

CM and others wish the people as 2023 begins tomorrow

IT News
Imphal, Dec 31:

With the year 2022 ending today, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his cabinet colleague today greets the people of the state and wish a prosperous New Year 2023.

"The year 2022 was a year of progress and achievement for the State of Manipur. Several development projects were taken up in different sectors including health, education, roads, start ups and sports among others. The State Government considering the importance of well being of the people has also developed Amusement Parks, Open Gyms and Kangla Nongpok Torban. After a gap of two years, Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 was held in a grandeur manner in different venues across the State, along with the inauguration of Sangai Ethnic Park.

"What more of a breakthrough during 2022 was the mass support from different communities towards the Government's War on Drugs Campaign and people's trust in the public administration.

"As our Country has assumed Presidency for G20 with the State hosting an event during February 2023, let us grasp the opportunity to showcase our potentials and move towards further development. As the year 2023 dawns, I seek the cooperation and support of my people in the State Government's effort to make Manipur a world class tourist destination and in attaining self reliance.

Health Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, Education Minister Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, Textiles, Commerce and Industry & Co-operation Minister, Nemcha Kipgen, among others also greets the people on occasion of the New Year 2023.

RIMS in trouble water again: Former in-charge Director dishonour Manipur High Court order

IT News
Imphal, Dec 31:

Former in-charge Director of RIMS, Dr. L. Ranjit Singh still continues to occupy the office room of the Director of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Imphal, even after his appointment as the in-charge director has been quashed by the Manipur High Court on December 19, 2022. As per the High Court order, Dr. L. Ranjit is no more the Director in-charge of RIMS, but he continues to use all facilities provided to the Director such as vehicle, security escort etc.

Either the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India gives no importance to RIMS Imphal or Dr. Ranjit, whose appointment as Director in-charge has been quashed by the High court, gives a damn of the Manipur High Court order dated December 19, 2022 by the bench of

Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh, Dr. L. Ranjit still occupies the office of the RIMS Director, enjoying all facilities.

Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India also seems to dishonour the Manipur High Court ruling as no new in-charge director has been appointed even after 11 days.

In fact, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Imphal, one among the premier Medical Institute in the entire states of North East India and the pride of Manipur is once more in "trouble water" after the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India had prematurely repatriated Dr. Ahanthem Santa from the post of Director RIMS to his parent institution - North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) Shillong with



effect from October 12, 2022. Dr. A. Santa was appointed as Director of RIMS on deputation basis on November 9, 2018 for a period of five years.

From 2014 till the appointment of Dr. A. Santa as the Regular Director of RIMS, reports about corruption and mismanagement plague the Institution.

In 2015, there are reports of a Director refusing to leave the post even after the expiry of his tenure. Before the appointment of a regular director in 2018, people of the state witness cold war among doctors for the post of in-charge director. From 2014 till 2018, there were 3 in-charge directors. Reports about

medical achievement were almost nil, as the diplomatic war over the post of director overshadowed.

Well it may be the discretionary power of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to act on whether to replace the director of a Medical Institution and may be

those in the Ministry may presumed premature repatriation of Director A. Santa before completion of his tenure. But leaving the post of Director vacant for a period of 11 or more days will only sabotage the functioning of the institution.

For example, the annual budget of RIMS, Imphal has reached around Rs. 600 crore. As per source the annual budget of RIMS at present is Rs. 560 crore. This budgetary amount is indirectly benefitting to all the people of the region either in one way or the others. In the absence of the director, monetary transaction has been literally put to halt.

Besides, infrastructure construction the budgetary allocations includes taking of improvement facilities for the Medical students and also providing subsidize and free treatment of the patients in need.

WHO urges China to share specific, real-time information on Covid-19

Agency
Geneva, Dec 31:

The World Health Organization on Friday urged China to regularly share specific and real-time information regarding the Covid-19 situation in the country, genetic sequencing data and information on hospitalisations and deaths.

"WHO reiterated the importance of vaccination and boosters to protect against severe disease and death for people at higher risk," the health body said in a statement.

The health body has also called on China to

strengthen viral sequencing, clinical management and impact assessment, and expressed willingness to provide support in these areas.

Scientists from China have been invited to give detailed data on viral sequencing at a meeting of the health body's Technical Advisory Group on SARS-CoV-2 Virus Evolution on January 3.

Coronavirus cases have increased sharply in China after it revoked key parts of its "Zero Covid" containment strategy in response to protests. In some parts of the country, hospitals have become overcrowded and pharmacies have been facing

shortages of medicine. The United States, South Korea, India, Italy, Japan and Taiwan have all imposed COVID tests for travellers from China in response.

According to an internal estimate from China's top health officials, 25 crore persons or 18% of the population in the country may have caught Covid-19 infection in the first 20 days of December. China had also narrowed its definition of Covid deaths earlier this week, drastically cutting its toll. Health officials are now only counting deaths from Covid-caused pneumonia or respiratory failure.

DESAM lauds media for highlighting their activities

IT News
Imphal, Dec 31:

President of the Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur (DESAM), Leishanthe Lamyamba today lauded the media fraternity of the state for disseminating the information about the activities of the student bodies across the state.

Talking to a function exclusively organized to interact and thanks the media fraternity of the state at its office complex located at Kwakeithel, Lamyamba said that without media it will be next to impossible to raise issue concerning problems of students and of the society.

"DESAM today is 21 years old and it is because of the media and its reporting about their activities that DESAM can continue its service with courage", Lamyamba said.

The DESAM president also said that more activities



like promotion of entrepreneurs in the state will be taken up. He appealed the media fraternity to extend more support to DESAM and to disseminate the activities of the DESAM so that it reaches to all the people of the state.

The DESAM also

honoured President of All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) Wanghemcha Shyamji by presenting gifts and wishing him for a prosperous life in the coming years. Other media persons present on the occasion were also honoured.

The seized drugs worth Rs 538 crore destroyed by Mumbai Customs

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec 31:

Mumbai Customs, Zone-III destroyed drugs weighing 140.57 kgs valued at Rs. 538 crore at the incineration facility of M/s Mumbai Waste Management Limited (MWML) located at Taloja in Navi Mumbai, on Friday.

Providing details of the seizure, Principal Commissioner, Zone III, Rajesh Sanan stated that the drugs destroyed were seized by three commissionerates under Zone III. Details of the seizure operations were: 56.06 kg Heroin & 33.81 Kg Hashish seized by the Mumbai Airport Commissionerate across 14 cases. 21.70 kg Hashish seized in a case booked at the Air Cargo Export Commissionerate



and 29 kg Heroin seized in a case by DRI, however the destruction was carried out by the Preventive Commissionerate of the Mumbai Customs Zone-III.

Persons carrying banned narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are guilty of the offence under Section 8 of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 and are liable to punishment under section 21, section 23

and section 29 of NDPS Act 1985, read along with provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

According to Custom officials, drug seizure data at the Mumbai International Airport shows that the drugs smuggling is done predominantly by nationals from countries like Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Drug smuggling is undertaken by concealing the drugs in special false cavities made in baggage. Carriers have

been found carrying drugs in ingested form as well. Mumbai Airport Customs has effectively used sniffer dogs for detecting cases.

Incineration of such seized items which are hazardous to nature if released otherwise are required to be done in incinerators fitted with Standardized Pollution Control Devices.

The contraband items were brought into the country under various forms of disguise, but were proactively seized or confiscated by the Customs Department. Mumbai Customs remains committed to the United Nations Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 to which India is a signatory. The Convention aims also at combating drug trafficking through international co-operation to deter & discourage drug traffickers.

Prof. N. Sanajaoba remembered on 77th Birth Anniversary

IT News
Imphal, Dec. 30:

Renowned scholar and socio-political scientist Late Prof. N. Sanajaoba, popularly known as "Ojha" was remembered and honoured on his 77th Birth Anniversary at the auditorium of National Research Centre(NRC) near Manipur University main gate yesterday.

In connection with the observance, 11th Ojha (Prof) Naorem Sanajaoba Memorial lecture 2022 was organized by Ojha Sanajaoba Memorial Trust (OSMT), Manipur and

under the theme "Demographic Challenges in Manipur and Remedies". The lecture was delivered by Prof. RK Narendra Singh, Former Head of the Department of Biostatistics, RIMS. Full text of the lecture is producing at page 3 of this paper. However, as there is limitation of space Imphal Times is producing the lecture write up on continuation basis.

The memorial lecture was attended by Prof. L. Ladu Singh Vice Chancellor, Bodoland University, Assam, and Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh, Vice-Chancellor, DM University as Chief Guest and President respec-

tively. A. Brajakumar Sharma, Former Head of the Department of Statistics, DM College of Science attended as observer.

A booklet on Ojha's Memorial Lecture containing the Speaker's text was also released by the Chief Guest and Dignitaries. Prizes and certificates for the Debating Competition organized in connection with the 13th Death Anniversary of Ojha(Prof) Naorem Sanajaoba on 13th December 2022 organised by the National Research Centre(NRC) Manipur and Manipuri Students' Federation(MSF) were distributed.

Bye Bye 2022

By: Raju Vernekar

The year 2022 is fading out,
It was eventful no doubt,

Corona beat the retreat,
People felt it like a treat,

The rains battered the nation,
The cyclones caused destruction,

75 th Independence Day of the nation,
was celebrated with gusto and jubilation,

Tricolour fluttered everywhere,
Patriotism filled the air,

But a Rupee reached an all-time low,
The rising oil prices blurred the glow,

Shiv Sena in Maharashtra received the jolt,
Lost power due to revolt,

Gujarat's Morbi bridge collapse,
Exposed administrative lapse,

In Punjab, AAP went in for a leap,
In Polls used a broom to reap,

In Gujarat, it was BJP's gain,
The lotus blossomed once again,

Kharage became the Congress Chief,
After a long, a non-Gandhi became the party chief,

There was a change of guard,
Prez Draupadi Murmu became the new vanguard,

With Russia's continued invasion,
Ukraine suffered massive destruction,

Pak premier Imran Khan lost the wicket,
In the Pakistani national test,

Liz Truss bowed out, cleared the way,
UK premier Rishi Sunak held the sway,

England won the T-20 World Cup,
Trounced Pakistan and gave a Thumbs-up,

In the FIFA world cup, Argentina won with flash,
France came close, but lost in the summit clash,

At the fog end, Sikkim road mishap turned deadly,
The loss of soldiers affected Army badly,

Let's hope the year 2023,
Will be cheerful and tension-free....

The Dark Road

Written by:- Irom Calvin

The wind was blowing high,
The sun was shining brightly in the sky.
All were happy enough to go ahead,
By singing, dancing and enjoying the scene.

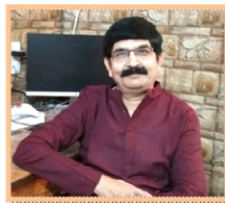
The bus that they were happily going ahead.
Took them to the most unwanted destination.
Causing sorrow, pain and desperation.
The fate of pain and despair had faced upon them.

A distance covered in an hour.
Seemed to go on forever.
Until the day we meet again,
At the end of the journey.

Death is what we described as,
Scary, nervous, pain and challenging.
But there lies behind the reality of all,
The almighty creator will be waiting for us.

Until the day we unite,
For the journey to be embarked for.
Stay safe and sound,
Because the unknown would be coming for us one day

A mother's love makes his son stronger and more independent



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother Heerabai passed away at the age of 100 Years. Words of sympathy feel inadequate in expressing grief and sorrow for a loss a mother. The death of a mother is one of the painful moments one can experience in life. Mother is the most selfless person in this world who starts loving her children even before they come into this world. Nothing could be compared to a mother's love in this world as it is the purest form of love. Mother is like an angel for her child. God's best creation on the universe is Mother. The love a son shows for his mother cannot be described. Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a lot of love for his mother Heerabai. Behind a person's success, the most efforts who put, is the only one, the mother. Mother is the first teacher for the child who teaches about good or bad things of life. Modi

rightly points out that Mother is not just any other word in the dictionary...it encompasses a whole range of emotions - love, patience, trust, and a lot more".

When Modi met her on 100th birthday, she said one thing "Always remember - Work with intelligence, live life with purity." Sharing her picture, PM said, "In Maa I have always felt that trinity, which contains the journey of an ascetic, the symbol of a selfless Karmayogi and a life committed to values."

Modi's mother Heerabai was an epitome of generosity, simplicity, hard work and high values of life. The death of a mother leaves such a void in one's life that it is impossible to fill. After God, it is our mother who has the most special place in our hearts and our lives. Since the birth of a child, a mother forms a precious and special bond with him. Without thinking about herself, she thinks about her child and his happiness. Heerabai was married to Damodardas Mulchand Modi. PM Modi's father was a tea seller. In 2015, in a famous interview with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, PM Modi became emotional while talking about his mother. She avoided seeking help from others and wanted to be self-reliant. Modi describes his mother as a "pillar of his life." Mother's love for us is unlimited, unconditional and unforgettable for a child which gives him power to face each tough situa-



tion which comes in life. She shined so bright that the memory of her light will never dim.

Recalling hardships his mother faced during her childhood, Modi points out that his mother was as simple as she was extraordinary. Just like all mothers. Modi's parents never left the path of honesty or compromised on their self-respect. Constant hardwork was their foremost mantra to overcome any challenge. PM Modi has written recounting the early days of family hardship that his mother used to wash utensils at a few houses to help meet the household expenses. She would also take out time to spin the charkha to supplement our meagre income. She was the synonyms of

care, sacrifice or selflessness. Regarding cleanliness Modi says that his mother is dedicated to hygiene and "would not tolerate even a speck of dust on the bed. Aslight crease meant that the bed sheet would be dusted and laid again. All of us were very careful about this habit as well."

We are very fortunate to have a mother in our life, and we must respect our mother. We should give her all the happiness and love because she deserves all of that in return for her selfless love for us. Let us be always thankful to God for giving unique qualities to Mothers like Heerabai who are caring, helping nature, sacrificing, forgiving, and always putting others before themselves.

Nail Care in Winters

Natural oils hold together the different layers of your nails, so cold and dry winter months and lots of hand washing with harsh soaps will dry out this natural "glue." It's very similar to the dry skin you experience during the winter months.

The same concept to fix dry skin can be used for dry nails, but different formulations are recommended because of the unique structural properties of your nails.

Here, are easy winter nail care tricks to make sure your nails stay long and strong.

One easy way to counteract cold weather? With a nice warm pair of gloves

Protect your nails by wearing a nice warm pair of rubber gloves for your washing chores. This is when you are gardening, house cleaning, washing dishes, or using harsh chemicals.

When you wear gloves, you protect your nails from getting dry and at the same time, keep dirt out of your nails. Massage a cream, oils, or ointments to dampen the skin around the nails after washing chores.

Doing so can protect your nails from breakage and help locking in moisture to help preserve the cuticle seal and strengthen the nail itself.

For dry hands and nails, massage almond oil on the hands and around the nails too, in order to soften the cuticles. The cuticle (skin surrounding the nail) should be kept soft and smooth. Otherwise, it sticks to the

nail and gets dragged as the nail grows. This causes the skin to get stretched and torn. The skin can even become infected if this happens. Daily massage is even more important during the dry winter season.

For moisturizing your nail, take 1 tablespoon of almond and castor oil, and mix a little hand cream in it. Massage the mixture into your hands. Follow up with moisturizer and treat yourself to a weekly hand at-home treatment mask.

Never cut, push back, or try to get rid of cuticles altogether. In fact, the cuticle is the nail's natural protective seal. Moisturizing the cuticles with cream or oil helps protect and strengthen your nails helping stimulate nail growth, and bringing blood and nutrients to maintain healthy nails.

Cuticle oils will penetrate into the deeper layers of the skin and hydrate the cuticle, skin, and nail area, and help in preventing breakage of the nails.

Once a week soak the nails in lukewarm water for a few minutes and afterwards apply the cream to the nails. Massage them, so that it helps to soften the skin and lock in the moisture by wearing cotton gloves for at least an hour. Then push the cuticles back gently using a cotton bud. Never use sharp instruments to clean under the nails.

For strong and healthy nails, include adequate protein and calcium in your diet. Take skimmed milk, yoghurt, cottage cheese (paneer), fish eggs and sprouts. Follow a ten-day

programme of taking gelatin. Dissolve one teaspoon of gelatin in a little boiling water. Cool the water and add it to fruit juice. Have this daily for ten days.

A weekly manicure keeps nails in good condition. For a home manicure, first, remove old nail varnish. To cut nails, use a nail clipper. Then shape them with an emery board. File in one direction only. Soak the hands in lukewarm water for 5 minutes after adding a few drops of shampoo. Use a soft brush to clean your nails.

If you have nails which break easily, avoid frosted nail polish. If there is any infection or pain, avoid filing the nails and using nail polish. Get medical attention first. Fungal infection of the nails is quite common.

Sometimes, the nails acquire a yellowish tinge, due to wearing nail polish constantly. Sun exposure and some pastel colours can leave a yellowish tinge. For protection, use clear, transparent nail polish as a top coat. UV-resistant top coats are also available. To protect the nails apply a transparent base coat first and then apply the colour of your choice.

To get rid of the yellowish tint on the nails, scrape the surface of the nail with the finest-grain side of an emery board so that the nail is not damaged. Then apply UV-resistant or clear polish for protection. The nails can also be "buffed" or rubbed with a piece of chamois leather.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)



By: Shahnaz Husain

Do you have dry, cracked, splitting brittle fingernails during the winter months?

It's not just your skin that dries out during the winter months; your nails do too! As soon as there's even a hint of chill in the air, your nails start to chip and flake.

If you are experiencing slow nail growth, brittle nails, nail breakage, nail splitting, and other nail problems nowadays, winter is to blame here as well. People often take special care of their hair and skin during chilling weather, but forget to take care of their nails.

Nails are part of the integumentary system (skin) of your body and they develop from the outer layer of your skin called the epidermis. The exact same cells that form the outer layer of your skin also form your nails. These cells harden more in your nails, but structurally they share many common features and needs.

Pre-Board 2023: Tips and Tricks to Prepare for the exam



By: Vijay GarG

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As the summative Board exams loom near towards the end of the academic year, the students of grades 10 and 12 start gearing up for the pre-board exams in December and January, because there is no looking back after this!

Both Indian public and private universities, as well as foreign universities, demand at least an 85-90% aggregate average for even the least subscribed courses of study unless the course of study grants admission based on an entrance test. The Ivy

League colleges in the USA, UK, Singapore and Australia demand well above 90-95% scores.

With such high competition, the road ahead is anything but easy. One difference between a student who doesn't score high and one who does lies in the fact that the latter starts his or her preparation early, working consistently throughout the year, instead of rushing to revise at the very end. It's those small steps towards prep for the first semester exams that determine whether a student will be able to achieve the much-desired score or not.

But this doesn't mean you spend hours on ends buried in your text-

books. The way knowledge is absorbed, processed and retained can differ from an individual to individual, but here are some simple guidelines that each student can follow to make their preparation for the pre-board examination more effective.

Firstly, one needs to develop a stress-free environment around one's study space by preparing well from the beginning of the year, eating a healthy diet, getting eight hours of sleep and exercising for at least 45 minutes daily to be able to concentrate better. For some students, collaborative revision works well when they can bounce off their understanding of concepts with a mindful friend.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com.

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11th Oja (Prof.) Naorem Sanajaoba Memorial Lecture, 2022 organised in connection with Ojha's 77th Birth Anniversary by Ojha Sanajaoba Memorial trust (OSMT) on "Demographic Challenges in Manipur & Remedies"

By: Prof. R.K. Narendra Singh

Introduction:

Manipur has been witnessing demographic imbalance for the last many decades and consequently now facing demographic aftermath. The menace is escalating year-to-year and attaining highest peak in very near future. The State has beheld overall high population growth rate and disequilibrium growth pertains to diverse communities which further create distortion of size, distribution, structure, and composition of population within districts, hill-valley, religion, caste, etc. Besides, the migrants problem both immigrants and in-migrants and its manifestations are also an inevitable one. Consequently upon these demographic manifestations, the State is witnessing social turmoil, conflicts, chaos, communal tensions persisting among the diverse sections of the society that becomes difficult to maintain peace and harmony amongst the people. As well, it impinges on socio-political system, which is one of the serious demographic aftermaths; and it is already started and accelerating very fast.

In view of the above disgraced scenarios, an attempt is made demographically in the present write-up to highlight the outrageous situation of Manipur in terms of the impact of demographic imbalance on Manipuri society; and the conceivable remedial strategies. After the induction of seven new districts, now the state has sixteen districts in all but their proper demarcation is not yet finalized. This interpretation is made here based on the erstwhile nine districts, out of which five are segregated as hills while remaining four, the valley districts. The entire interpretation and elucidation is based on secondary and tertiary sources of data.

Demographic imbalance:

I. Ethnic-wise population change (1881-2011):

Ethnic groups	1881	Composition (%)	2011	Composition (%)	Increment (1881-2011)	Annual growth rate (%)
Meitei + Loi	1,24,254	56.20	12,82,296	44.91	11,58,042	7.17
a. Meitei	1,17,103	52.97	11,84,968	41.49	10,67,865	7.02
b. Loi (SC)	7,151	3.23	97,328	3.41	90,177	9.71
ST	85,288	38.58	11,67,422	40.89	10,82,134*	9.76
a. Naga	59,904	27.10	6,85,967	24.02	6,26,063	8.04
b. Kuki	25,384	11.48	4,60,649	16.13	4,35,265	13.19
c. Generic tribe	Nil	-	30,806	0.73	-	-
Meitei Pangal	4,881	2.21	2,39,836	8.40	2,34,955*	37.03
Migrants	6,647	3.01	1,66,240	5.82	1,59,593	18.47
a. Ket	-	-	-	-	-	-
b. Mayang	6,542	2.96	NA	-	-	-
c. Foreigner	105	0.05	NA	-	-	-
Total	2,21,070	100	28,55,794	100	26,34,724	9.17

* Includes migrants: Loi: caste of Meitei, Ket: potters of rice to the King's household; Mayang: men from the west

The population composition of Meitei (including Loi) was 56.20% in 1881 has reduced to 44.91% in 2011 while Muslim (Meitei Pangal) rose from 2.21% to 8.40% in the corresponding years. Naga has reduced from 27.10% of population composition in 1881 to 24.02% in 2011 as against the increased trend from 11.48% in 1881 to 16.13% in 2011 for Kuki.

II. Differential population figure and its growth:

As mentioned above there are nine districts in the state, out of which five are segregated as hills while remaining four, the valley districts. According to 2011 Census, nearly nine by ten (20,089 sq. km.) of its total land surface area is the hills inhabited only by one third of its population (1,222,122) while two thirds of its population (1,633,672) is concentrated within one by ten (2,238 sq. km.) of its total area – the Manipur valley. Overall decennial growth for hills is 38.54% as against 15.72% for valley. All the hill districts have decennial growth rate of above 20.00% while none of the valley district has above 17%. For hill districts, the highest rate (68.94%) pertain to Senapati which is followed by Ukhrul (30.68%), Tamenglong (26.19%), Chandel (21.89%) and lowest belongs to Churachandpur with a rate of 20.27%. In contrast, for valley districts Bishnupur maintains the lowest decennial growth rate of 13.92% and next to it are respectively Imphal East (15.50%), Thoubal (15.96%) and Imphal West upholds the highest (16.56%).

District	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011 [†]
Senapati	8.06	9.23	9.71	10.93	11.34	12.36 [†]	16.78 [†]
Tamenglong	5.80	4.68	4.19	4.38	4.69	4.86	4.90
Churachandpur	7.70	8.00	9.14	9.48	9.59	9.93	9.60
Chandel	4.16	3.54	3.60	3.97	3.86	5.15	5.04
Ukhrul	7.12	6.22	5.80	5.83	5.94	6.13	6.44
Hill	32.86	31.69	32.46	34.61	35.44	38.45	42.80
Imphal East	18.04	18.01	16.09	17.98	17.21	15.97	15.97
Imphal West	39.95 [*]	22.84	22.48	23.04	20.72	19.37	18.14
Bishnupur	9.92	10.10	10.09	9.93	9.84	9.08	8.31
Thoubal	17.24	17.29	16.94	16.31	16.00	15.87	14.78
Valley	67.13	68.30	67.53	65.38	64.55	61.54	57.21
Manipur	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

[†] After adjustment & estimation of 3 sub-divisions of Senapati district – Mao Maram, Paomata and Pural. *Before separation of Imphal East from Imphal West.

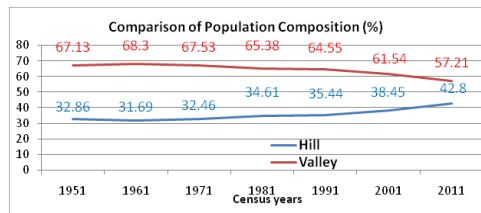


Fig-1: Showing comparison of population composition between hill and valley areas

The population of the state at 1951 was only 5,77,635 and subsequently at 2011 it touched 28,55,794 individuals. It means during 60 years 22,78,159 more individuals were added in the population volume of the state. The growth pattern differs widely among the districts as well as between hill and valley, as shown in the table-1 exhaustively. In 1951, population composition of hill was just 32.86% as against 67.14% for valley area whereas in 2011, the corresponding figures were 42.80% and 57.20% respectively. It is interesting to mention that since 1951, Senapati district has maintained the highest population composition which is followed by Churachandpur,

Ukhrul, Tamenglong, and the lowest pertain to Chandel up to 1991. Thereafter Chandel overtook Tamenglong district keeping behind it as the lowest population composition out of the five hill districts in the state. It further indicates the influx trend is more prominent in Chandel districts after 1991 than that of other counterpart hill districts. In case of valley, before bifurcation of the twin districts, Central Imphal has highest population composition in percentage and next is Thoubal district followed by Bishnupur district, the lowest. The pattern is found true in all the census years up to 2011.

District	1951-1961	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001	2001-2011
Manipur	35.04	37.52	32.45	29.28	24.86	24.50
Senapati	66.8	44.61	49.19	34.09	36.09	68.94
Tamenglong	(-) 3.10	23.16	38.5	38.51	29.23	25.69
Churachandpur	46.2	57.19	37.37	30.72	29.36	20.29
Chandel	15.09	39.9	45.76	25.81	66.62	21.85
Ukhrul	14.35	28.07	33.29	31.74	28.83	30.7
Imphal East	*	37.31	18.32	44.48	19.49	15.51
Imphal West	75.72	35.3	35.77	16.3	16.71	16.56
Bishnupur	67.87	37.35	30.33	28.07	15.27	13.93
Thoubal	20.65	34.72	27.51	26.83	23.87	15.94
χ^2 -value	15332.080	7707.465	20222.841	31738.073	57659.397	177654.898
d.f.	7	8	8	8	8	8
P-value	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Hill	30.22	40.84	41.26	32.38	35.47	38.48
Valley	37.40	35.99	28.23	27.65	19.04	15.72
χ^2 -value	1410.038	760.290	8989.908	1881.722	35343.895	89657.000
d.f.	1	1	1	1	1	1
P-value	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

χ^2 -test: d.f. degree of freedom; P: probability of difference due to chance factors

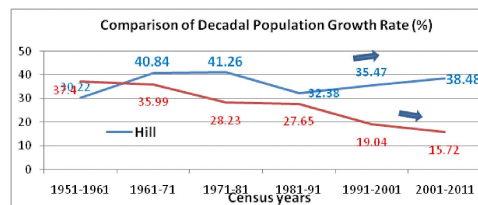


Fig-2: Showing comparison of decadal population growth rate (%) between hill and valley areas

Ridiculously the decadal growth rate for the state has touched 35.04% during 1951-1961 and further accelerated to 37.52% during 1961-71 and thereafter tapering a little bit to 32.45, 29.28, 24.86, and 24.50 for census decades of 1971-81, 1981-91, 1991-2001, and 2001-2011 respectively. The present growth rate (24.50%) is still considered as too alarming. In the case of valley the corresponding figures were 35.99% for the year 1961-71 and 15.72% for the year 2001-2011 as against the analogous figures for hill of 40.84% and 38.48% respectively. When decadal population growth rates for hill and for valley are further tested it is found to be very highly significant. This is true in all the 5 decades i.e., 1961-71, 1971-81, 1981-91, 1991-2001, and 2001-2011 as evident by the P-value which is less than .001. Thus one may conclude that in all the census decades considered, the decadal population growth rates for hill were certainly much higher than that of the valley.

Further, very highly significant P-values for all the 6 census decades, considered in the present study, highlight that there are definite variations of decadal population growth rate (%) among the nine districts of the state which was also persisted in all the decades.

III. Differential caste figure and its growth:

The people of India are categorized in one or other castes entity. The caste system in India is a system of social stratification which has pre-modern origins, was transformed by the British Raj, and is today the basis of reservation in India. There are mainly three groups viz., Scheduled castes (SCs), Scheduled tribes (STs) and all other categories other than SCs and STs, so called General castes including OBCs and allied ones – economically weaker section (EWS). Since Independence, SCs and STs are officially designated as historically disadvantaged people in India and thereby protected constitutionally. The Constitution lays down the general principles of affirmative action for SCs and STs. They have been enjoying reservation status and guaranteeing political representation.

Table-4
Caste-wise comparison of population composition (%) during 1951-2011

Caste	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
General	65.01	66.35	67.29	71.44	63.56	63.02	55.71
ST	33.62	31.92	31.17	27.30	34.41	34.20	40.87
SC	1.35	5.71	1.52	1.24	2.01	2.77	3.40
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

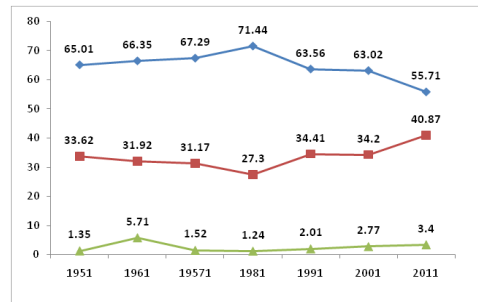


Fig-3: Showing caste composition trend

In 1951, General caste constituted 65.01% of the total population of the state while ST, 33.62% and the lowest population composition (1.35%) pertained to SC. The composition of general cast steadily increased since 1951 to 1971 (71.44%) thereafter tapering up to latest data available i.e., 2011 (55.71%). A fluctuated trend is witnessed in both ST and SC as the former decreased since 1951 to 1981 (27.30 %) and sudden spurt at 1991 (34.41%) and at 2011 (40.87%) whereas a sudden spurt for the latter is noticed at 1961 and then taper up to 1981 (1.24%) and thereafter rise monotonically even at 2011 (3.40%).

Caste	1951 to 1961	1961 to 1971	1971 to 1981	1981 to 1991	1991 to 2001	2001 to 2011
General	37.82	39.46	40.62	15.03	16.93	16.50
ST	28.21	34.29	15.99	62.94	17.23*	57.51
SC	70.59	22.42	8.40	109.00	61.80	62.11
Total	35.03	37.52	32.45	29.28	24.86	24.50

* Excluding three sub-divisions of Senapati district viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Pural.

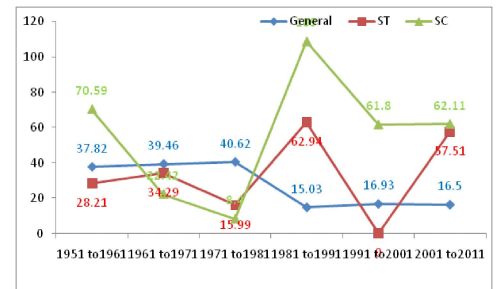


Fig-4: Showing caste-wise decadal growth rate (%)

It is worthwhile to mention that the decadal growth rate (%) of castes in the state was so fluctuate to a great extent. For instance, during 1951 to 1961, the decadal growth rate (%) of SC was the highest (70.59) which is followed by general (37.82%) and ST (28.21%) respectively. In contrast, during 1961 to 1971, the decadal growth rate (%) of general (39.46) was the highest and next to it was SC (34.29%) and lowest belonged to ST of decadal growth rate 15.99%. The growth rate of SC (8.40%) was found too low during 1971 to 1981 as against the 40.62% for general and 15.99% for ST. There were an unusual spurt and a sudden fall decadal growth rates among SC (109.00%) and general (15.03%) during 1981 to 1991; and ST also have ever highest growth rate of 62.94%. Yet again, during 1991 to 2001, highest rate pertained to SC (61.80%) and lowest to general (16.93%) and ST was in the mid (17.23%). The latest that is during the last census decade (2001 to 2011) General has the lowest decadal growth rate of 16.50% as against 57.51% for ST and 62.11% for SC respectively.

The overall seven decades, the data indicates that there were fluctuated growth pattern of population amongst three caste systems thereby the General caste slowing increased from 1951 up to 1981 thereafter sudden dropped during 1981 to 1991 and maintain steadily around a little above 16% during the last two decades. The sudden dropped for General and spurt in SC during 1981 to 1991 might be the conversion of some sections of General caste (Kakching) to SC during the decade. In the case of ST, steadily increasing growth trend was noticed during the seven decades except during 1971 to 1981 and 1991 to 2001. The real cause might be difficult to point out this absurd pattern but for the latter decade it might be the exclusion of population of three sub-divisions of Senapati district viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Pural. As mentioned elsewhere growth spurt in SC during 1981 to 1991 might be the conversion of some sections of General caste (Kakching) to SC during the decade which might have led to the identification by the knowledge of the author.

Form this interpretative analysis, it is confirmed that at present decadal growth rate (%) of SC and ST are must faster than that of General Caste. This is not a good sign as there must be an equilibrium pattern of growth rate among the castes in the state as it certainly affect and continue to affect to the harmony and tranquillity of the pluralistic social structure of the state. Indeed it is one of the demographic aftermaths.

IV. Differential religion figure and its growth:

According to Census of India: 2011, there were 15 religions/sects/beliefs/persuasions in Manipur under Specific Religious Community. They were Baishnav/Vaishnav, Buddhist, Catholic, Christian, Ghasidas/Satnam/Satnami, Hindu, Islam/Muslim, Jain, Kabir Panthi, Lingayat/Veer Shaiva, Meitei, Protestant, Sanatan Dharma, Shakti, and Sikh. Besides, in the same census year, there were 35 such religions/sects/beliefs/persuasions under 'Other religions and persuasions' in Manipur. They were Animist, Apo Rangang, Bahai/Bahais, Chang Naga, Chimpai, Dongi, Doni Polo/Sidonyi Polo, Haokip, Heraka, Jews/Judaism, Kaman/Miju Mishmi/Kaman Mishmi/Miju, Karbi/Mikir, Khadia/Kharia, Khasi, Kheduala, Mangarboro, Maring, Miri/Mishing, Mizo, Muria, Naga, Non-Christians, Pagan, Parsi/Zoroastrian, Rang, Rangang, Romgei, Rongrang/Tangsa Rongrang, Sanamahi, Songarek, Tadv, Tangsa Tikhak/Tikhak, Traditional Religion, Tribal Religion and Yumasam.

Out of the 28,55,794 people in Manipur (Census 2011) there were 11,81,876 (41.39%) Hindus, 2,39,836 (8.40%) Muslims, 1,17,904 (4.12%) Christians, 1,52,705 (0.5%) Sikhs, 70,842 (2.5%) Buddhists, 1,69,206 (0.6%) Jains, 2,33,767 (8.19%) Other religions and 1,09,699 (3.8%) Religion not stated. In 1951, the respected percentages were 60.13, 6.44, 11.84, .01, .01, .03, 21.55 and no report for Religion not stated. Now in 2011, Hindu and Christian had the highest religion composition in the state with a same percentage of around 41% each which was followed by Muslim and Other Religions & Persuasions with around 8% each; and remaining religions viz., Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Religion not stated had less than 1% each population composition in the state. Out of the six Indian major religion groups and others two groups 6 Other religions and persuasions, and Religion not stated - only two religious communities viz., Hindu and Christian occupied more than 80% while the remaining less than 20% occupied by the others minorities communities out of which Muslim shared around 8%.

To be continued

Nine Killed as SUV Rams Into Luxury Bus in Navsari in Gujarat

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai: Dec 31:

Nine persons were killed and 29 others were injured when the bus going towards Valsad, collided with the SUV coming from the opposite direction, near Vesma village in Navsari on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway in the wee hours of Saturday.

Of the nine persons travelling in the SUV (Toyota Fortuner), eight died on the spot along with the driver of the luxury bus. The driver of the bus reportedly suffered a heart attack and lost control

of the vehicle.

The accident occurred at about 3.30 am, the Navsari Superintendent of Police (SP) Rushikesh Upadhyay told the Imphal Times. It took place near Naaz Hotel. All the deceased were male. While the inquest of the deceased is in progress, those injured have been admitted to a local hospital and they are stable, Upadhyay added.

Those travelling in the SUV were residents of Ankleshwar in Bharuch district (in Gujarat) and they were on their way back to their hometown from Valsad,

Upadhyay said, adding that the passengers of the bus hailed from Valsad. Navsari is located about 251 km from Mumbai.

Expressing grief over the deaths, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs.2 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased.

"Pained by the loss of lives due to a road accident in Navsari. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. I hope the injured recover soon. An ex-gratia of Rs.2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) would be given to the next of kin of each

deceased. Those injured would be given Rs. 50,000," the Prime Minister's Office said.

Union home minister Amit Shah expressed condolences to the family members of those who lost their lives in the accidents. "The road accident in Gujarat's Navsari is heart-breaking. My condolences to those who have lost their families in this tragedy. May god give them the strength to bear the pain. The local administration is giving immediate treatment to the injured, praying for their speedy recovery," Shah said in a tweet in Gujarati.

India logs 226 fresh Covid infections; active cases rise to 3,653

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 31:

India reported 226 new coronavirus infections, raising the tally to 4.46 crore, while the active cases increased to 3,653, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The death toll stands at 5,30,702 with three fatalities reconciled by Kerala, data updated at 8 am by the ministry stated.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.12 per cent

while the weekly positivity rate was pegged at 0.15 per cent, the ministry said.

It said 1,87,983 tests for detection of Covid were conducted in the last 24 hours

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

An increase of 44 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 case count in a

span of 24 hours.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease surged to 4,41,44,029, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent, the ministry said.

So far, a total of 4,46,78,384 cases have been recorded in the country.

According to the ministry, 220.10 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 inoculation drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19, 2020. The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore cases on May 4, 2021, three crore cases on June 23 and four crore cases on January 25 this year.

MoU signed for commercial production of indigenously developed vaccine "Lumpi-ProVac"

PIB
New Delhi, Dec 31:

An MoU for production of Goat Pox vaccine and "Lumpi-ProVac" vaccine was signed in Nagpur on 29th December, 2022 in the presence of Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the Chief Minister and Deputy CM

of Maharashtra. Shri Rupala praised the commendable effort put forth by ICAR in developing indigenous vaccine Lumpi-ProVac for LSD. He further said that this MoU will also ensure large-scale production of Goat Pox vaccine for future needs of India's livestock sector. At present Goat Pox vaccine is used for controlling Lumpy Skin Disease in

animals and this has been proven effective against Lumpy.

He further highlighted the relevance of the technology and requested the IVBP, Pune to start manufacturing the vaccine at large scale without any delay so as to make the vaccine available for the use by the department for the help of the farmers by overcoming the

disease.

National Centre for Veterinary Type Culture, ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRCE), Hissar (Haryana), in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar (UP) developed a homologous live-attenuated LSD vaccine, named Lumpi-ProVacInd.

Living with floods in Dhemaji District, Assam



By: Joyshree Usham
Dhemaji, Dec 31:

Imagine living with floods for six months in a year! This is a reality for the people of Dhemaji District in Upper Assam. Floods have become a part and parcel of their lives for decades now. They have no option but to adapt to living with floods which they can't escape owing to the geographical location of the district. As many as 26 tributaries, all originating from Arunachal Pradesh, run through the district. Some of them are Jadhah, Gainodi, Dikhari, Dihang, Dimow, Simen and Subansiri, which is the biggest tributary. These rivers overflow during rainy seasons and inundate 60 to 70 per cent of the total areas of Dhemaji district every year.

The Director of Rural Volunteer Centre, an organisation aimed at building community resilience in the flood-prone area of Dhemaji, Luit Goswami, said the district started witnessing major floods in the 1980s and it has become worse since then owing to global climate change. As many as three flood waves hit Dhemaji District in 2022, affecting over 100,000 people, including 30,000 children. I got an opportunity to visit two of the most affected villages in the district as a delegate for South Asian Women in Media (SAWM) on a recent trip under

the UNICEF Assam-supported risk-Adapted Program. It was heart wrenching to listen to their woes brought on by the forces of nature. The first village we visited was Medhipamua, which is inhabited mostly by the people of the Mising Tribe, and the second village was Junai. I met the villagers in the dry season when they were in lighter hearts. Their hospitality was vivid when they received us with their beautiful hand-crafted colourful traditional stoles.

Seasonal displacement is observed among the villagers, as most male members move to cities to earn income while the female members stay behind. "I miss my son and want him to stay here with me but I can't do that because there is nothing here", says a mother. Villagers said water and sanitation are the two major issues facing them in times of floods. In order to prevent water from entering their homes, villagers have constructed raised houses on high foundations. They have also constructed higher platforms to house relief camps for them to stay in during floods. Each year, relief camps spring up to accommodate a large number of families for extended periods of time until the water recedes. Despite the challenges, they have thrived; these villagers have built resilience over the years and adapted to the situation at

Hand, says Goswami.

Local Panchayats, PHED, RVC and UNICEF have converged to help these villagers adapt to their environment. Based on the traditional ingenuity of building houses on high foundations, villagers have built higher platforms to house relief camps, raised water hand-pumps to provide safe water and raised toilets to ensure sanitation in times of floods. Goswami says they have built 51 such converged structures in 3 years.

As most of these villages have almost transformed into virtual deserts due to siltation from floods, paddy cultivation has become challenging. Villagers are now turning towards cultivation of rabi and cash crops like mustard, potato, green peas, garlic, and french beans, which are less time-consuming and economically more viable. Avilager said the Bogibeel bridge, connecting Dhemaji and Dibrugarh, has brought in traders from Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Nagaland to collect their produce.

We can't change the course of nature. Coming up with new ideas and finding ways to mitigate situations at hand is the best we can do. Convergence of the locals, organizations and authorities and most of all the resilience of these inhabitants are definitely something we can promote.

Sports

Cristiano Ronaldo joins Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr, pens contract worth over 200 million euros

Agency
Riyadh, Dec 31:

Ending weeks of speculation about his club future, Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo signed for Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr on a two-and-a-half-year deal, which will reportedly make him the highest-paid player in the world. Ronaldo heads to play in Asia, ending the years of dominance in Europe.

Ronaldo's contract with his former club Manchester United was ended mutually after the Portugal star took jibes at the club, its owners and manager Erik ten Hag in an explosive television interview in November. Ronaldo was without a club contract at the FIFA World Cup where speculation about his club future coincided with dip in form.

Al Nassr, who play in the top-flight Saudi league, confirmed Ronaldo's signing in a statement on Saturday and said the 37-year-old penned a 2 and half year contract that would keep him with the side until the summer of 2025.

While Al Nassr did not dis-



close the financial deal, news agency Reuters said that reports suggested Ronaldo's contract is worth "over 200 million euros (USD 214.04 million)".

Ronaldo's joining will only bolster the Saudi Arabian club, which is looking to add to its nine Saudi Pro League titles. Al Nassr, who last won the league title in 2019, will also be hoping to win the AFC Champions League for the first time.

Ronaldo Heads To Asia

Speaking about his decision to sign for Al Nassr, Ronaldo said it was the right time to move to Asia. The senior campaigner, considered one of the best in the world, is heading to Asia for potentially his swansong.

Ronaldo hinted he would continue playing for Portugal despite the early exit at the World Cup in Qatar. Ronaldo, 37, is unlikely to stay on and play international football until

the next World Cup in 2026. Notably, Ronaldo was benched for Portugal's knockout matches by Fernando Santos, who quit after their quarter-final exit.

"I am fortunate that I have won everything I set out to win in European football and feel now that this is the right moment to share my experience in Asia," Ronaldo said, as quoted by Al Nassr.

"I am looking forward to joining my new teammates and together with them help the Club to achieve success."

As highlighted by Ronaldo, the Portugal star has won most of the major honours that is there to be won in European football.

Ronaldo won 3 Premier League titles with Manchester United and the Champions League along with FA Cup, two League Cups during his first stint with the Old Trafford side. Ronaldo rejoined Manchester United amid much fanfare and expectations in 2021. However, his relationship with Erik Ten Hag soured and an exit looked inevitable.

Premier League: Liverpool win by 2-1 as Leicester gift two own goals



Agency
Anfield, Dec 31:

Two calamitous own goals from Leicester City defender Wout Faes allowed Liverpool to come from behind and win 2-1 in their Premier League clash at Anfield on Friday.

The Belgian centre back miscued a clearance in the 38th minute to hand Liverpool the equaliser, after Leicester took a surprise fourth minute lead through Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall, and then put the ball into his net again on the stroke of half-time.

Liverpool, who stay in sixth spot but have moved within a point of fifth-placed Manchester United, albeit having played a game more, will consider themselves lucky after a stuttering performance with both clubs guilty of missing good chances.

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Leicester remain in 13th, four points above the relegation zone, after they lost a 10th league game of the season.