twice before making any decisions or acting on it if the matter is of national importance, no matter if it cost our life. Repentance or frustrations on what had happened on those days is not going to help but considering the two historic events as the fate of Manipur but the events should be a lesson of today's generation to make sure that peace and prosperity are not disturbed in the region.

For people working in the field of media here in the state of Manipur, he was the father of Journalism. But people recognized him more as the pioneer leader of the erstwhile nation who had sacrificed all comfort of life for the people of the region. Hijam Irabot, the multifaceted leader of Manipur went underground on this day in 1948, even after he was elected as a member of the Manipur Assembly. Then, Manipur was an independent nation like India but had its constitution before India have one.

Hijam Irabot went underground while attending a meeting at MDU Hall on this day of 1948, to protest against the proposed formation of Purbachal Pradesh, comprising Manipur, Tripura, Cachar, and Lushai Hills. Reason - a police person died accidentally at Pungdongbam when a scuffle occurred between a group of people coming to attend the meeting and a police team who tried to stop them. It was after the incident that the architect of Purbachal Pradesh took-back their stand Manipur's distinct identity remains as it is that has existed for more than 2000 years. Why the then Manipur State Council did not support Irabot's movement against the formation of Purbachal is a matter that needs to be discussed. And if the then Manipur State Council was against such a proposal of Purbachal Pradesh, the State Council should not have declared Manipur Praja Sangha and Manipur Krishak Sabha as unlawful, for the incident that took place at Pungdongbam on that day. Leaving aside all the diplomatic strategy of those times, one thinks that the people need to remember is that it was Hijam Irabot who protected the territorial integrity of Manipur for the first time after the British left. The spirit of the pioneer leader still runs to many Manipuris till today and the government of India should know that the essence of patriotism for the love of their motherland still is in the blood of thousand Manipuris and any attempt to change the boundary of the state may produce not only 2001, June 18 people's uprising but a more deathly agitation.

A year after, i.e. on this day of 1949, Manipur's king Maharaj Bodhachandra signed a controversial merger agreement to the Union of India at Shillong. Shillong Times newspaper reported the merger as annexation. That was an event which is the root of the present-day conflict between armed opposition group and the government. The earlier event of 1948 was the first to plant the armed movement in the soil against the establishment. And naturally, both events can be considered as the root of the present-day conflict.

If the two events are well understood and given due respect by listening to the voice of the people of this region, a final settlement to the conflict may be in the card. Giving official recognition to both the incident and an apology from whoever made the mistake will give a lasting peace in the region.

## Imphal Times Open Online Essay Competition

Topic: Political and Economic ramifications of Manipur's merger with India In 1949

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Rs. 5000/-
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Rs. 3000/-
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Rs. 2000/-

Words count for each write up should not be less than 1500. All entry should be submitted on or before October 12, 2020 at [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com) or at whatsapp number 76300 82886.

Result will be declared on October 15, 2020 and will be available at [www.imphaltimes.com](http://www.imphaltimes.com), or Imphal Times facebook page .

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## Nurturing young minds amidst this obscured pandemic



By: Thangminlun Haokip

It has now been more than four to five months since the global lockdown had started, which we first thought that it would not have this far impact on the country and worldwide, our society in a smaller aspect. The pandemic being the greatest global crisis after World War II, has brought cries and suffering and even lost of lives to tens of thousands, leaving millions jobless and restless to fight the war against the pandemic. It might not have been such a serious predicament for the well to do families, but the poor people have been really striving hard to get food on their table

as many remain jobless and the supply of daily essential commodities gradually decreased.

Education has been one of worst hit sector among others caused by the global lockdown. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected educational system worldwide. The pandemic has significantly disrupted the higher education sector as well, which is a critical determinant of a country's economic future. In fact the economy of various countries had also been falling sharply, where our country is worth mentioning in such scenario. The immediate or sharp decrease or fall in India's economy this year, is known to be the worst since after independence. Economic development, businesses, agricultural sector, educational system and many more have been out of control and the people are suffering. The Covid-19 has resulted schools to shut all across the world. As a result, education has

changed dramatically, with the distinctive rise of e-learning. Almost all schools and colleges have to set forward with online classes to surmount with the vast syllabus during this untamed pandemic. However, some students without reliable internet access and technology, struggle to participate in these online or digital learning. It is clear that this pandemic has utterly disrupted the education system mainly for the poorest of the poor sector.

Thousands of students are battling this strenuous situation because they do not have proper access to internet and technology as such mobile phone or laptop to join online classes. Thus, it has become a challenge for many students worldwide, mostly those residing in rural areas and countryside. Hence the need to carry on with classroom learning or home learning has become a mandatory to keep the flow of learning undisturbed and undisrupted.

In view of the present conditions and adversity faced by students, Kholep Youth Club, a village youth body of Kholep village, Kangpokpi district, situated along National highway-02(also Asian highway-01) which is also known for being one such way to ascend the 2,547 metres high standing Mt. Koubur, has taken up a significant step amidst this pandemic to help students continue learning by bringing up an idea of 'A free and willing coaching' under the theme 'Nurturing Young Minds' for all young and enthusiastic learners. Not less than fifty to sixty students are made to study, tutored and taken care of by some learned youths of different educational qualification. We are looking forward that such kind of steps would bring positive impact on the society during this hard time for students to continue learning from the comfort of their homes too despite the difficulties caused due to closure of schools.

## National News

### “Bharat Bandh” on September 25 as Rajya Sabha passes two key farm bills amid protests

IT Correspondent New Delhi, Sept. 21:

While two agricultural reforms bills were passed by Rajya Sabha amid bedlam on Sunday, over 250 farmers and farm-worker organisations, organised under the umbrella of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) have given a call for a “Bharat Bandh” on September 25. The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 which were passed by Lok Sabha on Thursday, were passed by the Rajya Sabha on Sunday by a voice vote, even as the opposition protested against the legislations and stormed into the well of the House. Opposition members from the Trinamool Congress and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

were seen on camera tearing documents - some reports claimed it was the rule book - and rushing to the chairman to register their protest. This led the Centre's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to demand action over violation of rules. No division of votes was sought as opposition members continued to oppose the chair's decision to extend the house beyond the scheduled 1 PM closing time to complete the voting process. A section of the opposition demanded that the two bills be sent to a select committee for further scrutiny. The opposition members, who had earlier moved amendments, refused to participate in the proceedings when the bill was being put to vote. The main opposition Congress and a clutch of smaller parties are opposed to the government's farm liberalisation plan. A key opposition to the bills came on Thursday from BJP ally

Shiromani Akali Dal, whose minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal resigned from the Union Cabinet “over efforts to unshackle the farm sector”. The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, allows buyers of farm produce to trade outside wholesale markets run by states under APMCs, which have become cartelised over time. APMC laws require farmers to sell produce only to licensed middlemen in notified markets, usually in the same area where they reside, rather than in open markets, which economists say scuttles price discovery, hurting farm profits. The bill enables farmers and buyers of their produce to trade outside these markets without any taxes and will therefore open up APMC to competitions. However according to Bharatiya Kisan Union General Secretary Jagmohan Singh, “These three Bills will completely stop the

government procurement of crops, bringing to a grinding halt the price security for peasants as private ‘mandis’ shall be set up and price and trade regulation of all cereals, all pulses, all oil seeds, onion, potato shall be removed from coverage under essential commodities. While the farmers in Punjab have decided to stop movement of trains from September 24, the farmers in Haryana, have already began protest against farm bills saying that this will be end of minimum support price offered by the Government to the farmers’ produce. On Sunday some of the farmers in Haryana burnt effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, protesting against the farm bills. Two MLAs from the Jannayak Janta Party (JJJ), which is part of the BJP-led ruling coalition in Haryana, also participated in the protests, reflecting a rift on the issue among their ranks on the issue.

### Facts, not views Central to Rajeev Sharma Case: IJU

IT News New Delhi, Sept. 20:

The Indian Journalists Union notes with concern the arrest of veteran journalist, Rajeev Sharma, for alleged breach of the Officials Secrets Act. The OSA from 1923 is anti-deluvian and needs to be redrafted in light of the fast changing needs of the modern nation State. More so, keeping in mind what it connotes for an open democratic society such as ours. There is a surfeit of information flow and one needs to assess that the documents that were allegedly passed were indeed sacrosanct military secrets, conveying of which is detrimental to our country's interest and not merely something culled together from that available on a deep dive or research in public domain. Critical opinions or a differing perspective is to be respected, not necessarily anti-national and

needs be delineated with care, particularly when it concerns the right to freedom of speech & expression as enshrined in Article 19 of our Constitution. In a statement IJU President and former Member of Press Council of India Geetarth Pathak and Secretary General and IFJ Vice President Sabina Inderjit said that reputations are built over eacades and can be spoilt in a just a jiff. The incident of ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan who was finally exonerated by the courts for a similar accusation comes to mind. This is not to defend anyone guilty of wrong doing or acting antithetical to the interest of our country. We do hope that the Delhi police and other agencies of Government of India have acted judiciously, keeping fairness and objectivity in mind and not witch-hunting. Finally, we will do well to always remember our nation's motto from the time of the Mundaka Upanishad, “Satyamev Jayte”.

### PM condemns opposition for misleading country on farm bills

Agency New Delhi, Sept 21:

The Prime Minister also urged the people of the country not to lower their guard in the fight against coronavirus and maintain the precautions to prevent its spread. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the passage of the farm bills in the Parliament, saying these bills will revolutionise the agriculture sector. The Prime Minister pointed out that the farming sector in India is in need of technological and structural upgrades citing that the bills will pave the way for farmers to increase their yields by using better tools. PM Modi assured India's farmers that the Centre aims to serve the farmers and build a stronger agricultural industry for future generations. The Prime Minister said the agriculture sector is in

desperate need of the latest technology that assists the industrious farmers. Now, with the passage of the bills, our farmers will have easier access to futuristic technology that will boost production and yield better results. He also highlighted the need of removal of middlemen in the farming industry. He said that for many decades farmers in India have been ‘bullied by middlemen.’ The PM reiterated his assurance regarding the system of minimum selling price (MSP) and government procurement saying that these systems will continue unhindered and the passage of the bills do not affect them in any manner. He said purchase in mandi will continue. The PM said the bills are intended to transform the sector and empower farmers to lead a better life.