

Courage of Manipuri mothers remembered on 83rd Nupilal Day



IT News
Imphal, Dec 12:

Power Minister Th. Biswajit today called on the people of the state to retrospect the courage of the Manipuri Mothers who had sacrificed fighting the British army to protect the Manipuri society in 1904 and in 1939, while speaking on the 83rd Nupilal Observance held at Nupilal Complex today.

"Today's generation should re-

called the courage of our mothers and retrospect on whether the courage of those mothers are still with the youths of today", Biswajit said and said that remembering and following the path of our brave mothers should be everyone's duty.

Minister Yumnam Khemchand, also said that we are proud Manipuri because we are sons and daughters of brave and courageous mothers.

Today, December 12, marks an important date for the people of

Manipur, especially the women. 'Nupi Lal Day' — which literally means 'women's war' — is one of the important movements in the history of Manipur. On this day, the movement of Manipuri women sowed the seeds of economic and political reforms for a new Manipur in the early 1904 and 1939 against the British colonel.

At the observance function held at Nupi memorial Complex, fitting floral tribute was paid to portrait of

the great women leaders. The main function was held at TG Higher Secondary School. The observance function witnessed the presence of Power and Agriculture Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, MAHUM Minister Yumnam Khemchand, Education Minister Thounaojam Basantakumar Singh, CAF and PD Minister L. Susindro, Labour Minister Heikham Dingo, Transport Minister Khasim Vashum, Commerce, Industries and Textile Minister Nemcha Kipgen, MLAs and representatives of different CSOs and Clubs of the state among others.

At Assam Lourembam Rameshwor Meetei, MLA, Keirao A/C and PDA Chairman attended the 83rd Nupilal Memorial Day at Manipur Sahitya Parishad Bhawan, Hojai, Assam, Organized by Manipur Women Association, Hojai, Assam and UMAA Handloom Committee, Hojai District.

The day is also observed by the All Manipur Nupi Marup at Irawat Bhawan complex today. The observance function was attended by important members of CPI Manipur state council along with different important persons. Speaking on relating to the observation, All Manipur Nupi Marup Secretary L.



Lourembam Rameshwor Meetei, MLA, Keirao A/C and PDA Chairman attended the 83rd Nupilal Memorial Day at Manipur Sahitya Parishad Bhawan, Hojai, Assam

Sumatibala said that there is shade of not having full fledge social security till today. The problem of poverty, corruption, different crimes carried out over women has been came across and listend till today at the democracy following society, she added. She further added that the present generation women is very much needed to faced together the different issues happening in our society taking the responsibilities exactly like the leader mothers of nupi lal

which will be remain in the history without extinct, ehs added

At Jiribam district, the 83rd Nupilal day was organised by the nupi Lal observation committee at Multi Utility Auditorium Jiribam Municipality complex today. At the beginning of the observation, floral tributes were paid at the statue of Nupi Lal mothers located at Apunba Jiribam Meirapaibi (AJMP) Office by the participants.

contd. on page 4

Bhupendra Patel sworn in as Gujarat CM; PM Modi attends ceremony

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 12:

The two-time Ghatlodia MLA from Ahmedabad, Bhupendra Patel, on Monday took oath as the 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat in the presence of BJP top brass led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who bowed to the gathering in a gesture of humility, days after the BJP recorded a historic majority in the state Assembly.

The 60-year-old Patel today began his second term as the state Chief Minister. He was appointed

last year, replacing Vijay Rupani, to buck the anti-incumbency sentiment.

Sixteen ministers also took oath along with Patel, of them eight took oath as Cabinet ministers, two as Ministers of State with independent charge and six as MoS.

Outgoing Finance Minister Kanubhai Desai has been retained as Cabinet minister with Rushikesh Patel, Raghavji Patel, Balwantsinh Rajput, Kunvarji Bavaliya, Mulubhai Bera, Kuber Dindor and Bhanuben Babariya taking oath as Cabinet ministers.

Bhanuben Babariya, a first-time minister and an SC leader, is the sole woman to be sworn in today.

Outgoing MoS Home Harsh Sanghavi has been retained in the Cabinet as MoS with independent charge with Jagdish Vishwakarma.

MLAs Parshottam Solanki,

Bachubhai Khabad, Mukesh Patel, Praful Pansheriya, Bhikhusinh Parmar and Kunvarji Halpati took oath as Ministers of State.

Panseria is also a first timer to get an MoS berth.

Among heavyweight ministers, who were dropped from Patel's previous term, are Nalin Vora, a Dalit stalwart, and Jeetubhai Vaghani, the heavyweight from Saurashtra region.

Among ministers, six are from the prominent Patel community. All sections and regions stand represented.

The oath-taking took place amid Modi, Modi chants in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief JP nadda and top BJP CMs, including UP's Yogi Adityanath, Assam's Himanta Sarma, MP's Shivraj Chauhan.

Meanwhile, Patel will hold his first Cabinet meeting this evening.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat celebrated

IT News
Imphal, Dec 11:

National Book Trust, India celebrated Bhartiya Bhasha Diwas across various cities in the country. National Book Trust, India celebrated Bhartiya Bhasha Diwas on Sunday at its Headquarters in New Delhi and simultaneously in all Regional Offices, Book Promotion Centres and Bookshops across the country.

A Speech Contest was organised at the Kashi Tamil Sangamam on the theme of "Shared Knowledge – Shared Traditions" which saw enthusiastic participation from many school and college students in Hindi and Tamil. The students talked about the common thread in literature and culture joining all parts of the country as one entity, and adding to the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT-India addressed young students



who visited NBT-India Headquarters in Delhi, and talked in detail about Bhartiya Bhasha Diwas and the 140th birth anniversary of Subrahmanya Bharati. He spoke of the importance of knowing multiple languages as an aid for the nation's development, building unity, and realising the goal of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. He encouraged them to take pride in their mother tongue, and also learn other Indian languages to communicate better with their fellow countrymen.

Various events were simulta-

neously organised in Regional offices of NBT-India located in Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru as well as at all Book Promotion Centres and Bookshops across Chennai, Lucknow, Guwahati, Imphal, Agartala, Cuttack, Dehradun, Patna, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow, and Kochi, as well as in Delhi Metro bookshops, to celebrate all Indian languages and to emphasise the importance of knowing more than one language.

contd. on page 4

Speaker of Manipur Assembly wishes people on Nupi Lal Day

IT News
Imphal, Dec 12:

Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly Th. Satyabrata Singh wishes the people of the state on the occasion of Nupi Lal.

"Nupi Lal or Women's War is an exceptional historic event fought twice in Manipur by the womenfolk of Manipur.

The Manipuri Womenfolk waged two wars in 1904 and in 1939 against mass exploitation and artificial famine triggered by the British imperialist. The state of Manipur is commemorating this historic event in memory of those womenfolk who fought in the war and laid their lives for the posterity."

I earnestly hope that this historic day will remind ourselves the extraordinary courage and sacrifice made by our mothers for the current generation and for the posterity, said a press release sent out to the media.

India drops seven places further in World Press Freedom Index to 150

New Delhi, Dec 12:

With an average of three or four journalists killed in connection with their work every year, India is one of the world's most dangerous countries for the media," states the World Press Freedom Index 2022, published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

The 20th edition of the index also reveals that the Global Press Freedom Ranking of India is one among the bottom 30 among 180 countries, and the country fell to the 150th place from 142 last year. The report also points out that the "violence against journalists, the politically partisan media and the concentration of media ownership all demonstrate that press freedom is in crisis in "the world's largest democ-

racy", ruled since 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the embodiment of the Hindu nationalist right."It adds that one journalist was killed since the beginning of 2022 and 10 were jailed. According to the report, the state of press freedom changed "radically" after BJP Modi came to power in 2014 and "engineered a spectacular rapprochement between his party, the BJP, and the big families dominating the media".

It adds, "The prime example is undoubtedly the Reliance Industries group led by Mukesh Ambani, now a personal friend of Modi's, who owns more than 70 media outlets that are followed by at least 800 million Indians. Very early on, Modi took a

critical stance vis-a-vis journalists, seeing them as "intermediaries" polluting the direct relationship between himself and his supporters. Indian journalists who are too critical of the government are subjected to all-out harassment and attack campaigns by Modi devotees known as bhakts.

"The RSF report also states that while the Indian law is protective in theory, charges of defamation, sedition, contempt of court and endangering national security are "increasingly used against journalists critical of the government, who are branded as "anti-national." It also highlights the threats that Indian journalists face, including police violence, ambushes by political activists, criminals and corrupt politicians, and online trolls.

13th Death Anniversary of Ojha Sanajaoba

IT News
Imphal, Dec 12:

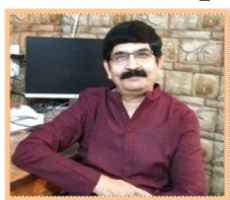
The 13th Death Anniversary of Prof. Sanajaoba Naorem popularly known to the people of the region as 'Ojha' will be observed tomorrow at Ojha Sanajaoba Memorial Complex, Lairikyangbam Makha Leikai, Imphal East in Manipur organized by the Ojha Sanajaoba Memorial Trust.

The observance will be attended by Dr. Arambam Lokendra, Senior Citizen, Former Director AVRC, Manipur University, Dr. K. Ibo (Retd. Prof), Former HoD, MU Political Science dept., Ch. Ajahng Khongsai, President Kuki Inpi Manipur and Khullakpam Abdul Hakim Shah, HoD, Deptt. Of Political Science G.P. Women College

among others are expected to attend the observance to pay homage by paying floral tribute to the departed soul.

In connection with the 13th Death Anniversary of Ojha Sanajaoba, National Research Centre (NRC), Manipur and Manipuri Students' Federation (MSF) is organizing the 1st State Level Open Debating Competition on the topic "Yelhoume Singna Suba Nomba Gi Lichat Amuk Hanna Hingathanba Matamda Manipurda Meetop Meeyam Thomjillakpadagi Thingba Ngamgani" (Work Culture of Indigenous can stop influx of migrants from outside the state) at the auditorium of National Research Centre, Opposite Manipur University gate.

From behind his eyes God Smiled upon our Earth



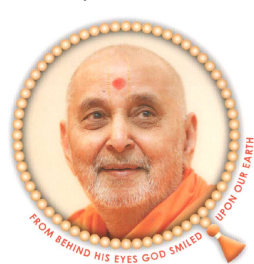
By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Param Pujya Shri Pramukh Swami Maharaj Shatabdi Mahotsav will be celebrated for a month starting December 15. The festival is organised by the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha – a worldwide socio-spiritual organisation striving to inspire millions towards faithful, harmonious and moral living. Pramukhswami Maharaj Nagar is a triveni confluence of art, science and spirituality.

Brahmaswarup Pramukh Swami Maharaj was an inspiration to millions worldwide. He renounced the world after finishing his studies at 18 and was initiated by Shastriji Maharaj in 1940. Through his humility, his noble service, his saintliness, and his selfless desire to help everyone, he won everyone's love.

He led an austere life of complete celibacy, without any personal wealth or comfort. He was a living guru who specialized in inspiring and instilling spirituality, and became a limitless source of peace and tranquility to hundreds of thousands of people throughout the world. A rare soul who always lived for others and at the same time remained totally absorbed in God. During one month celebration, five immersive shows – 'Sahajanand', 'Muktanand', 'Nityanand', 'Bharatanand' and 'Paramanand' – comprising of films and live performances – themed on relevant topics taught and promoted by Pramukh Swami Maharaj, such anti-addiction, family harmony, pride for India and community service, will be aired.

He was recognized for his sharp intellect and management skills and was given the duty to take care of temples run by the sect. He was the fifth spiritual successor in Bhagwan Swaminarayan's succession of Gunatit gurus. The guru was an ocean of goodness, of purity and humility, a summary of spirituality. He was also known for his social concerns as he actively participated in rescue and relief operations during the times of floods and famines, earthquakes and other natural disasters. His teachings are immortal. He will always be remembered for his humility and vision for humanity.

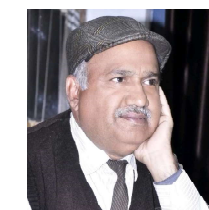


He was probably the tallest Hindu spiritual leader in recent living memory who took Hinduism to the western world. He has overseen the construction of over 1,000 temples including some grand ones like Akshardham in Gandhinagar and Delhi and had initiated over 800 youths to monk-hood during his life time. A man of few words has enhanced the grace, beauty and respectability of Hindu faith in modern time through his Akshardham temples across the world. The

Akshardham Temples stand out as the flag bearer monuments of Hindu excellence in sculpture and architecture in the world today.

His message of compassion and service will remain an inspiration. He was quiet and his undisturbed love for God rose beyond all borders of nation, race and religion. With lakhs of followers across the world and temples all over the US, the UK, South Africa and Kenya, the sect has a strong global presence. Former President Dr. APJ Kalam had written a book on his "spiritual experiences with Pramukh Swami. Pramukh Swami Maharaj became the fifth spiritual guru of BAPS in 1971 and spent much of his time travelling to Hindu communities around the world, promoting the organisation's spiritual and social agenda and working for interfaith dialogue. Pramukh Swamiji was a great soul. His compassion for humanity, universal wisdom and striking simplicity touched many around the world. His service to society will always be remembered. His impeccable commitment to the community and profound devotion to faith earned him the respect and reverence of countless worldwide.

His thoughtful and meaningful words are a distillation of his profound experience, bringing peace to even the most disturbed. Regardless of caste or creed, his borderless love has touched the lives of many, young or old, literate or illiterate. His words remove impurities, bring joy, inspire greatness, lift the gloom, give direction, remove ego and imbue the bliss of God. There is no doubt that Pramukh Swami Maharaj was a highly revered saint whose contribution to Hinduism remains unmatched and will remain a benchmark for generations to come.



By: Vijay GarG

Olympiad are the most prestigious scholastic exams for science and mathematics held every year to find gems from the younger lot and guide their way forward. Olympiad are held on regional, national and international levels to test students' knowledge and potential to excel in it.

Students aiming to crack the Olympiad exams always look for ways to prepare and improve their scores. This article explains some effective ways to crack any Olympiad.

Study the syllabus: Before beginning the study for the actual exam, you must first study the syllabus in its entirety. Discuss with friends and teachers to ensure that you don't miss any topic. This will give you an insight into what you are signing up for or what is expected of you.

Make a timetable: If you think you can study everything at once, you might end up studying nothing at all. So, make a fixed schedule and divide your time accordingly so that you have time for other important things as well. Identify your strong and weak areas and dedicate time accordingly. However, it is important that you just don't skip the chapters/ subjects you are good at and practice them regularly in an organised and disciplined manner.

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Develop your skills: Olympiad

Nupilal and its impact in Manipuri society



By: Milan Luwang

Manipur lost in Anglo-Manipur war 1891 in the hands of mighty British. Accordingly, it became a colony of Imperialist British. The British snatched the administration of Manipur. The then political agent Major H Maxwell appointed a 5 year minor Churachand the great grandson of Nara Singh Maharaj as the Raja of Manipur. On his attaining of ten years, he was sent to Mayo college Ajmer, Rajasthan for study by the British officials. The British looked after the administration of Manipur. British started to take up various taxes from both hill and valley. New systems were introduced. Western education was introduced. The British set up schools and courts. Many changes were seen in the state. On one side the people received many griefs under foreign rules. The British divided Manipur's administration into hill and valley. British directly ruled the hill. The Maharaj looks after the valley. But the Maharaj couldn't do anything without the permission of British. British was above the Maharaj. The British punishments were so cruel. Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General were hanged on 13 August 1891. 23 heroes including Maharaj Kulachandra were exiled to Kala Pani.

The grievances and displeasures faced by the people of Manipur under British rule increased day by day. Manipur's economy is depend on agrarian. The British took a sum of Rs 50000 from Manipur as annual tribute of war. Of course, it was a big amount. The public attained the peak of sorrow to give this tribute. As a first sign of obstacle against British some unknown rebels set fire to the residency of JJ Dunlop, assistant political agent on the mid night of 15 March 1904. This was the immediate cause of occurring the first Nupilal 1904. Secondly some rebels again burned down 28 Khwairamband market sets for about 3000 women vendors in the early morning of 6 July 1904. Consequently the British announced to give reward of Rs 500 to the person who can arrest or trace the offenders. But the police could neither arrest nor identify the offenders. Subsequently the political agent H Maxwell announced an order regarding

the dual burnings on 4 August 1904. The order states that one man from each family of Manipur particularly from Imphal area should go to Kaba valley to fetch timber for rebuilding the residency of assistant political agent which was ravaged by fire. The order also includes reintroduction of Lallup system that was abolished in 1892. Lallup system is a sort of forced labour where the male member of society between the age of 17 and 60 should work freely for ten days in every forty days of work. The women folk of Manipur strongly objected the order of political agent. They demanded the immediate withdrawal of the order. Many hundreds of women spontaneously gathered at streets and Khwairamband market and shut down Khwairamband. They agitated against the British authority. Thus, the first Nupilal 1904 occurred. In continuation of the agitation, on 5 October 1904 about 3000 women sieged the residence of JJ Dunlop assistant political agent. In the evening of the same day about 5000 women gathered at Khwairamband and shut down the Khwairamband. The police lathi charged the crowd who sieged the residence of JJ Dunlop and swept out the crowd. A few women injured in the incident. But the agitation was continued. The movement became widespread. Eventually the British government withdrawn the order of political agent. Thus, the agitation of the women ended with a successful. Peace was restored and the government had to rebuild the residency on their own expense. The women thus created history.

After the first nupilal, the British government had imposed various taxes to the subjects. New laws were implemented. At that time the worst difficulty of the public was to pay taxes to the colonial British rulers. Besides, there were some social evils under the initiative of Maharaj namely, Pothang, Yareksentry, peon Chakthak, Aminchakthak, Dolaieng, prohibition on Tera, Khewa, Jalsambandhi, Chandalselkhai, Amangaseng, etc. The aforementioned prohibitions resulted griefs to the public. At this juncture Neta Erabot emerged to lead the public. Under the aegis of Maharajthe Nikhil Hindu Manipuri Mahasabha was established in 1934. Maharaj Churachand was the first president and Erabotthe vice president of the Mahasabha. The 4th session of the Mahasabha was held at Chinga, Imphal in 1938. Maharaj Churachand didn't attend the session. In the very session the word Hindu was removed from the organization and the name of the organization changed as Nikhil Manipuri Mahasabha. The Mahasabha was



converted into a political party in the session. Maharaj didn't approve the resolutions of the session. He had warned Erabot. Maharaj announced that the government employees are not allowed to join the Mahasabha. Ultimately Erabot quitted the panchay member and remained in the Mahasabha. The session also resolved to install a responsible government. Accordingly, Maharaj announced that he was not related anything further with the Mahasabha. The 4th session was so important that it openly challenged the colonial rule as well as the monarchy. It also led the replacement of monarchy by democracy. It guided the way for survival and struggle. It also encouraged the people and gave political awareness.

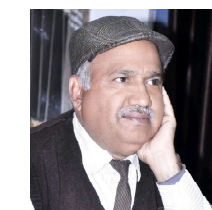
There was a culture of pure and impure. The supreme authority of this culture was the Brahma Sabha. Maharaj Churachand was the head of the Brahma Sabha. Some Brahmins having the knowledge of vedasstra assisted him. The important duty of the Brahma Sabha was to identify whom is pure and whom is impure. If a person is found to be impure, then he may be changed to pure after fined. Erabot launched movements against the Brahma Sabha. Erabot and his band of people had cremated the dead body of an impure person free of cost. They also performed the Shradha karma. Ultimately the Brahma Sabha became useless. At the end the people neglected it. Thus, the movement of Erabot against pure and impure succeeded.

Agrarian is the main economy of Manipur. Accordingly, rice is the main trade of Manipur. Rice trade was only the measure of getting cash from outside Manipur. The women of Manipur take equal responsibilities as the men regarding the economy. The effort of women to improve the economy is not less than that of the men. After harvesting, the men villagers will bring paddy grains to the markets and the women traders took it. The said Paddy grains will be converted into rice. Then the women traders will sell the rice at the market. The Marwari

traders use to collect the rice from the women traders. Thus, the rice trade benefits to many households of Manipur. In short, the economy of Manipur totally depends on agrarian. This would be the crucial factor of outbreak of Second Nupilal 1939. It is noteworthy that in the beginning of 1939 there were altogether 14 rice mills in the state. Only one was for Meitei and the rest were for marwaris. The work done by 100 women had been replaced by only one rice mill. The ownership of 100 women were replaced by one marwari trader. Besides the farmers began to sell their paddy grains to the marwaris. This made more profits to the farmers. As a result, the trade of rice for the women collapsed. The rice collected by the marwaris were exported outside Manipur. In December 1939, the price of rice had rocketed suddenly as never before. Rice couldn't be bought even though money was in the pocket. Mass export of rice to outside Manipur was the main reason of scarcity of rice. On December 10 and 11, no rice was available in Khwairamband keithel. A few people fasted due to the non available of rice. On 11 December, many women folks went to meet the political agent C Gimson, but failed. The women came to the office of Manipur state darbar requesting not to sell rice to the mill owners and export of rice to outside Manipur. The members of darbar replied to come next day. On 12 December, many hundreds of women spontaneously gathered at khwairamband keithel and shut down Khwairamband. The crowd marched to the Manipur state darbar. They requested the president of Darbar T A Sharp not to export rice to outside. On his reply, the president said that he could not order without the permission of Maharaj who stayed in Nabadwip. The crowd urged the president to send telegram immediately. Sharp moved with the women to the telegraph office by foot and sent a message to the Maharaj. At that time, more than 3000 women gathered at telegraph office.

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Crack Olympiad with flying colours



By: Vijay GarG

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RSS continues to engage new blood: Mohan Bhagwat

IT Correspondent
Guwahati, Dec 12:

Nation should be the priority for everyone. Leaving aside all differences we have to work tirelessly for welfare of the nation, said Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Sarsangchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, while addressing a conclave of Swayamsevaks and Karyakartas at Hajongbari locality in the city on Sunday.

Attending the concluding program of three-day (9 to 11 December) Prerona Shivir (inspiration camp), held at Chandrapur Vidyabharati School in Chandrapur, where over two thousand volunteers belonging to RSS's Uttar Asom Prant participated, the RSS chief added that the organised effort can only bring success in any work or assignment.

"Dr. Keshav Baliram Hegdegar established RSS in 1925 with the aim to develop the human resources. We may have differences in opinions but not in our minds. RSS is completing its hundred years of existence and it continues to attract new blood every year. Now the sixth generation has come forward to work for the nation," commented Dr.



Bhagwat.

Speaking about the weakness in the society, he stated that Dr. Hegdegar started working to strengthen the Indian society so that the people of the great country can attain actual independence. He asserted that a weak society cannot enjoy the fruits of political freedom. The Sarsangchalak lauded the Swayamsevaks who dedicated their lives for nation-building maintaining a good character always.

Revealing that the activities of Swayamsevaks are silently observed by other people in the society, Dr. Bhagwat urges the RSS volunteers to dedicate their time and energy for them. He also opined that every village in India should have a RSS Shakhya and the Swayamsevaks should lead the society from the front. With full conviction to India's pride and heritage, the Swayamsevaks should work

for the nation's progress. Thousands of RSS Swayamsevaks displayed their physical and artistic exercises in front of Dr. Bhagwat and a four thousand strong audience.

The RSS Sarsangchalak, who arrived in the city last night also interacted with the Swayamsevaks and Karyakartas in the morning hours informed Kishor Shivam, Prant Prachar Pramukh of RSS Uttar Asom unit.

Over 50 private member bills introduced in Lok Sabha

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 12:

More than 50 private member bills, including the one seeking to revert to the old system of voting through ballot papers instead of electronic voting machines (EVMs), were introduced in Lok Sabha on Friday.

The bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was introduced by BSP member Danish Ali.

The other bills were related to shutdown of internet, loan waiver and prevention of mob lynching.

DMK's Thamizhachi Thangapandian introduced a bill to provide for setting up of an effective system to prevent internet shutdown and procedural safeguards to bring greater transparency and accountability for the shutdown.

Congress member Dean Kuriakose introduced a bill for



setting up of a board for the identification of loans to be waived as a one-time measure in national interest within the country.

E T Mohammed Basheer of the IJML introduced a bill to prevent mob lynching and provide adequate punishment for persons committing mob lynching with a view to instill a sense of fear among the persons who involve in such actions.

The bill also seeks to rehabilitate victims of lynching and their families.

In a statement to the media, Danish Ali said that the traditional voting system accomplishes the goal of free and fair elections.

"EVMs are prone to errors and several countries in the world have stopped using EVMs as doubts have been raised about its veracity. EVMs should be replaced with traditional ballot papers in our country also," he said.

BJP MP Ravi Kishan introduced a bill to control the growth of population in the country.

India reports 159 new Covid cases

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 12:

India saw a single-day rise of 159 coronavirus infections, while the active case count declined marginally to 3,906, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The total tally of Covid cases stands at 4.46 crore (4,46,74,981), while the death toll was 5,30,658 with no fresh fatalities being reported, the

data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases constitute 0.01 per cent of the total infections, while the country's COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.80 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

A decrease of seven cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours and they now stand at 3,906.

The number of people who have recuperated from the dis-

ease rose to 4,41,40,417, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 219.97 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore Covid cases on May 4 last year, three crore on June 23 last year and four crore on January 25 this year.

India is the largest 'connected' nation in the world today with more than 800 million broadband users: MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar

PIB
New Delhi, Dec 12:

The Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar has said that India is the largest 'connected' nation in the world today with more than 800 million broadband users. He was addressing the concluding ceremony of the India Internet Governance Forum 2022, here yesterday, with the theme 'Levelling Techade for Empowering Bharat'. The Secretary, MeitY, Alkesh Kumar Sharma and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that we are the largest 'connected' nation in the world with 800 million Indian users.

5G and the largest rural broadband connectivity network project at BharatNet will have 1.2 billion Indian users constituting the single largest presence of the global internet. He further said that we also expect further technological innovations as well as updated regulatory policies to remain relevant. The deep involvement by all stakeholders will be the third leg of this Global Standard Cyber Law Framework of the Indian internet and the economy, he added.

The MoS said that India now has a tremendous powerful offering, identity authentication to a very diverse and rich suite of applications, and improved accessibility to the internet to countries in the Global South which have not been able to step up and cre-

ate the same sort of pace of digitization of the economy is an internetization of their economies. He further said that during the G20 Presidency, the Prime Minister declared that he will be open to India offering that platform to all those nations in the Global South that want to transform their digital economy and their governance model as India. The multistakeholder architecture of the Indian internet happened after a lot of effort. In the next few years, this multistakeholder engagement must go beyond the intellectual academic discussion to ensure the internet grows and innovation grows while keeping both safe and trusted and accountable for all the billion digital nagriks of India, he added.

Speaking about the second edition of IIGF, the Secretary, MeitY, Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma said that the Digital India program augments India's mission with digital literacy initiative skills with an exemplary indigenous success story, which has become a world story with technical progress shaping new India. The theme of IIGF 2022 "Levelling Techade for Empowering Bharat" is appropriate as India is looking at the major initiative of connecting the unconnected ones with best internet connectivity. He further said that we are looking at building laws which ensure privacy, protection, data, security and safety of our citizens. We are also looking at how to create a trillion-dollar digital economy in the next three years, he added.

Contd. from Page 2

Nupilal and its impact in Manipuri....

The crowd cordoned president Sharp till the reply from Maharajis met. Around 2:30 pm a platoon of 4 Assam rifles reached there. After warning, the sepoy had stormed the unarmed women. The women were severely lathicharged and swept away from the campus of telegraph office. At least 20 women injured in the incident, 5 were critical. They were hospitalized. Some proactive women confronted the sepoy. Thus, the second Nupilal 1939 broke out with blood shed. Next day, thousands of high-tension women gathered at Khwairamband keithel and completely shut down Khwairamband. Shabi, Tongou, Chaobiton, Leibaklei, Khongnang, etc. were the

women mentioning leaders who spearheaded the movement. The women demanded the political agent to handover Babu Kasturband because he allegedly expressed that the rice should be collected, then the Manipuris have to eat paddy cover. Later Kasturband sent a letter to the women folks mentioning that he was so sorry and to forgive him. Then the women folks cool down. In the evening of 13 December, political agent C Gimson came to the Khwairamband and met the women folks. He told that the Maharaj agreed to ban export of rice to outside Manipur with immediate effect. A telegram was sent in this regard, he reiterated. On December 13 and 14, all the rice

mills in Manipur were shut down by the women folks. The agitation continued for some days. At last, the government officially announced that both export of rice to outside Manipur and use of rice mills had been banned with immediate effect. Thus, the agitation of women folks concluded with great success. Normalcy was restored. This movement of women folks is still known as second Nupilal 1939.

Historians opine that the Nupilal movement contributed much to the making of Manipur. It sowed the seeds of economic and political reforms. It was a turning point to the political lives of leaders like Jana Neta Hjam Erabot whose major focus had been social reforms.

We can notice from the two Nupilal movements that the valour of Manipuri women folks is an extra ordinary as compared with other countries. Two Nupilals gave impacts to our society. Today's women folks follow the track made by the women who participated the Nupilal. The emergence of Meirapaibi and Nishabandhi will be the impact of Nupilal. The women folks take proactive roles in stopping drugs and other intoxicants. The women agitate against the imposition of the draconian law, the AFSPA in the state. The agitation is still on going. From Shamila had agitated for about 15 years demanding repeal of AFSPA by fasting unto death. As a result, the authority has removed disturb area status

from seven assembly segments of Imphal area. Besides the women took important role in the inclusion of Manipuri language in the 8th schedule of Indian Constitution. As a sign of condemnation to the oppression of Assam rifles, 12 mothers in naked position agitated at the western gate of Kangla on 11 July 2004. They challenged the Assam rifles. Consequently, the Assam rifles were removed from Kangla. The women took proactive roles in demanding the implementation of ILP in Manipur. The aforementioned agitations launched by the women folks of Manipur are the impacts and pursuance of Nupilal.

(The writer is a senior journalist and can be reached at mitanlutwang847@gmail.com)

Private member Bill seeks PM-led panel for selecting Chief Election Commissioner

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 12:

Pointing out that there was "growing concern" with regard to the independence and autonomy of the Election Commission, Congress MP Manish Tewari has introduced a private member's Bill in Lok Sabha, which seeks formation of a high-level committee headed by the Prime Minister and consisting of the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India to select the Chief Elec-

tion Commissioner and the Election Commissioners.

Incidentally, the Bill also seeks more power to the Election Commission to "regulate, monitor and superintend" the internal functioning of all political parties, including internal elections of all registered political parties. He has argued that the internal functioning and structures of a large number of political parties have become very "opaque and ossified" and there is a need to make their functioning transparent, accountable and rule based.

In an article in The Indian Express in June, Tewari had argued the same, saying that the time has come for the Election Commission to ensure and uphold democracy within political parties through the appointment of external monitors and other innovative mechanisms.

The tabling of the private member Bill seeking setting up of a committee - consisting of the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Leader of Opposition or floor Leader in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and Chief Justice of India and two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court - comes at a time when the Supreme Court is hearing petitions on the need for reforms in the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners.

The Bill envisages a fixed tenure of six years for the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners and three years from the date of appointment for the Regional Commissioners.

"They should not be removed from office except in accordance with the procedure laid down for the removal of a Supreme Court Judge.

Marksheet and Certificates Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Marksheet and Certificate of my Class-X passed Examination, bearing Roll No. 26224 of 2012, issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur and also my Marksheet and Certificate for Class-XII passed Examination, bearing Roll No. 4811 of 2014, issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between Soibam Leikai to Manipur University, Canchipur on December 9, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned

Sd/-

Nongmaithem Loyalakpa Meitei

S/o N. Rojen

Contact No. 811983121

10 Police Personnel Suspended for Security Lapse After Ink Attack on Minister



Activists splashing black ink on Minister Chandrakant Patil (third from left).

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec 12:

Three activists were arrested and 10 police personnel were suspended on Sunday by the Pimpri Chinchwad Police in connection with the incident in which ink was thrown at Maharashtra cabinet minister Chandrakant Patil on Saturday.

Ink was thrown at BJP leader and Maharashtra cabinet minister Chandrakant Patil on Saturday in Pimpri Chinchwad city of Pune district over his alleged remark on Dr BR Ambedkar and Mahatma Jyotiba Phule.

On Sunday the police arrested Manoj Bhaskar Gharbade and Dhananjay Bhausaheb Ichgaj both belonging to "Samta Sainik Dal" and Vijay Dharma Ovhal of Bahujan Vanchit Aghadi. They were charged under sections 307 (Attempt to murder) and 353 (assault on a public servant in the execution of his/her duty) of the Indian Penal Code and were remanded to three days police.

Similarly the Pimpri Chinchwad Police Commissioner Ankush Shinde suspended 10 policemen who were deployed for the security of Patil. "We have suspended

seven police personnel and three officers in connection with the incident. All of them were part of the minister's security cover during his visit," Shinde said.

Local journalist Govind Vakde was also detained for interrogation on charges that the ink attack on Patil was pre-planned and as per his whatsapp chat he was aware of the impending attack. However Vakde was released following protests by different journalists' bodies.

NCP MLA Jitendra Awhad said that to book journalist in such incident is improper. Raju Shetty, a farmers' leader and

former MP Raju Shetty criticized the government for slapping sections 307 and 353 on arrested activists, saying that they had neither attacked Patil with weapons nor interrupted any Government servant while performing the duty. In a year long protest against three controversial farm bills in Delhi, which began on November 25, 2020, over 700 farmers died/ In that case why no minister was booked under section 302 (murder) of IPC, Shetty asked.

Background
On Friday in a function in Aurangabad, Patil reportedly said that social reformists like Dr BR Ambedkar, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Kamveer Bhaurao Patil, virtually begged and collected alms to run the schools set up by them. They did not wait for Government grants.

However these remarks enraged leaders of different parties who demanded an apology from Patil saying that he insulted the great reformists who rendered done yeoman's service for the uplift of down-trodden people.

In the meanwhile speaking to media on Sunday, Patil said that he would urge Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, to revoke the suspension of the police personnel and at the most transfer them out.

1,179 Bru militants surrender in Assam: Police



Agency
Hailakandi (Assam), Dec 12:

A total of 1,179 Bru militants belonging to two outfits surrendered in Assam's Hailakandi district on Monday, police said.

Additional Director General of Police (Special Branch) Hiren Chandra Nath said under the guidance of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, we could convince them to come to the negotiating table," he said.

Union (BRAU) laid down 350 firearms, including 18 AK series rifles, M16 rifles, and over 400 cartridges.

The two outfits were active mostly in areas along the Assam-Mizoram border.

"The peace process with these two groups had been underway since 2017. There were some differences but under the guidance of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, we could convince them to come to the negotiating table," he said.

"Other formalities and rehabilitation process will begin soon. We will take the process forward in such a manner that no new militant group is formed in the area in future," the senior police officer said.

The militants, who were already in ceasefire with security forces, formally laid down their arms before Assam Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary and state Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika.

Contd. from Page 1

Courage of Manipuri mothers...

At the main observation function held at Jiribam Multi Utility Auditorium Jiribam Municipality complex, ZEO Jiribam Thoudam Amurashi Chanu MES lighted the candles as starting of the function. In today's function, Thoudam Amurashi Chanu, MES ZEO Jiribam, H. Thoibi

Devi president WWO, Jiribam, S. Sushila Devi president AJMP, Jiribam, A. Asangbi Devi president JIMPAL, Jiribam, N. Nibharani Devi president WASED, Jiribam, Th. Jini Devi president JIMWOK, Jiribam, and Thokchom Priyadashini Devi president AMWOVA were

attended as chief guest, president and guest of honour respectively. Many spokespersons spoke about relating to the nupi Lal. UPF President Nongthombam Rupachandra and IPSA advisor Luwangcha Chingkei also spoke as speakers of the observation.

562 of 588 development projects in northeast geo-tagged via satellite imaging, other technology

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 12:

The Centre has geo-tagged 562 of 588 development projects in India's northeast. These projects are being funded by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and the north Eastern Council (NEC), Union minister of development of northeastern region G. Kishan Reddy said in a written reply in Lok Sabha on Monday.

Till November, out of 588 identified projects, 562 projects, at 1,664 different locations across the northeast have been geo-tagged through satellite images and mobile app, the Ministry said.

"As of 7 December 2022, 145 projects costing ₹ 3,392.99 crore have been approved under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)," it added.

The Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Re-

gion (MDoNER) in collaboration with the North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC) under the Department of Space has developed a mobile application to monitor the progress of projects in the region.

The progress of the projects supported by MDoNER is monitored in three modes: mobile apps, satellite images and drone images, the ministry informed the Lok Sabha.

Meanwhile, the North East

Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) has been granted 14 projects worth ₹ 90.86 crore during the period from 2015-16 to 2021-22, the ministry said.

The NESAC is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Space and located in Shillong and provides dedicated service to the region's eight states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

Sports

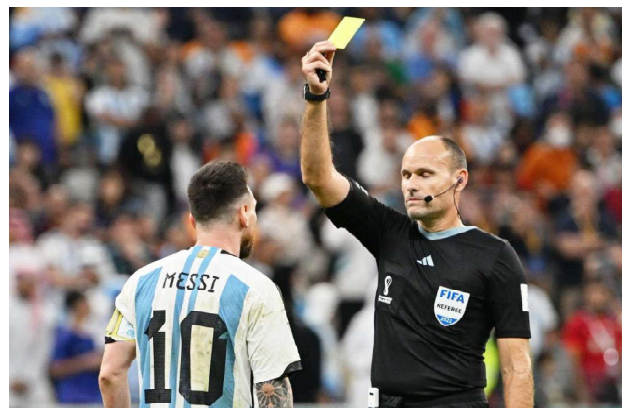
Controversial referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz from Netherlands vs Argentina match 'sent home' after Lionel Messi's outburst

Agency
Doha, Dec 12:

After the quarterfinal match he officiated on December 9 between Argentina and the Netherlands, controversial referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz has been "sent home", as per media reports. Although Argentina advanced to the semi-finals, Lionel Messi was uncharacteristically harsh of him following the match.

In a match that was frequently interrupted by rising flares from both teams, Lahoz was called out for making questionable choices as he issued a total of 15 yellow cards.

Messi stated after the match that he did not want to talk about referees for fear of being penalised. People witnessed what occurred, he continued, adding that Fifa must address the situation since such a referee should not oversee a game of significance like



the one between Argentina and the Netherlands. The referee must be capable of handling the situation, he said.

Media reports now indicate that Lahoz has been "sent

home" and won't be taking part in any way in the final four games. It should be emphasised that his return to his native country might have nothing to do with the Argen-

tina game. Online supporters, however, have not hesitated to speculate that Messi might have finally gotten his wish.

Fifa has confirmed a disciplinary case against Lionel

Messi-led Argentina for the on-field confrontations and for breaching its code of conduct in the Netherlands vs Argentina match.

"The FIFA Disciplinary Committee has opened proceedings against the Argentinian Football Association due to potential breaches of articles 12 (Misconduct of players and officials) and 16 (Order and security at matches) of the FIFA Disciplinary Code during the Netherlands vs Argentina FIFA World Cup match," read statement by FIFA.

After a highly-charged World Cup quarter-final encounter, Messi was furious with Netherlands Head Coach Louis Van Gaal. According to Argentine defender Nicolas Otamendi, Dutch players tried to divert their attention during the penalty shoot-out, which led to his teammates celebrating in front of their Dutch opponents after the victory.

No man-marking for Messi in semifinal: Croatia

Agency
Doha, Dec 12:

Croatia will not attempt to stop Argentina superstar Lionel Messi by man-marking him but instead will focus on immobilising the entire team in their World Cup semifinal on Tuesday, they said.

Croatia is bidding to make it to the final for the second World Cup in a row after losing in the 2018 showcase match to France.

It stunned tournament favourite Brazil in the quarter-finals after going a goal down in extra-time but dug deep to bounce back with a late equaliser and force a penalty shootout that it ended up winning.

"We don't have a specific plan yet for stopping Messi and usually we don't concentrate on stopping one player but the entire team," striker Bruno Petkovic told a news conference on Sunday.

"We will try to stop them as a team and not with man-marking. Argentina are not only Messi, they have a num-

ber of great players. We have to stop the entire Argentina team," he said.

Seven-time Ballon D'Or winner Messi has so far been the driving force for the Argentines, who also needed penalties after squandering a two-goal lead against the Dutch in their quarterfinal.

With no players suspended and no injury concerns following the return of Croatia defender Borna Sosa, Zlatko Dalic's team is brimming with confidence and ready for more.

Its midfield comprising captain Luka Modric, Mateo Kovacic and Marcelo Brozovic will be key to dictating the pace, as it did against Brazil, and defender Josip Juranovic said the three were utterly dependable.

"Mateo, Luka and Marcelo are the best Croatia midfield in history. I don't think it can be repeated. When you pass them the ball it is safer than having your money in the bank," the defender said.