

175 candidates are in the fray for the first phase Manipur legislative assembly election, 15 are women candidate

IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

All is now set for the 1st phase of 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election scheduled on February 27. As per information from the CEO Manipur, a total of 176 candidate filed nomination to contest in the upcoming election which will be conducted in 38 Assembly constituencies. However, during scrutiny held yesterday 15 are women. Among these 15 are women.

As for the 2nd phase election scheduled in March 3, the last date for filing nomination is February 11. As per information from the CEO Manipur a total of 30 candidates have filed nominations for the 2nd phase election so far.

The one rejected for candidature had filed nomination for contesting from Saikot

Assembly Constituency.

Symbol allotment and list of contesting candidates will be prepared immediately after the last date of withdrawal and will be notified by ROs, an official statement of the CEO said.

The CEO reiterated that the Candidates having criminal antecedents shall also publish declaration in Format C-1 and report compliance to RO immediately in three occasions- (from the last date of withdrawal of candidature till 2 days before poll)- in local newspaper, TV channel as specified by CEO. Political parties shall also publish in Format C-4 and report compliance to CEO in three occasions- in local newspaper, TV channel as specified by CEO. Candidates shall also file Revised Abstract Statement of Election Expenses and the same has been circulated to all ROs and all political parties.

The CEO further stated that the COVID cases in the

State are fast receding and has decided to revise the guidelines as follows: Outdoor physical meeting, now is allowed upto 50% of the capacity of the Indoor Hall and 30% of the open ground or as fixed by DEOs as per requirement of social distancing norms, whichever is less. The upper ceiling is now being removed and the same was notified by the SDMA in order dated 6th February 2022. Open ground rallies can be only held on the grounds specifically designated by the district authorities and subject to compliance of all conditions of SDMA. Capacities of such ground will be fixed by District Authorities well in advance and will be notified, and also will nominate a Nodal Officer to oversee the arrangements of the organiser. Organisers of such Political meetings will be responsible for any breach of Covid related protocols and guidelines. Door to door campaign

allowed upto 20 persons excluding security personnel. Permission for meeting, door to door campaigning to be obtained from District Election Officers in advance. Ban on road shows, Pad-yatras, cycle/ bike/vehicle rallies and procession to continue.

Each political party/candidate shall furnish an undertaking in the application form (under Suvridha) that it shall abide by all the extant instructions/guidelines in this regard. Between 8 pm and 8 am, no rallies and public meetings (akin to campaign curfew) shall be allowed on any campaign day. Political parties to furnish Star Campaigners list (no. restricted to 30 for recognised parties and 20 for registered unrecognised political parties). Request for permission for campaign by star campaigners may be given at least 48 hours before the start of campaign to make all necessary safety arrangements.

CEO Manipur has taken up initiative to ensure free and fair poll, set up 529 all women Polling booths



IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

As directed by the ECI team which had visited the state on February 7 and 8, the CEO Manipur has taken up all initiative to open 529 polling booth to be run by all women brigade.

The decision was made to make sure that maximum voters turn out for casting their vote after being reviewed the poll preparedness with Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Chief Electoral Officer, State Police Nodal Officer, DG Assam Rifles, recognized National/State political parties, District Election Officers, Superintendents of Police and Enforcement Agencies. Overall, the Commission was satisfied with the preparedness in the state.

The Commission expressed satisfaction with Manipur on initiatives like taking up 529 All Women Polling Stations, initiatives on the front of reaching out to centenarian voters and transgender voters, Mission 300 with the objective to improve the voter turnout in the 300 Low Voter turnout Polling booths of the state.

A SVEEP Exhibition was conducted wherein few first-time voters, 80+ voters and Students who have won Ballot quiz were felicitated. Photo exhibition of all SVEEP activities of 11 Electoral Districts were displayed.

The following are the All Women Polling station proposed, district wise:

Imphal East (130), Churachandpur (110), Thoubal (71), Imphal West (53) Bishnupur (50), Ukhrul (45), Tamenglong (33), Chandel (20), Kangpokpi (9), Jiribam (5), Senapati (3), all will have Women Polling personnel. Further 115 Model Polling Stations will also be established.

The Commission also met with delegation from All Manipur Christian Organization, and has heard their grievances, and have assured that their concerns will be discussed and a decision will be communicated at the earliest.

The Commission has reiterated that it has zero tolerance towards abuse of money power or government machinery. The Commission has assured the political party representatives that level playing field will be ensured for all parties so that the electoral process is not vitiated.

The Commission, after the review has directed the Chief Secretary, Manipur to shift the State Commissioner of Taxes, and Commissioner (Excise) and provide panel of Officers to be posted as Commissioner of Taxes and Excise. On production of panel list, Commission has conveyed approval of appointment of Mr. Devesh Deval IAS, as Commissioner (Taxes) and Mr. P.K. Jha, IAS as Commissioner (Excise).

Postal Ballots: So far 903 valid requests received for PwD voters, 5243 for 80+ Voters and 15 for Essential Service voters (Total of 6161). The last date of opting

for Postal Ballot for first phase was 06.02.2022 and for second phase was on 09.02.2022. Polling teams have been formed and voters are being informed of the Postal Ballot voting date. Micro Observers will oversee polling teams and videography will be done, maintaining the secrecy of voting.

ETPBs will be dispatched by concerned ROs electronically to 13274 Service voters in first phase and 8667 voters in second phase, within 24 hours from the date of withdrawal.

Airlifting Plan: Airlifting plan in place for the following no. of Polling Stations. In case of any emergency, the Presiding Officers along with EVM/VVPAT machines will be airlifted from such identified Polling Stations. Further an Air ambulance will be deployed to airlift any person, in case of emergency/casualties.

Law & Order/Seizure (Till 09.02.2022)

Since the day of Announcement of election, all Enforcement Agencies have been monitoring movement of cash, liquor, precious metals and other valued items. So far, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has seized 15826.58 grams of gold worth Rs. 7.71 crore. DRI has also seized 15,86,800 cigarette sticks on 06.02.2022 worth Rs. 3.1736 crore. A joint operation conducted by DRI, Customs and State Police also made a seizure of 19,90,000 cigarette sticks on 06.02.2022 worth Rs. 3.38 crore also.

contd. on page 4

Expenditure observers Brief Bank Representatives on Suspicious Transactions in Bishnupur

IT News
Bishnupur, Feb 10:

Election Expenditure Observers for Bishnupur district Akta Jain, IRS and Shri Mahesh G. Jiwade, IRS convened a meeting with Managers of all Bank branches in the district today at the Conference Hall of DC Complex in Bishnupur. The meeting was held to review suspicious cash transactions during election process in the district.

During the meeting, Expenditure Observers instructed

bank representatives to report all suspicious cash withdrawal or deposit exceeding 10 lakhs during election process to the Election Expenditure Monitoring cell for necessary action. The Nodal Officer for Income Tax will send a notice to the account holder for such transactions, the Observers informed.

Expenditure Observers continued that unusual transfer of amount by RTGS from one bank account to accounts of several persons in the district without any precedent of

such transfer must also be reported to the expenditure team. Further, transactions above 1 lakh from bank accounts of candidates or candidates' family members without such transaction history must also be reported, the observers added.

The Expenditure Observers also proposed creation of a dedicated whatsapp group for bankers, EEM teams, DEO, Nodal Officer EEM, ROs and Asst. Election Observers to share and coordinate on suspicious cash transaction cases.

Mention may be made that election expenditure ceiling for candidates for the ensuing Manipur Legislative Assembly Election have been revised to 28 Lakhs.

The review meeting was attended by DEO Bishnupur L. Bikram, ADC Bishnupur, ROs, District Nodal Officer EEM, Assistant Expenditure Observers and bank representatives from SBI, UCO, Manipur Rural Bank, Manipur State Cooperative Bank, Central Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC and Punjab National Bank.

Guv' wishes people 54th Martyrs' Day

IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan has extended his tributes on the 54th Martyrs' Day of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Governor's tributes to the great ideologue Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya, on his death anniversary is a mark of respect to the great soul and the belief that our Nation is being run on strong principles that were advocated by Pandit ji throughout his life. Pandit ji never worked to gain popularity or to be elected as an MP or MLA but worked entirely for the welfare of the Nation and lived his life in simplicity.

Born on September 15, 1916 in Uttar Pradesh, Deendayal Upadhyaya believed in self-reliant economy with the village as the base welcoming modern technology adapting to suit Indian requirement. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was one of the most distinguished Nationalist Political thinkers of modern India.

Jiri police seizes huge quantity of liquors



IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

A team of Jiribam Police seized 7 nos. of case Kingfisher cane Beer 500 ml (168 Cans), 05 nos of case IMFC MC Dowel No.1 whisky (375 ml) 125 bottle and 5 numbers of Case IMFL MC Dwell No1

whiskey (750 ml) 60 bottle while checking at the gate of FCP Jiribam from a Tata truck bearing Regn No. MN05C-0535 which was coming from Silchar towards Jiribam along NH-37 at around 8.50 pm.

Police source said that the owner of the said vehicle has been identified as Lungaiganpou

Luke (26) S/o Pugina Rongmei of Thanagong Khoupum, Tamenglong District, Manipur. He was also arrested by the police team at 8:50 pm. The approximate value of the seized liquor is Rs. 50,000/-.

The arrested person along with the seized liquors has been handed over to OC Jiribam.

MPA celebrates 35th Rising Day

IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

Armed wing of the UNLF, the Manipur People's Army observed its 35th raising day at its general headquarters, CHQs, battalions and units situated in Manipur and outside yesterday.

In a statement, Th Charairongba, media coordinator, DOP of the outfit stated that the MPA was formed on February 9, 1987 to protect the land and resources of Manipur and to liberate the erstwhile kingdom from "colonial India".

The main observance was held at its general headquarters with chairman Kh Pambei; sec-

retary of defence, Ng Pamheiba; general secretary, Ch Thanil; secretary of health & family welfare, I Tonsana; secretary of organization, S Nongdol; secretary of external & regional affairs, Th Sidabamapui; secretary of finance, S Pankhei; assistant secretary, external & regional Affairs Col Y Sanou; MPA's GSO-I, GSO-II, commanding officers, officers, NCOs, privates, directors, assistant secretaries and staff of party's departments, it said.

MPA also observed its raising day at its 291 and 293 battalions and headquarters of its external affairs LAKSA (Base Area-2), CHQs, different districts of the State and cer-

tain places outside the State.

The main function was held at its general headquarters in the intervening night of February 8 and 9 by lighting candles and offering gun salutes to all the cadres who gave their lives to regain the lost independence of Manipur.

A 2 minute silence was also observed while the party chairman hoisted the MPA's flag.

Later, papers of the COAS, chairman and MAC were read out.

The statement thanked the media, people who attended the raising day and those who extended moral and financial support.

Animals & birds make this planet beautiful, love them

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



All living beings are created by the superpower of this Universe, often called God. All living beings need love, care and mercy. All animals deserve kindness, no matter what they look

like. Life is always better and happier with kindness and love. Have a feeling of love and kindness in your heart, then you will automatically understand how to make the animals and birds around you feel better, happier. Keep water filled pots outside your house for homeless dogs and birds. Offer food to hungry dogs and other animals, including cows. Boycott recreational or tourism activities that involve the exploitation of animals in any form. Horses, camels, yaks and elephants are often used for recreation of the tourists. Discourage this trend. These animals usually suffer a lot and nobody cares for them. Whenever you see animal abuse, raise your voice, protest, make a video, upload it on social media and report the crime to the police. Speak up on social media against animal atrocities. Post educational content that creates awareness among the people. You can bring toys for your pet dog. Take them for a walk. Talk to animals, caress them with love, hug them and pat them. If you don't have a pet, you can treat the neighbor's pet with love. Remember, if animals are happy, only then people will be happy.

Gain information about animals through books, documentaries or the Internet. Carry a medical kit in your vehicle to help any injured bird or animal on the way. Eat vegetarian food. Do not buy clothing, cosmetics or articles that have been subjected to animal cruelty or testing. Write an email or letter to the local, MLA, MP, Ministers, authorities or newspapers about animal welfare. Plant flowering plants in your house to give a proper environment to the animals, birds and bees. Take part in an animal rights movement. Participate in beach, park, or lake cleanup to help animals. Adopt a needy dog or pet, take care of him/her. To care for the forest, flora and fauna one needs to inculcate love for animals from childhood. Children can be involved in natural activities to sensitize them to birds, butterflies and animals. At present, animal protection schemes are designed only for large and charismatic animals, such as elephants, tigers, lions and zebras, etc., which is a biased approach. In this, the concern of small and simple creatures is not included. Experiments can also be done from biological cells for pharmaceutical or pathological experiments instead of living animals.

A person who does cruelty to animals can also be fatal to humans. One needs to be careful of such people. Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama says that "killing animals for sport, for pleasure, for adventure, and for skin or fur is a disgusting and disturbing act. There is no point in engaging in such acts of cruelty." Hollywood actor Richard Gere says that "As protectors of the earth, it is our responsibility to treat all species with kindness, love and compassion. Cruelty to these animals is beyond comprehension. Help stop this madness." One should participate in activities promoting love, care and protection of animals, to increase awareness about animal rights.

Swami Vivekananda And The Inclusiveness That India Stood For

India has been a land of seekers for generations. Seeking was regarded as the highest pursuit of life. The pursuit of ultimate knowledge was the mission of most of the people. From a peasant to the priest to the prince, everybody had, in a certain way, directed their life in pursuit of knowledge. Interestingly, Indians were ready to make sacrifices to any extent to strengthen their inner being to pursue the real knowledge. Life of saints and sages are examples of such pursuits and what they left for the rest of the world is the proof of evidence for the sacrifice that they made to realize the ultimate truth which indeed is beyond the comprehension of the common precincts of religions. Semitic religions across the globe have always been placing one coat which they thought must fit Jack and John. If it did not fit Henry and Harry, they should go on without a coat or try to trim-size them to the coat those religions had to offer. History is full of proofs of such manipulative exercises. Indian spiritual thought was much open in this regard and placed it to the world with as much varieties as possible. Now it was for the seeker to choose the one which he thought was suitable for him and move towards the higher dimensions of realization. Offering single coat to the mass was the essential religious activity sustained by the western religions. India has often been criticized for its being polytheistic; essentially the critics probably fully unaware of its underlining monotheistic principles leading the seeker to the ultimate reality with clarity. A religion that survived for eons with adequate changes being incorporated in its system, has never been acrimonious with anything that challenged



By: M.R. Lal

its pluralistic ways and practices of existence. Nobody can put it more beautifully than Swami Vivekananda. He says, "The Hindus have their faults, they sometimes have their exceptions; but mark this, they are always for punishing their own bodies, and never for cutting the throats of their neighbours."

The wisdom that a religion with plurality can offer is amazingly exemplary. This is because a certain level of inclusive spiritual mechanism is naturally in place when spiritual diversity seeks the ultimate in variety of forms and fashions. Diverse and essentially plural and practically viable systems seeking spiritual liberation, frequently hold the capacity to help human to progress into his higher realms in multiple ways; amicably helping him to hold on to the differences which are external without being prejudiced and biased. Swami Vivekananda defines such a religion as a religion which will have no place for persecution or

intolerance in its polity, which will recognise divinity in every man and woman, and whose whole scope, whose whole force, will be created in aiding humanity to realise its own true, divine nature. Basically, this is where various religions narrowly mindedness handling or fail to handle the essential humanness strengthened by the essence of the spirit of oneness which is essentially termed as the spirit of unity. Intolerance among religions which are indisputably exclusive in terms of religious coexistence is a reality. What matters to most of them is to revive, retrieve and justify the culpable intention of sinister intrusion into the other's affairs and proclaim that what they stood for throughout their history was with divine purpose and what they would do in future would also be the same.

Swami Vivekananda explains this with clarity with an example. In his speech 'Buddhism, the fulfilment of Hinduism' he says, "The relation between Hinduism

and what is called Buddhism at the present day is nearly the same as between Judaism and Christianity. Jesus Christ was a Jew, and Buddha was a Hindu. The Jews rejected Jesus Christ and crucified him, and the Hindus have accepted Buddha as God and worship him." This narrative is evident enough to depict the essence of inclusiveness that the ancient spiritual wisdom of India stood for. Indeed, it is true that whichever religious faith hit the shore of India was welcomed with open hands and they had enough space in India to flourish peacefully, amicably and unperturbed. Indeed, this is the basis of the spiritual thought that India has to offer to the world, inclusiveness without being prejudiced and skeptical. When it comes to the exclusive ideals of various religions, Swami Vivekananda is warning them with the sternest of his words. He tells, "If anybody dreams of the exclusive survival of his own religion and the destruction of the others, I pity him from the bottom of my heart, and point out to him that upon the banner of every religion will soon be written, in spite of resistance: "Help and not Fight," Assimilation and not Destruction," "Harmony and Peace and not Dissension." A world, which is increasingly intolerant towards cultural varieties is heading towards a dangerous turn with a culpable silence, shrinking itself into the wells of spiritual apathy indiscriminantly. Swami Vivekananda's messages stand out invoking the world to come together to appreciate the essence of unity that India stood for ages and the only solution that humanity can rely on for peaceful coexistence.

(The writer is a Freelance journalist/Social Worker)



Need to improvement in Examination

Scores obtained in the examination of school education in India open the way to higher education. Not only this, this race of marks, ignoring the inequalities in the education system, makes the chances of good schoolers getting a good college acceptable. Every year several lakh students pass the 12th examination, but why are the majority of the students who are ranked in the list of prestigious colleges-universities of the country with hundred percent and ninety nine percent marks belong to the Central Board of Secondary Education?

Does the examination system have any role in this or should the meritorious students be given the credit for this achievement? Is it not necessary to have uniformity in the evaluation methodology of the state level boards of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal etc. and the Central Board of Secondary Education in the country? The results of all the examination boards of the country also come at different times and the students of the states whose examination results come late are deprived of admission

in the prestigious universities and colleges of the country.

Is there really a need for examination boards in the country? Can't it be that the school itself should be authorized to conduct examination in classes X-XII? When the school gives education to its students, can't it conduct the examination? In the administrative system which conducts the examination of the board, the question papers are prepared by the teachers only, the teachers who give the duty and evaluate in the examination hall are also mainly teachers. Exams are also held at some school or the other. In such a situation, if schools are given the autonomy to conduct board exams, then will it not be a better option?

Typically, student evaluations reveal what the students have learned. Do teachers and administrators learn anything from these test results? Should the failure of the students be considered as their personal failure, the weakness of the teacher's method of teaching or should the examination and education system also be blamed for this? In Japan, if a student is unable to learn a concept in a class, it is the responsibility of the entire class, including the class teacher, to teach that student. But in his own country the student accepts his failure as his destiny.

The role of elements like availability of resources, curriculum, examination in student learning and socio-educational inequality prevailing at different levels should be constantly debated. It seems that

different types of schools and different boards for examination also represent different socio-economic sections of the society. The students of state boards, majority stay in their respective state universities and colleges. His merit does not excite him to reach Delhi University.

If schools are given autonomy to conduct examinations, a provision for national or regional level entrance examinations may be made for university level admissions, as is the case for medical and engineering colleges. In this way frills like Kumbh Mela for board exams can be avoided and the pressure of board exam on students will also be reduced.

Students will be assessed through a seamless process in a local environment. Evaluation at the school level will also provide the school and the teacher with the necessary 'feedback' and experience to make necessary improvements in their teaching system.

There should definitely be experiments to change the examination method. The demand for changes in the Indian school education system regarding examinations is very old. The committee headed by Professor Yashpal had also talked about changing the examination method to 'education without burden'. The National Education Policy-2020 also recommends to change the present form of board examination. The Right to Education Act-2009 had a provision for continuous education evalua-

tion. This would allow teachers to regularly know which student in their class had difficulty learning which concepts and could help that student in a timely manner. But due to protests from a section of teachers, Continuous Learning Evaluation was dropped from the Right to Education Act. Three decades ago, an experimental 'open book examination' was conducted in class IX. In this, the questions were made in such a way, for which even if the book was passed, it was not easy to answer by looking at it. But this experiment did not progress.

Last year, the Central Board of Secondary Education had talked about reducing the first thirty percent syllabus for the examination due to the closure of schools due to Corona. But there was confusion about the examination and then the 12th board examination was not held. Marks awarded to the students of 2020-2021 session on the basis of pre-boards of class X-XI and XII.

Now the Central Board of Secondary Education is conducting an experiment in class X and XII examination for the session 2021-2022. This year provision has been made for two examinations half yearly and yearly. Both the exams will be based on one-half of the total syllabus. The exam will have 'case' based questions with multiple choice questions.

It is expected that the Central Board of Secondary Education will take an inclusive approach in conducting its question papers and exams. Because special arrangements have to be made for the students who are handicapped, who cannot see and need an assistant in the examination.

During the Corona period, there was confusion regarding the studies that in 2020, where the studies were left, it should be started from where the students have now come, that course should be taught. About eighty percent of the students have been deprived of online studies, out of which some students have to go to school and take exams. The question paper of the Central Board of Secondary Education will be made according to the syllabus. In a similar test, who had the resources for online classes and who did not are unlikely to be considered.

In this time of pandemic uncertainty, shouldn't the examination boards of other states also opt for the same type of multiple-choice exams like the Central Board of Secondary Education? There will be uniformity in the examination method among different boards, then the talent of the students will be properly assessed and everyone will get equal opportunity to progress on the basis of their marks.

In order to improve the examination, it has to be seen that what is the role of the examination board? Does this give an opportunity to move forward in life or is the only option available to justify our social status through examination? All state examination boards may adopt a common method of evaluation.

With this, the students will not feel that there is any discrimination in examination and evaluation due to their state. All the students of the country should feel that the marks obtained by him are giving him the same opportunity as the Central Board of Secondary Education in the selection of the university, there is no feeling of inequality with them.

Open Letter to CEO, Manipur

Request for directing the concern DC/SDO/SDM to kindly issue certificates notwithstanding the ensuing elections

Sir,

With due respect, I would like to draw your kind attention to your necessary action concerning the subject cited above. We noticed the grievances shared by various students community and civil service aspirants that the concerned authorities (DC/SDO/SDM) could not discharge their duties in issuing certificates like tribes and domicile certificates, which are required for job applications including UPSC exams, scholarships, admission in colleges, university etc. This has caused a lot of inconvenience to the students as well as the public.

Even though we are very much aware of the hectic schedules of the officers for ensuing general election. However, keeping in mind the seriousness of the students and job aspirants, I request your esteemed office to look into the matter and direct the concerned authorities for issuing certificates without further delay.

Yours sincerely
Thangmoi Haokip
Education Secretary
Kuki Students Organisations' General Headquarters

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

29 States covered under the Krishi Udan 2.0 Scheme including Manipur

Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 is to increase the share of air carriage of Agri-produce like horticulture, fishery, livestock and processed products

PIB
New Delhi, Feb 10:

Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was announced on 27 October 2021 enhancing the existing provisions, mainly focusing on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, North-Eastern States and tribal areas. For facilitating and incentivizing movement of agri-produce by air transportation Airports Authority of India (AAI) provides full waiver of Landing, Parking, Terminal Navigational Landing Charges (TNLC) and Route Navigation Facility Charges (RNFC) for Indian freighters and P2C (Passenger-to-Cargo) Aircrafts primarily

around 25 airports focusing on North Eastern, Hilly and Tribal region and 28 airports in other regions/areas.

Krishi Udan Scheme is a convergence scheme where eight Ministries/Departments namely Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Development of North-eastern Region (DoNER) would leverage their existing schemes to strengthen the logistics for transportation of Agri-produce. There is no

specific budget for Krishi Udan under the Scheme.

29 States are covered under the Krishi Udan 2.0 Scheme namely, Andaman & Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

All the airports in NER States including Assam are covered under the Scheme. The main objective of the

Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 is to increase the share of air carriage in the modal mix for transportation of Agri-produce, which includes horticulture, fishery, livestock and processed products.

The Scheme aims to ensure seamless, cost-effective, time-bound air transportation and associated logistics for all Agri-produce originating especially from North East (including Assam), hilly and tribal regions of the country.

This information was given by the Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today.

Assam Rifles Busts Terrorist Hideout; Recovers Huge Cache of Arms and Ammunition



IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

In a major achievement to Security Forces, Keithelmanbi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police busted a terrorist hideout in Leimaram Makha

Leikai village of Bishnupur yesterday.

Based on specific intelligence, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to recovery of large quantum of arms and ammunitions comprising of three 9mm pistols, two hand grenades, one radio set, six detonators, half

kg explosive, M-79 grenade launcher rounds and one safety fuze.

It is appreciated that the terrorist cache was to be used to disrupt the State Assembly Elections process.

The seized weapons and ammunition were handed over to Nambol Police Station for further investigation.

Assam Rifles apprehends KYKL insurgent

IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

Keithelmanbi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police apprehended two insurgents of proscribed group KYKL in Khongjom Papal, Thoubal district on February 8.

Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to the apprehensions.

The apprehended insurgents were handed over to Khongjom Police Station for further investigation.



International passengers won't need 7-day home quarantine after arrival

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 10:

The government on Thursday issued revised guidelines for international arrivals, doing away with the mandatory seven-day home quarantine for those arriving from overseas and the need for them to undertake an RT-PCR test on the eighth day. The revised guidelines will come into effect from February 14.

A sub-section (2 per cent of the total passengers on the flight) shall undergo random post-arrival testing at the airport on arrival. They will submit their samples and be allowed to leave the airport, Union Health Minister

Mansukh Mandaviya said while announcing the move on Twitter.

Instead of seven-day home quarantine as mandated earlier, all travellers will self-monitor their health for 14 days after their arrival, he said.

According to the minister, besides uploading a negative RT-PCR report (taken 72 hours prior to the journey), there would also be an option to upload certificates of the completion of full primary Covid vaccination schedule provided from countries on a reciprocal basis.

The ministry provided a list of 82 such countries. These include the US, US, New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia,

lia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Bangladesh, Iran, Nepal, Mexico and the Netherlands.

"Need for undertaking RT-PCR test on 8th day & uploading the same on Air Suvidha portal is dispensed with," Mandaviya tweeted.

Passengers found to be symptomatic during screening after arrival shall be immediately isolated and taken to a medical facility in accordance with health protocol. If tested positive, their contacts shall be identified and managed as per laid down protocol.

If such travellers test positive, their samples should be further sent for genomic testing at INSACOG laboratory

network and they will be treated/isolated in accordance with standard protocol, the guidelines state.

International travellers arriving through seaports/land ports will also have to undergo the same protocol as above, except that the facility for online registration is not available for such passengers currently.

Children under five years of age are exempted from both pre- and post-arrival testing. However, if found symptomatic for COVID-19 on arrival or during the period of self-monitoring period, they shall undergo testing and treated as per laid down protocol, the guidelines state.

The Educational Institutions are Not Places to Profess any Particular Religion in Karnataka

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 10:

The decision to bar the Muslim girl students wearing hijab, a head covering, from the campus in certain schools and colleges in Karnataka, has snowballed into a controversy with mixed reactions coming in.

The Karnataka Government recently banned the hijab in junior colleges and asked girl students to adhere to the dress code which they had agreed while seeking admissions.

The order of the education department (pre-university) invoking Section 133 (2) of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, stated that students will have to wear the dress chosen by the college development committee or the appellate committee of the administrative board of pre-university colleges which come under the pre-university education department.

However, after the order was issued, there have been anti and pro-ban protests and the police have imposed Section 144 of the CrPc in certain parts. The prohibitory measures ban gathering or protest of any type within the area of 200 metre radius from the educational institutions. Yet the protests went on. Those sup-

porting the ban were sporting saffron scarves. Some students also tried to furl the saffron flag at one of the campuses. As such 15 persons were arrested by Karnataka police on Wednesday on charges of breaching peace and harmony, mainly in Shivamogga and Bagalkot districts.

Some of the students also filed a petition in court. In response, Karnataka Chief minister Basavaraj S Bommai announced the closure of all schools and colleges in the state for the next three days given the escalating protest, on Tuesday.

While hearing the petition (Resham v State of Karnataka and Ors), Justice Krishna S Dixit opined that it was necessary to refer the matter to a larger bench. Accordingly, the matter will be heard by a full bench comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justices Krishna S Dixit and JM Khazim Thursday.

In its statement of objections, the Karnataka Government took a stand that it was not in favour of any particular student or group, nor was it interested in interfering with religious beliefs. However, the government's only concern remained maintenance of uni-



formity, which it claimed was indispensable to an educational institution. Besides educational institutions are not places to profess any particular religion.

Mumbai
In Mumbai, Maharashtra Minister Aadiya Thackeray when contacted opined that "Where there is a prescribed uniform in schools/colleges, it should be followed. Only education should be the focus at the centres of education. Religious or political issues should not be brought to schools/colleges".

However, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MP Intiyaz Jaleel

from Aurangabad, said that going by the Constitution there should be freedom to wear the dress as per the choice. He also appealed to non-Muslim sisters to come together and wear hijab in support of the Muslim students. The beauty of India is its unity in diversity, he added.

Similarly, some Muslim girls in Mumbai protested the ban on hijab saying that it provides them more security and one should not interfere with religion. If need be they are prepared to give up education and even jobs, they claimed.

A signature campaign in support of the hijab was carried out in Madanpura in South

Mumbai and Bhiwandi near Mumbai, amid the ongoing controversy over wearing hijab in colleges of Karnataka.

The "Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan", Mumbai, in a statement said that "Denying entry to Muslims students in hijab violates their fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution, hence this discrimination must stop. Singling out hijab for criticism is unfair and discriminatory and we want this discrimination against Muslim girls in hijab to stop. The Constitution grants the Right to Religious Freedom as well as the Right to Education, and the girls cannot be denied the education because they

choose to wear hijab. While the college authorities are free to decide their own rules, they cannot violate fundamental rights. The parents would not permit the girls to go to college without hijab and the authorities would deny them entry because of hijab. In either case, girls' education is bound to suffer".

Karnataka
However, different situation prevailed in Karnataka colleges. Speaking to the **Imphal Times**, Prof Shailendra Raikar of Kanakadas Shikshana Samiti's Arts, Commerce & Science College, located in Gadag in North Karnataka, said that in his college a separate room for girl students has been provided. The students change their dress and attend classes with other students. There is no demand for wearing hijab and as such the issue doesn't arise. However our college has been closed for three days for students given the Government order, he added.

Vinay Kolvekar a trader from Davanagere said that although there have been incidents of stone-pelting and consequent lathi-charge and bursting of tear gas shells in Udipi, Shivamogga, Bagalkote, and other parts by police, the situation was calm and the people were not bothered about the

hijab and such things. BJP MP from North Karnataka and former Karnataka Chief Minister and twice the union minister in the Modi cabinet, D V Sadananda Gowda told the **Imphal Times** that there is nothing like "Hindu-Muslim divide" because Bharat is one. (India is one) But people should follow the rules. Now this matter is sub-judice".

Ashish, a seasoned media professional who has handled many campaigns of the Karnataka Government said that "the disputes between different communities in different pockets of Karnataka are going on for the ages. The Muslim dominance enters Karnataka from Kasargod in neighbouring Karnataka. It traverses via Mangalore, Manipal, and Udipi and penetrate other areas of Karnataka. There are land disputes and in the process small shrines are demolished. So much so that even churches are covered with the strings of green light bulbs, along with mosques, during Eid. Besides a fight for separate "Tulunadu" (a separate state for Tulu-speaking people) is already on. Besides, there is a dispute between different political leaders which adds a fuel to the fire. Bangalore is the only cosmopolitan city".

Governor inspects Covid Vaccination Centres in Churachandpur & Bishnupur Districts

IT News
Imphal, Feb 10:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan inspected Covid Vaccination Centres in Churachandpur & Bishnupur districts today and reviewed the overall preparedness with health and district level officials for maximum coverage under Covid-19 Vaccination Programme.

On reaching the Vaccination Centre opened at Sielmat Christian Higher Secondary School in the district head quarters, Governor La. Ganesan inspected the facilities provided for the vaccination programme especially for students of age group ranging from 15-18 yrs and interacted with students who have been vaccinated. He asked the students to be the messengers of the vaccination programme so that many will come out voluntarily to get vaccinated. Governor distributed vaccination certificates, vaccination badges and pens to the students. Governor also went to St



Mary's Higher Secondary School at Tuibong and inspected the facilities provided for the vaccination of students there. Speaking to the students, Shri La. Ganesan said, State government is fully prepared to cover maximum population under Covid-19 Vaccination Programme and

Doctors, Nurses and Health Workers have been engaged for the purpose. They have been working very hard and their efforts are commendable, he added.

On the way back to Imphal, Governor inspected the vaccination Centre opened at Moirang Multipur-

pose Higher Secondary School.

Dr. N. Shyamjai, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Manipur, Chief Medical Officers of Churachandpur and Bishnupur districts and other officials attended the inspection visit.

Preparing a unique manifesto for Manipur, will not make phoney promises: BJP

Courtesy: Zee News
New Delhi, Feb 10:

Days after asking for more time to prepare BJP's manifesto for the Manipur Assembly Elections, Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav has said his party will come up with a unique manifesto rife with genuine promises, adding that the saffron party does not make prom-

ises that it cannot fulfil.

"We will come out with a unique election manifesto soon. A committee has also been formed to draft it. The party will not make any promise that won't be translated into action," Yadav said.

Yadav, the BJP's in charge of the polls in the northeastern state, said the saffron camp has held dis-

cussions with various stakeholders and set up a committee to draft the manifesto.

On being asked about the CM face announcement, the BJP leader said that N. Biren Singh's government has been ruling the state "successfully" for the last five years and the party is going to "fight the election under his visionary leader-

ship".

"The BJP will win two-thirds seats of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. The central board of the party will decide who will be the CM," Yadav said at a press conference on Tuesday.

Elections to 60-member Manipur Legislative Assembly will be held on February 27 and March 3, and votes will be counted on March 10.

JD(U) candidate Achab Uddin files nomination in Jiribam

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Feb 10:

The Janata Dal (United) candidate of 40-Jiribam Assembly Constituency Md. Achab Uddin filled the nomination today at DC office, Chingdongleikai, Jiribam.

Achab Uddin first won the Jiribam seat as an inde-

pendent candidate in 2017. He retained the seat till 2022 supporting present BJP government of Manipur.

Recently he resign from his seat and join to the JD(U) to contest the Election of 12-Manipur State Legislative Assembly election from Jiribam Assembly Constituency.

Today, after filling nomination, interacting with media persons, he said, he will surely win the election with three thousand plus votes. He added, after winning election his main priority will be development of roads in Jiribam. As the roads condition of Jiribam is in deplorable conditions.

Contd. from Page 1

CEO Manipur has taken up initiative...

Income Tax Department made a total of Rs. 1.475 crore so far. Necessary procedures have been taken up under relevant extant laws for further investigation. A total of 1284 acres of poppy cultivation has been destroyed so far in by NAB, SAB and State Police. Flying Squad, Static Surveillance Teams, State Police and Excise Department has seized 29864.89 ltrs of liquor worth Rs. 0.4175 crore.

Observers

20 General Observer, 11 Police observers 20 expenditure Observers and 3 Special Observers of first phase have arrived and have conducted meeting with DEOs/SPs. The three Special Observers have also conducted meeting with some of the Districts and took stock of the preparedness.

Voter Preparation App: A mobile app has been developed by CEO, Manipur. The App has features including information on average queue waiting time, Wheelchair service booking facility. The APP has been launched, and the same may be availed by the Public from Google Play-store.

Publication of Manifesto during prohibitory period: Manifesto not to be released

during the prohibitory period in both phases as prescribed under Section 126 of the RPA, 1951 [Last 48 hours before the close of poll].

COVID Management: So far 69% and 53.39% of the Electors are vaccinated with single dose and second dose respectively. Around 21817 polling personnel trained are completely vaccinated. A total of 4751 precautionary Doses were administered to Polling Parties. 9500 Police personnel are vaccinated with Precautionary doses. 98.7% and 84.5% of Police personnel are given 1st Dose and 2nd Doses respectively. All the election machinery who have completed 90 days from the date of second dose are being administered precautionary doses. All Polling stations will be completely vaccinated one day before the poll day. Thermal Screening will be done in all the polling stations. Provisions such as Hand sanitizers, PPE kits, Hand gloves and Masks will be made in all polling stations. ASHAs/Volunteers will be employed in all the Polling stations to assist voters and also ensure Covid appropriate behaviors.

Regular meetings are held with Power Department, MSPDCL, MSPCL, DoT, Telecom Service providers to ensure Network connectivity, disruption-free Power during the Poll days. Also biweekly meeting is being held with SPNO and IG(CRPF) for making induction plan of CAPF Coys for both phases of the Elections along with Security review and Communication Plan for ensuring General elections to the 12th Legislative Assembly. Shadow Area Action Plan is in place for 62 polling stations across State. Satellite phones, VHF's and other booster measures will be made to communication gaps.

A 24x7 Media Cell is monitoring social media and to take appropriate actions in case if Political parties/ Candidates are indulging in spreading Fake news, Hate Speeches and such reports are sent to CEO daily. Strict vigil on suspected cases of Paid news is done by Media Cell. All Social media pages of Candidates and Political parties are monitored in a real-time basis, said a statement by Rajesh Agrawal, Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur.

Sports

ISL: Jorge Ortiz scores hatrick as FC Goa thrash Chennaiyin FC to keep playoff hopes alive

Agency
Basco (Goa), Feb 10:

FC Goa kept their slim play-off hopes alive with a five-star performance against Chennaiyin FC whose aspirations of a top-four spot were dealt a heavy blow, as they were humbled 5-0 in the Indian Super League at the Tilak Maidan Stadium on Wednesday.

Jorge Ortiz (20th, 41st, 53rd) scored a hatrick after Makan Chotho (6th) opened the scoring for the Gaurs with Narayan Das (45th OG) putting the ball in his own net, to sum up, Chennaiyin's night. Goa snapped a five-game winless run to return to form in the best possible way, moving to 18 points from 16 matches and doing their goal difference a world of good.

They remained in ninth spot. For Chennaiyin, it was their second consecutive loss, meaning the former champions remained on 19 points from 16 matches and placed eighth in the points table. It was all FC Goa from the start as they bossed proceedings from the start to finish, leaving Chennaiyin with little room to breathe.

Chotho logged his first-ever ISL goal after Edu Bedia slipped a pass to Aiban Dohling on the left flank for the young winger



to serve a crisp cross at the far end for Chotho to volley the ball first time into the back of the net with aplomb.

Ortiz made it 2-0 soon after, Dohling involved again as he put the ball inside the area after Brandon Fernandes sent him in the clear on the left channel. Chennaiyin defence were left ball watching as they failed to clear the danger and the ball went to Ortiz who took a few touches before slotting home past Debjit Majumder in Chennaiyin goal.

Dohling, for all his industry, could have made it 3-0 for Goa from a Edu Bedia corner but his header was pushed

away to safety by Debjit. Chennaiyin failed to get a grip of the game and posed almost no threat in the attacking third as Goa piled on the misery with two more goals before the half-time whistle.

First, Ortiz doubled his tally with the brilliant Dohling starting the attack again as he combined with Alberto Noguera in the middle of the park. Noguera escaped a few Chennaiyin shirts to pass the ball to Ortiz who took a deft touch to evade Anirudh Thapa and fire home.

On the stroke of halftime, Noguera floated in a delightful ball inside the box and an under-pressure Narayan Das put

it into his own net to cap off his team's half. The second half saw more of Goa domination as Chennaiyin failed to muster any real opportunity in front of goal.

Ortiz crowned his brilliant performance with a first hatrick this season after the effervescent Dohling got past a few defenders to nudge the ball in the path of the Spaniard whose sublime first touch took the ball away from Narayan as he charged forward to rifle home from close. Chennaiyin tried hard to weather the Goa storm by bringing in Nerijus Valskis for the ineffective Lukasz Gikiewicz but it was just not their day.

FIH Hockey Pro League: Jugraj Singh stars in India's 10-2 win against hosts South Africa

Agency
Potchefstroom, Feb 10:

The Indian Men's Hockey team rode on a blistering attack to beat hosts South Africa 10-2 in their second match at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021-22 on Wednesday.

Newcomer Jugraj Singh (4', 6', 23') starred in India's high-scoring victory as he contributed three brilliant goals to the scoreline with his impeccable drag flicks. His effort won him the Player of the Match award. Harmanpreet Singh (2'), Abhishek (12'), Gursahibjit Singh (24', 36'), Dilpreet Singh (25', 58'), Mandeep Singh (27') were the other goal scorers for India.

The Tokyo Olympics Bronze medalists began the proceedings with a lethal attack that exposed the South African defence. They earned a penalty corner as early as in the first minute of the game. While Harmanpreet's first attempt was blocked by South African rusher Keenan Horne, the Vice Skipper for India was perfect in his second attempt with a fiercely struck flick that beat the South African goalkeeper Estiaan Kriek.

The opening goal for India set the pace for their attack as they went on to score three more goals in the first quarter. India's second and third goal was courtesy

Jugraj Singh who impressed with his ability to drag flick. While his first goal was struck powerfully on the top right of the goalkeeper, his next goal, which was well-assisted with a good injection by Harmanpreet Singh and accurate stopping by Vivek Sagar Prasad, was struck low on the right of the South African goalkeeper.

An error by the South African defenders saw Abhishek intercept the ball inside the circle only to take a successful shot on goal in the 12th minute. With four goals on board, India ended the first quarter in a dominant fashion with eight shots on goal and 65 per cent ball possession.

Though the second quarter witnessed South Africa create some inroads into the striking circle with Horne taking a potential shot on goal in the 22nd minute, India's defence held sway to avoid conceding a goal. Meanwhile, the team's forward line stitched together a good structure that resulted in back-to-back goals. While Jugraj Singh scored a hatrick of goals when he converted a PC earned by Abhishek in the 23rd minute, Gursahibjit scored in the 24th minute, Dilpreet in the 25th and Mandeep struck in the 27th minute taking India's lead to a formidable 8-0 ahead of half-time.

With a strong lead, India seemed to drop the momentum a tad bit in the third quarter. After an initial burst in the attack that saw Gursahibjit score his second goal of the match in the 36th minute, a sloppy Indian defence gave way for the South African forward line to create chances in the striking circle. India ended up conceding at least three PCs, out of which they converted one when Daniel Bell pushed the ball past Sreejesh's left foot in the 44th minute.

The goal did good to the hosts' confidence as they struck another fine field goal via Richard Pautz in the 45th minute. Though India continued to enjoy a 9-2 lead, the two goals scored by the hosts made them more upbeat in the following minutes of the match as they hunted for a third goal. The final quarter saw both teams create enough opportunities to score. While India's defence rallied together to avoid conceding a third goal, their forward line worked together to help Dilpreet score in the 58th minute of the match. Though the Indian attack earned a PC in the dying seconds of the match, South Africa defended well to end the match with 10-2 on the scoreboard. India will take on France on February 12.