

## BJP govt's policies benefit big industrialists, says Priyanka

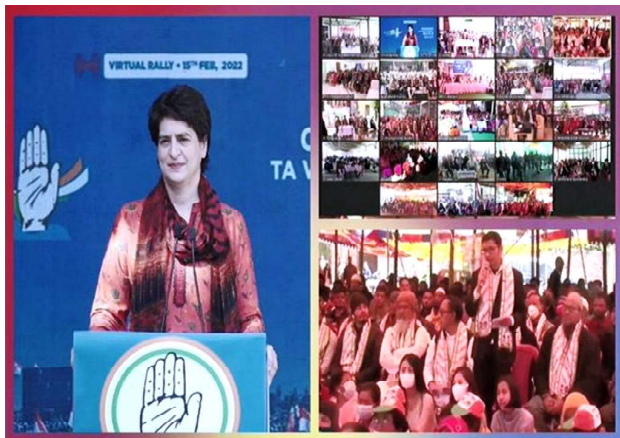
IT News  
Imphal, Feb 15:

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday alleged that the BJP government's central policies benefit big industrialists, whereas the poor and middle class are left to their fate.

In a virtual address for the Manipur Assembly elections, the Congress leader said, "The BJP government's central policies benefit 2-3 big industrialists, whereas poor and middle class are left to their fate. Once MSMEs are strengthened in Manipur, we'll create big employment opportunities."

Responding to a question about water not being released from a water body in the Chief Minister's constituency, Vadra took a potshot at the ruling BJP and said that Congress, if voted to power, will focus on people's demands.

She promised to focus on resolving the problems of locals, saying that the Congress is the best choice for Manipur.



"Time to create jobs in Manipur. We will create a Manipur regiment and hold examinations locally," she said.

She reiterated that Congress' focus is development and women empowerment

"The politics of the past five years has hurt you. The Congress party and the progressive alliance are coming up with initiatives for development," said Vadra.

She further added that free healthcare, unemployment al-

lowance and protecting civil liberties of all sections of Manipuri society are on the agenda of the party.

The elections in Manipur will be held on February 28 and March 5. Votes will be counted on March 10.

## Rahul Gandhi will campaign in Manipur on February 21 & 22 for the 2022 elections

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 15:

Top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will visit Manipur on a two-day election campaigning tour for the upcoming Assembly polls in the state.

Rahul Gandhi will be in Manipur on February 21 and 22.

Rahul Gandhi's visit to Manipur will be the first by any top national Congress leader to the state ahead of the Assembly elections.

Notably, Rahul Gandhi is among the 30 star campaigners, names of whom were released by the Congress on Monday evening for the second phase of polling of Manipur elections.

Among the most notable



names of star campaigners of the Congress party are: Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Okram Ibobi Singh and Jairam Ramesh.

The other prominent names of the Congress party are: Bhakta Charan Das, N Loken Singh, TN Haokip and Rakibul Hussain.

Manipur will go to polls for Assembly elections in two phases: February 28 and March 5.

## Additional CEO launches SVEEP Signature Campaign

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 15:

Additional Chief Electoral Officer Naorem Praveen Singh launched a SVEEP Signature Campaign today at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Lamphelpat.

Addressing the gathering, Naorem Praveen stated that the Signature Campaign was launched with an aim to promote ethical voting for the forthcoming General Election to the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, 2022, on the theme "Yes, I will vote to the Right Candidate". He stressed that such campaign will imbibe the voters with a mindset of choosing a right candidate, who would work with a commitment for the welfare of the people and development of the State. The campaign would also play a crucial role



in spreading the message on the importance of ethical and inducement free voting to young voters across the State, he added.

State Nodal Officer (Postal Ballot) K. Bono, Joint CEOs Ramananda Nongmeikapam, Md. S. Daulat Khan and OSD, Election Ganesh Nagarajan also attended the programme

among others.

The Signature Campaign which was organised by Manipur Innovation Society will cover different areas of Imphal city near Kangla, Nupi Keithel and Assembly Road, Thangmeiband today. The campaign will also reach out to other areas of the State on the following days.

## Women could play an important role in Uripok AC: RO Khamrang

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 15:

Women voters outnumber men in 10-Uripok Assembly Constituency, said Returning Officer Nimmi Azingwunshi Khamrang adding that women could play an important role in the upcoming February 28 poll in the constituency.

She appealed to women voters to come forward and ensure free, fair and peaceful voting in the constituency to strengthen the festival of democracy.

Despite being an urban constituency, voter turnout in Uripok AC, in the past elections, have been unsatisfac-



tory, she stated appealing to electors, particularly the women electors, to come out in huge numbers to exercise their voting rights. She said this time

the voter turnout could be higher considering the increasing trend of women's participation in the electoral process. Voter turnout in Uripok

AC in the 2017 Assembly election was 83.93 percent.

RO Khamrang said 10-Uripok has 25,583 electors of which 13,713 are female and 11,865 are male. There are five Transgenders and three 100+ years old electors in the constituency. She said there are 426 numbers of 80+ years old electors and 206 PwD electors in the constituency. Altogether 229 electors including 199 Absentee Voters in the category of Senior Citizens (AVSC) and 30 Absentee Voters in the category of PwDs (AVPD) will exercise their franchise through Postal Ballot (12D) for Absentee Voters.

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## India waging cyber war against revolutionary movement: UNLF

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 15:

The proscribed United National Liberation Front (UNLF) said that the government of India has been waging an intense cyber war to suppress revolutionary movement being carried on for restoration of Manipur's lost sovereignty.

According to a UNLF statement, official Facebook page of the outfit's department of publicity titled 'UNLF-MPA' has been removed after India's intelligence pressurised Facebook, Inc, through the US government.

The UNLF statement issued by its media co-ordinator Th Chairomgba further said that Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter clearly mentions about aggression if a nation forcibly annexes another

nation.

India has been utilising all its wicked ideas and power to stop global countries from bringing out Manipur's 'self-determination' agenda to the global platform.

Ever since Dominion of India forcibly merged independent Manipur in 1949 against international law, people of Manipur remain deprived of human rights as advocated by the United Nations and remains as a colonised nation since the past 73 years.

Apart from this, India has been spreading false propaganda to suppress and prevent genuine voices of the people of Manipur from reaching global fraternity.

Frightened when messages of UNLF-MPA are beginning to reach the international forum through media and social me-

dia, India launched cyber attack on February 11, 2022 to remove Facebook page 'UNLF-MPA', which is being supported fully by the people.

Photos and videos of MPA Raising Day celebration as well as impact of COVID-19 on revolutionary fighters reached people through media and social media on February 10, 2022. Soon after the photos and videos spread like wildfire and reached vast number of people, frightened India pressurised Facebook, Inc hurriedly and removed official Facebook page 'UNLF-MPA' of outfit's department of publicity.

India has been continuously spreading false propaganda to the global people that Manipur-India conflict is India's internal crisis, law & order problem and problem within a family.

How far India wants to suppress revolutionary movement can be ascertained from its attempt to block and wage war against even messages of revolutionary fighters affected by COVID-19 while countries across the world are helping each other to prevent spread of the pandemic.

India is too frightened that revolutionary movement for restoration of Manipur sovereignty will get support from international community but this indeed is the most wicked thought and against the 'rule of engagement' of war, the UNLF said in its statement and appealed to people to help and support the ongoing revolutionary movement.

The outfit then thanked people of Manipur for continuing their support to the movement.

## CEO, Manipur chaired Review-Meeting for the upcoming Assembly election

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 15:

Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur took a Review-Meeting yesterday at CEO's Office, Lamphel with all Agencies/Departments involved in Election Expenditure Monitoring on the steps taken up by them for the General Election to Legislative Assembly of Manipur, 2022. The Departments/Agencies attending the meeting include (i). Income Tax Department, (ii) Excise Department, (iii) State Taxation, (iv) CBIC (Central Board of indirect taxes & Customs) & DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence), (v) NCB (Narcotics Control Bureau), (vi) SLBC (State Level

Banking Convener) & RBI, (vii) ED (Enforcement Directorate), (viii) CISE, (ix) AAI (Airport Authority of India) & BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security), (x) Posts, (xi) BSF. The Review-Meeting was held in line with the inputs/advice given by the Hon'ble Election Commission of India in the meeting held on 08-02-2022 with the above Agencies/Departments. The importance of stepping up action on enforcement in the coming 2 (two) weeks was stressed upon all Agencies/Departments by Chief Electoral Officer as distribution of cash, liquor, freebies etc. is expected to increase during this period.

The Income Tax Department was instructed to

analyse and investigate sources of funding of substantial seizures reported by other Agencies/Departments to enable booking/conviction of involved individuals/parties. Excise Department was informed to intensify raids and seizures of liquor in the State by strengthening check-points at border areas, storage locations and sensitive points. The State Taxation Department was instructed to increase monitoring of E-way bill checking, identify distribution of freebies by analysing upsurge in demand of items in the coming days and to work in coordination with the central GST officials in the State.

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# Listening to the radio on the hills is the best thing

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Be it the long summer vacation or the festival of Diwali, before moving to the village, we never forgot to pack our large sized Philips radio in a carton. The radio was powered by a special long and red colored battery from Eveready. Such a big battery I never saw again anywhere else. The oversized radio is also a thing of the past. People from the whole village used to visit our house to listen to the radio broadcast with great curiosity. I have a desire to buy an old big radio if found somewhere. Listening to the news at 8 in the morning or 9 in the night is something special. Remember – yeh Akashvani hai, ab aap Devkinandan Pandey se samachar suniye? This old style of narrating news on All India Radio still exists. To get all the updates of the first Asian Games 1982, I had bought a pocket radio, which was my prized possession for many years. On World Radio Day, all the memories related to radio are buzzing in my mind.

The radio sounds good even today, but I don't like the bombardment of useless advertisements and noise created on the private Radio FMs. All India Radio is better, because it does not pump unnecessary advertisements. My experience in Shimla tells me that listening to the melodies on radio in the high mountains is a pleasure in itself. While enjoying old songs, it seems as if there is a studio somewhere across the hills, where Lata Mangeshkar and Mohammad Rafi are sitting and recording. The theme of World Radio Day 2022 is 'Radio and Trust'. According to various global studies, radio is one of the most effective, authentic and easily available modes of communication, when it comes to reaching the public. Prime Minister Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' program further increased the importance of Akashvani and Radio. World Radio Day was first declared in 2011 by member countries of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The day was later adopted as an International Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.

Radio broadcasting in India started in 1922. All India Radio (AIR) has dominated broadcasting since 1936. AIR has been officially known as Akashvani since 1956. It is the world's largest radio network, and one of the largest broadcasting organizations in the world, serving as a bouquet of the number of languages broadcast and the socio-economic and cultural diversity. AIR's home service comprises 420 radio stations located across the country, which cover around 92 percent of the country's area and 99.19 percent of the total population. All India Radio presents programming in 23 languages and 179 dialects. In December 2002, the Govt of India approved a policy of licensing established educational institutions, including IIMs and IITs, to set up community radio stations. There are currently 262 community radio stations in India serving tribal, farmers, ethnic minorities, coastal communities and special interests. In the year 2001, the private sector was given entry in the radio sector. Radio City Bangalore is India's first private FM radio station. Presently, there are 371 private FM stations operating in 107 cities of India.

# Education Budget 2022 and the National Education Policy

The Education Budget 2022 has been increased by 11.86% from the previous year with a significant fund allocation for digital education and skill development. As the National Education Policy completes one year of its implementation, an increase of Rs.11054 crore from the previous year needs to be taken with the right spirit. NEP 2020 is all set to change India's education system. A growing economy, with an ambitious generation of learners, India has the real potential to systematically reinvent its abilities and move ahead breaking all obstacles. It is a reform with tangible and assertive steps designed to ward off anomalies. Imprint of perfect expertise is visible throughout the draft. Beginning his formal education at the age of three, a child is prepared to get ready for the real task in the next five years, which means, the Anganwadis and other institutions to cater pre-primary education will have to equip themselves to set the scene right. In his most criticized comment on the education system of Kerala, one of the most celebrated actors in the Malayalam film industry had to face the ire of the Kerala Women's Commission. The actor courted controversy after he said in a TV programme that pre-primary children in Kerala were at a disadvantageous position with regard to education, as they were initiated to the process of pre-primary learning by uneducated and untrained Anganwadi teachers. He had to face the fury of the Commission as he compared the pre-primary learning in the state with developed countries such as Japan, where highly qualified teachers taught Kindergarten kids. Actor Srinivasan, a famous Marxist liberal was warned by the Kerala Women's Commission terming his opinion misogynistic. The actor wanted more training be imparted to the workers and more educated women be enrolled in the Anganwadi sector. More than 66000 workers are employed in about 33000 Anganwadis in the state. The NEP 2020 makes proposals

to strengthen the infrastructure of Anganwadi centres with modern learning materials. With this, the Anganwadi teachers and the system of pre-schooling became part of the formal schooling. But reality on the ground is not so encouraging. We have a scanty resource mobilization at present when it comes to the strengthening of the pre-primary education system. There are various reasons contributing to the dismay. From choosing a place to establish Anganwadis to the recruitment of teachers to the facilities available across the system is laxity. Unfortunately, a large number of Anganwadis in many areas in India fail to conduct regular classes for at least three hours every day. Anganwadi workers are supposed to play the most prominent role in providing basic education, nutrition and ensuring health in rural India. As per the policy, the Anganwadi workers are to undergo certificate and diploma programme to strengthen their abilities in pre-primary teaching. Consistent and straightforward efforts are to be taken to bring the system to an unshakable track.

Swami Vivekananda had a vision for education. According to him, education is the manifestation of perfection already in man. Mahatma Gandhi also thought in the same line as he says that education should be the process of putting the best in body, soul and spirit. Thus, it is evident that the new narrative in the NEP directs us towards a different outlook which had been forgotten for long; reinvention of a value-based system of education with adequate elements of skill development assisted by modern technologies. The education system in the country has undergone multiple changes and amendments and recommendations since Independence. Various commissions had been set up to refurbish it. Yet, we

lacked essence when it comes to its ability to deliver in comparison with developed countries. Now, a positive change is welcome with proper implementation put in place. Education system can bring about a variety of changes to society and the NEP passed in 1986 with its modifications in 1992 served good results throughout the last three decades. But marching with time, with new requirements in innovations and inventions with inclusive approach strengthening its frame and outlook altogether, NEP 2020 brings a smile on every face with a shimmer of hope visible. Attending the aspirations of a sizable young generation, helping them march with the massive developments in technology is a big challenge. We cannot deny the fact that employability is a serious issue that we face today as a country. It is said that in India, the top 10 IT companies are recruiting 6 percent of the total engineering graduates. A study in the IT sector was shocking, which tells that 94 percent of the engineering graduates in the country are not employable.

This is because of the widening skill gap. Those who graduate in the field are not able to trek with the latest technological changes. In fact, many companies are initiating skill development programmes for their employees. Alarmingly, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) states that nearly 200 engineering colleges have applied for closure in recent years. According to the Council, there is a decline of about 75000 engineering seats every year. The council has already approved the closure of about 400 colleges. When it comes to the other streams in graduation, many graduates are unable to write even basic sentences properly. With the 5+3+3+4 formula comes into practice, every child, as he reaches his fourth

segment of this formula, enjoys a free will to follow whichever subject he feels like to study. The 10+2 formula has awkwardly compartmentalized students segregating them to the 'meritorious science' versus the 'rest'. The multiple entry and exit points in higher education, as per the new policy, reduce the burden and stress of the students. The new academic credit bank will enable students to start from where they left without any loss.

In its initiative, the policy advocates for education in the mother tongue in the first five years, which is a welcome move. This indeed is much criticized as a large number of people move from one state to another in search of jobs and the local languages change from state to state. Many are skeptical about this proposal as mostly proficiency in the English language is considered to be a requisite for employability and of course, a large number of parents want their children to gain proficiency in English at a younger age. The policy also provides equal opportunity and promotes meritocracy. To provide universal access to quality education, we have a long way to go. The budget allocates funds for major schemes such as Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and for the creation of 'Exemplar Schools.' About 15000 schools in the country are to be converted into Exemplar Schools with quality education. Fund is also allocated for teachers training and adult education and for scholarships. Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) is a new project with financial assistance from the World Bank aiming to improve the learning assessment systems. Obviously, it is a paradigm shift. In a new geopolitical scenario, a resurgent India is possible only through pertinent changes implemented in the education system which caters elements for progress consistently from the grassroots.

(The writer is a Freelance Journalist/ Social Worker)

## How to Become the Best Teacher

Understanding the learning styles of your students can help you become a better teacher. And in this way, you can even learn from them. Every student is different, each with their own unique, individual qualities. If you learn to recognize these and take advantage of them, you'll certainly become a better teacher.

You have a unique opportunity to engage in a dynamic process that will have a positive outcome for you and your students.

**Let Your Students Help You Be a Better Teacher for Them**

(1) A good teacher always has objectives  
Adopt a positive approach and make it clear to your students at the start of each lesson what they need to study that day. A clearly planned learning structure will make it easier and more achievable for students to learn effectively – in itself a motivating factor. Teaching is a dynamic process, so respecting their dignity and individuality will get their approval. Build a relationship with mutual trust and through active involvement.

(2) Have purposeful direction  
As the organiser, manager, and possible designer of the entire learning experience, set down guides, such as to-do lists or a step-by-step plan. Provide a grounding by outlining the basic content of the subject and its relevant terminology. When the learner knows the basic principles of the subject it makes things more understandable.

(3) Remain firm and consistent  
As a teacher, be firm from the be-



By: Vijay GarG

ginning. Students respect a teacher who is confident and consistent. It doesn't pay to be too nice, but you don't need to be a tyrant either. You'll always find students in a class who play the wise guy and think they know better and try to question or distract you. But, they are also distracting the rest of the class. Stay constant and don't lose direction. Establish boundaries, as boundaries make students feel secure.

Students do not like teachers who are too soft and mild.

**Become the Best Teacher**

(4) Be assertive

If you notice that a student seems distracted or stressed, find out why. They could be experiencing personal problems or be depressed and, in this case, you should be supportive of them. Be aware if the quality of a student's work deteriorates or they seem disinterested. Don't criticise and make them feel bad by accusing them of laziness. They might see you in a kind of parent's role. You could even approach them after class and do a little casual investigating to find out exactly what is going on.

(5) Be a friend but keep your distance

Be involved with your students, even if you are nearly the same age, but know when to draw the line. Maintaining your authority will strengthen your position. Remain professional. Your students won't respect you if you try to act or speak like them or be on their level. Get their approval by being a source of inspiration without getting too close.

(6) Use your time wisely

Don't waste time with unnecessary chatter. Have a professional learning environment with an emphasis on the subject and its content rather than yourself. Students don't want to hear personal stories and what you do after class, or how things were when you were a student. They have enough things to focus on without hearing about your life. These are not going to impress students, if anything they might lose respect for you and be discouraged from coming back.

(7) Relevance to their lives is important

You want your students to remember your lessons, so find a way to connect the information you give with something that relates to their lives. Involve them in purposeful dialogue. Teach them to think for themselves and allow them to comment. Maybe one of them has a story or situation that applies and will help explain what is happening, but don't let their story take over the lesson. Steer the lesson back to the subject without wasting too much time. Terminology and basic principles are important. Make things interesting by using an example of something they can relate to and how it will help them in the future.

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## In-demand employability skills

By: Kaustov Kashyap

The COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a catastrophic blow to the global economy and resulted in a massive loss of lives and livelihoods. This economic and social disruption has destroyed millions of jobs and also put millions of enterprises at risk. A "Future of Jobs Report 2020" by World Economic Forum says that 85 million jobs may become redundant and 50% of all employees will need reskilling by 2025. This reskilling requirement will go up to 1 billion+ people by 2030. However, the report has a silver lining by estimating that even more jobs, i.e. 97 million will emerge that are more amenable to the interplay between humans, machines and algorithms.

Notably, the report highlights that in the next two years, 42% of the skills required to perform existing jobs will change with interpersonal skills gaining importance. The report cites critical thinking and problem-solving as the employers' most favoured skills over the next five years.

Greater adoption of technology means new in-demand skills across jobs replacing the existing ones over the next five years, despite the skills gaps remaining high. Since employability skills are at the heart of any successful business and career, the question on everybody's mind is - Which of these skills are likely to be in demand in 2022? Some of the employability skills which are likely to gain prominence in 2022 are:

**Analytical thinking & Complex problem solving**

It's about having the mental elasticity to solve problems not seen before and being able to solve them quickly and efficiently. More than 60% of recruiters identify problem-solving as a key determinant towards a favourable hiring decision. The very importance of problem-solving lies in

the fact that it is intertwined with decision making and hence has the potential to impact almost all the functions within an organization.

**Critical thinking and Analysis**

Being a critical thinker is using logic and reasoning, after analyzing facts and possible solutions, to arrive at the aptest one. Employers value this skill as it leads to new, fresh and innovative ways to remove impediments to growth and productivity like mismanagement of finances, process inefficiencies, HR conflicts and streamlining of the distribution channel etc.

**Innovation**

It's like being a mental gymnast with an ability to think in different ways and having cognitive flexibility - swing, leap and twirl back and forth between different systems of thought - seeing new patterns and making unique associations between ideas. Employers value innovation as a critical skill because innovators ensure that the organization is one step ahead of evolving workplace trends and technological advances. As a result, innovators are key to maximizing global connectivity and meeting consumer expectations.

**Emotional Intelligence**

Emotional intelligence (EI) or Emotional Quotient (EQ) is a recent phenomenon and a new skill given high weightage by employers as it is seen to significantly impact self-motivation by processing and managing emotions, especially in terms of professional relationships and interpersonal communications. EI measures our adeptness to adjust behavior depending on the mood of a colleague, partner, or family member.

**Negotiation**

Knowingly or unknowingly, negotiation is an integral part of daily operations in any organization. Whether it is about finalizing a business deal to the

best cost and timelines, allotting responsibilities for a project, or just deciding on the output of the day, you're simply negotiating! So, better the negotiator you are, the better is the productivity and outcomes for the organization.

**Leadership**

It is the ability to motivate teams, maximize their productivity and respond to their needs. Leadership is more to do with the ability to delegate and develop a strong management style. A leader is valued as he has the ability to make quick and sharp decisions when push comes to shove while managing situations and people, especially in times of a crisis.

**Creativity**

Sometimes, looking at a problem differently can throw up a solution that can positively impact the organization. Employers have a keen eye for innovative, fresh and unorthodox talent to handle business challenges and internal issues. If you're able to connect the dots across seemingly disparate information and come up with 'new ideas and perspectives', then you are a creative person.

**Learning Agility**

Learning Agility is basically finding a way to do things when you don't know what to do! People who are learning agile are valued by organizations as they take complex challenges head-on and turn experiences into learnings and practices.

While the above-listed employability skills will be critical, the importance of few others like communication, customer-centricity, digital and financial literacy would continue to be in demand even in the new normal as employers revisit their people strategy and enable a learning culture for higher outcomes, productivity and bottom lines.

(The writer is a HR & Career Consultant)

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# Active COVID-19 cases in country decline to 4,23,127

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 15:

New COVID-19 cases in India were recorded below 30,000 after 44 days, taking the virus tally to 4,26,92,943, while the active cases dipped to 4,23,127, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The death toll climbed to 5,09,358 with 347 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The daily COVID-19 cases have been recorded less than one lakh for nine consecutive days.

The active cases comprise 0.99 per cent of the total in-

fections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has further improved to 97.82 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 55,755 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded as 2.23 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 3.63 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,17,60,458 while the case fatality rate was recorded as 1.19 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide

COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 173.42 crore.

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.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

The 347 new fatalities include 178 from Kerala and 25 from Karnataka.

A total of 5,09,358 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,43,416 from Maharashtra, 62,377 from Kerala, 39,665 from Karnataka, 37,932 from Tamil Nadu, 26,076 from Delhi, 23,399 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,040 from West Bengal.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

# India, Oman Navy Chiefs Hold Talks to Explore New Avenues of Defence Cooperation

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Feb 15:

Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (CRNO) Rear Admiral Saif Bin Nasser Bin Mohsin Al Rahbi, who is on a five-day goodwill visit to India, called on Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar at Naval Headquarters in Delhi on Monday.

Visiting Oman Navy chief held discussions with his Indian counterpart to explore avenues to further enhance cooperation between the Navies. The Navy in a statement said that the

visit of the Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman aims to consolidate bilateral relations with the Indian Navy, as also to explore new avenues for defence cooperation with India.

"The first visit of the incumbent CRNO to India reverberates the growing cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman, which includes operational interactions, training, and exchange of subject matter experts. Both Navies have been participating in the biennial maritime exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' since 1993. This exercise was last held in 2020, off Goa and the next edition is scheduled later this year. INS Sudarshini visited Muscat in December 2021 and had embarked RNO Sea Riders for sea experience, the Navy said.

Training and naval equipment procurement from India will dominate the talks between the Indian side and CRNO, who is also the Chairman Maritime Security Committee of Oman.



CNS Admiral R Hari Kumar (Left) with visiting Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman Rear Admiral Saif Bin Nasser Bin Mohsin Al Rahbi (right), at Naval Headquarters in Delhi on Monday.

The Oman's Secretary-General at the Ministry of Defence Mohammed Bin Nasser Bin Ali Al Zaabi had held the 11th India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee Meeting (JMCC) on bilateral defence cooperation with Indian Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar on January 31. Zaabi had also met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, and leaders of India's defence industry.

India and Oman have very strong defence ties, and all three services have bilateral exchanges and exercises with Oman's services. Oman provides operational support to the Indian Navy for anti-piracy missions in the Arabian Sea. Also, India has got access to the Duqm port in Oman, strengthening India's capability and maritime strategy in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), especially against China's aggressive advance in the region.

During his visit Rahbi will meet all the services Chiefs',

members of the National Security Council, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla, and senior officers from the Armed forces at Delhi. He will also visit operational facilities, shipbuilding, and repair facilities at Mumbai and Western Naval Command which deals with the deployment of ships in the Gulf.

The key focus during Rahbi's visit will be India-Oman Navy to Navy Staff Talks. He will be also visiting the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) located at Gurugram (Haryana). The IFC-IOR has linkages with over 50 nations and multinational/ maritime security centres. It hosts International Liaison Officers (ILOs) from 10 partner nations - Australia, France, Japan, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States of America. More ILOs are expected to join it in near future.

Both countries already have a White Shipping Exchange Agreement. The then

Indian Navy Chief Karambir Singh had visited Oman last September. The Last Visit by Oman Navy Chief to India was undertaken in September 2017. The west Asian country also provides critical operational support to Indian naval deployments in the Arabian sea for anti-piracy missions and actively participates in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).

More high-level engagements are seen between Indian, Omani military leadership. Chief of Oman's Air force will also visit India soon even as Jodhpur (Rajasthan) will see Air exercises between the two countries later this month. The annual bilateral air exercise this year will see the participation of over 150 personnel from Oman.

Oman is the only country in the Gulf region with which all 3 services of the Indian armed forces conduct regular bilateral exercises and staff talks. Oman is India's closest defence partner in the Gulf region and Defence exchanges are a part of a framework MOU which was renewed in 2021.

**Sri Lankan Army delegation visits Mumbai**

In the meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Army delegation visited Mumbai to promote cultural harmony between the two countries showcasing ancient Indian archaeological monuments. The delegation visited various places of interest in Mumbai including Gateway of India and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (museum) located in South Mumbai on Monday.

# Naga political issue: Nagaland BJP reminds central leadership of solution 'promise'



Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 15:

The leaders of Nagaland BJP have reminded the central leadership of the party about the 'solution' promise that it made during the 2018 Assembly elections in the state.

The Nagaland BJP leaders during an interaction with party's state unit in-charge Nalin Kohli and union ministers Kiren Rijiju said that the central leadership must not forget about the "election for

solution" slogan that it made during the 2018 Assembly elections in the state.

The Nagaland BJP leaders, while speaking to Kohli and Rijiju, reportedly stated that if the party fails to deliver its 'promise', it will "face a tough time" in the next assembly elections in the state.

Nagaland is slated to go to polls for the Assembly elections in 2023.

On the other hand, the Nagaland Congress has been maintaining that the Neiphiu

Rio-led opposition less government is "not serious" about bringing a solution to the vexed Naga political issue.

Nagaland Congress president K Therie has alleged that all the parties in the UDA government in the state are working to delay reaching a solution to the Naga political issue.

"...they (Nagaland government) have the common objective to delay political solution," Therie said.

# New antibody helps block Covid transmission in cells: Study

Agency  
Los Angeles, Feb 15:

Researchers have engineered a novel antibody that can directly interfere with and block the cell-to-cell transmission ability of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

The antibody, FuG1, targets the enzyme furin, which the virus uses for its efficient chain of infections in human cells.

The approach, described recently in the journal Microbiology Spectrum, could be added to existing SARS-CoV-2 antibody cocktails for greater function against emerging variants.

"We developed an approach that interferes with the transmission chain of SARS-CoV-2," said senior author of the study Jørgen Tushir-Singh from the University of California (UC), Davis in the US.

"The COVID-19 vaccines are a great lifesaver in reducing hospitalisations and severe illness. Yet, we are now

learning that they may not be as effective in controlling the transmissibility of the virus," Tushir-Singh said.

The researchers noted that engineered FuG1 antibody competitively interferes with the furin function needed for the SARS-CoV-2 virus to become highly transmissible.

Furin, found throughout the human body, is involved in various functions of cells. It is a type of enzyme that can break down proteins into smaller components.

Furin does this by cutting, or cleaving, the polybasic peptide bonds within the proteins, the researchers said.

It can also cleave and activate viruses that enter human cells. Pathogens that utilise furin in their human host include HIV, influenza, dengue fever and SARS-CoV-2, they said.

When SARS-CoV-2 infects a human cell, it is in its active state, having already "cleaved" its spike protein,

which the SARS-CoV-2 virus uses to enter and infect the cells.

However, when the virus is being synthesised within the host cell — when it is replicating — the spike is in an inactive state.

The virus needs to use the host cell's furin to cut the spike protein into two parts, S1 and S2, which makes the spike active on the viral particles for efficient transmissibility upon release.

The virus exploits the host's furin to transmit from one cell to another and another. This added activation step is what makes the virus highly transmissible," said Tanmay Mondal, the first author of the study and a postdoctoral researcher at UC Davis.

Inhibiting furin to limit the SARS-CoV-2 chain of infection cycle is not a straightforward mechanism, according to the researchers.

## Activa Lost

I, the undersigned, do hereby inform to all general public that some miscreants had stolen a Red colour Activa two-wheeler vehicle bearing registration no MN01AC2105, Engine No. JF50E73232364, Chassis No. ME4JF50SGG7233073, registered in the name of Sanasam Nandini Devi Sagolband Nepra Menjor Leikai while parking in front of Imphal Times Office at Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai at around 2.30 pm of February 10, 2022.

Sd/-  
Manager,  
Imphal Times

## Name Change

I, the undersigned, Moirangthem Mirabai Devi, a resident of Heirangoithong Ahongsangbam Leikai, do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name, Maibam Mirabai Leima, as I have assumed my new name, Moirangthem Mirabai Devi.

Sd/-  
Moirangthem Mirabai Devi  
Heirangoithong Ahongsangbam Leikai  
Impham West District, Manipur

Contd. from Page 2

# How to Become the Best.....

## (8) Variety is key

Show your enthusiasm by using as many different resources for your lessons as you can. Find out what interests your students — things they can relate to. Search for things like books, movies, speeches and presentations. Use striking teaching media where the content stands out becomes more relatable. Then explain what's going on to make it easier to understand. Learners comprehend things more effectively when they have the opportunity to form a mental image of the object. Link new contents to relevant concepts that they

already know and learning content to previous work. Give students the opportunity to discover things for themselves. Teach in a big variety of ways.

## (9) Don't hold back on explanations

Unless the basic concept of a subject makes sense to students, they'll find it difficult to progress. Learn from their responses. If you notice a student is struggling, don't reject them or make them feel stupid or fall behind. Show patience and invite them to tell you if there is something they don't like or understand. Then go through the material again.

You can use different methods until they do understand. This will also help the whole class.

## Be a positive influence

Ultimately, show you care about your students and encourage them to do better. Show that they can rely on you for support and that you are always there for them. Don't let them give up, motivate them to do better and give praise where praise is due. Remember you are playing an important role in helping to mould their future success and guiding them with choices that need to be made.

# 62 Omicron cases detected in Mizoram

Agency  
Aizawl, Feb 15:

At least 62 cases of Omicron variant of COVID-19 have been detected in Mizoram for the first time in the state since the highly transmissible COVID-19 variant was first discovered in southern Africa in November and spread to the country in December last year, an official said.

Official spokesperson on COVID-19 Dr Pachau Lalmaisa said that the state health department on Monday received the results of 122 samples sent to the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics in West

Bengal for genome sequencing in January this year.

The samples were collected from COVID-19 positive patients from Aizawl, Khawzawl, Kolash, Saitual and Serchhip districts, he said.

"Of the 122 samples, 62 samples, all from Aizawl district, have come out positive for Omicron variant of COVID-19," Pachau, who is also the state nodal officer of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) said.

Besides, 12 samples have come out positive for Delta variant and 18 others have tested positive for Delta sub-variants among the 122 samples, he said.

# PEC demands probe into attack on Lankan journalist's residence, condoles Indian photojournalist's tragic end

IT Correspondent  
Geneva, Feb 15:

Condemning the attack on the residence of Sri Lanka's senior television journalist Chamuditha Samarawickrema by a group of masked armed men in the early hours of 14 February 2022, the global media safety and rights body Press Emblem Campaign (PEC) on Tuesday demands a fair probe into the incident and punish the perpetrators.

Local media outlets reported that at least four unidentified persons stormed into the residential complex of Samarawickrema at Piliyandala area of Colombo and pelted various items over the buildings. Samarawickrema, who is associated with private news channel Hiru TV, was inside the house along with his family and everyone survived unhurt in the incident.



"It's unacceptable that a journalist, who remains critical about the government functioning, has to face this kind of attack on him. The Lankan government, dominated by former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa's family, must identify the culprits to maintain its credibility," said Blaise Lempen, secretary-general of PEC.

Meanwhile, the PEC expresses grief over the untimely

demise of a senior photojournalist T Kumar, who killed himself on 13 February in the south Indian city of Chennai. Kumar, who used to work for prominent news agency United News of India (UNI), was not paid for some years and in desperate need of money as his wife faced an accident a few weeks back. Moreover, he was preparing for his daughter's engagement ceremony.

Shockingly, Kumar (56) hanged himself at the agency's

office in Nungambakkam area on Sunday evening and died on the way to hospital. Reliable sources claim that the agency, which faced a serious financial crisis because of faulty management policies for many years, started pay-cut tactics. Many senior journalists were compelled to leave their jobs without getting their due salaries and other benefits.

"Devastating impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the media fraternity have been observed across India. But a large number of Indian media authorities have taken advantages of the situation to reduce the number of employees, stop extra financial benefits, cut salaries up to two-third of its amount, etc" said Nava Thakuria, PEC's south-Asia representative, adding that the UNI management must be made accountable for the photojournalist's tragic end.

## Contd. from Page 1 Women could play an important role in Uripok AC....

She further highlighted that two polling stations in the Constituency, 10/20-Ibotonsana Girls Higher Secondary School (Northern Wing) and 10/21-Ibotonsana Girls Higher Secondary School (Southern Wing) have been identified as Women Polling Stations cum Model Polling Stations.

10/25-Uripok Bachaspati Leikai with 1119 electors has the highest number of electors and 10/19-Uripok Yambem Leikai with just 387 electors is the polling station with the lowest electors in the constituency.

A total of 160 polling officials will be utilised in the 35 polling stations of the constituency, which are divided into three sectors with one Sector Officer controlling a sector each, she said.

As of date, 94.52 percent of the electors in the constituency have received at least one dose of COVID-19 Vaccine and 87.89 percent have received a second dose.

Deputy Chief Minister and sitting NPP MLA of the constituency Yumnam Joykumar Singh along with three others are in fray for 10-Uripok AC seat. The other three are

Khwaitrakpam Raghunani Singh of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Nunglupam Mahananda Singh of the Indian National Congress and Khombongmayum Suresh Singh of the Janata Dal (United).

In the first State Legislative Election in 1972, Moirangthem Meghachandra of Communist Party of India became the first Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly from the Uripok AC by defeating Khaimd Rajmani of the Indian National Congress.

In the next election in 1980, Independent candidate Paonam Achou Singh defeated L. Raghunani of the Janata Party (JNP) to win the Uripok seat. Paonam Achou Singh fought the 1984 election with an Indian National Congress ticket and won the seat.

However, in 1990, Paonam Achou contested on an Indian National Congress ticket and won the seat.

In 1995, Manipur People's Party candidate Nameirakpam Nodichand Singh defeated Laishram Nandakumar Singh of

Federal Party of Manipur (FPM).

In the 7th State Legislative Election, 2000, Paonam Achou returned with Manipur State Congress Party ticket to defeat Laishram Nandakumar Singh of FPM and regained the Uripok seat. Two years later in the 8th Manipur Assembly election, Laishram Nandakumar Singh, contesting on an INC ticket, defeated the then sitting MLA P Achou of the FPM.

In 2007, Nandakumar retained the seat defeating his rival Achou who fought the election on MPP ticket. Nandakumar completed his hat-trick of wins by defeating Independent candidate N Dwijamani Singh in the 10th Assembly election, 2012.

Five years later, in the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 2017, former IPS officer-turned politician Yumnam Joykumar Singh defeated the then sitting MLA Laishram Nandakumar of INC.

It may be mentioned that other than Nameirakpam Nodichand, who was elected in 1995, every other elected member from the 10-Uripok AC have been ministers in the State cabinet.

## Covid-19: Centre to receive first supply of Corbevax vaccine today

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 15:

The Centre will start receiving its first supply of 300 million doses of Biological E's Covid-19 vaccine, Corbevax, from Tuesday, a report by the Business Standard said.

The order for these doses was placed on August 21, 2021.

Biological E had already produced 250 million doses of Corbevax and aimed to finish the remaining doses in a few

weeks, the report said.

Last year, the Centre had made an advance payment of ₹ 1,500 crore to the Hyderabad-based company to procure these doses, it added.

The supply of 300 million doses comes a day after the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) recommended emergency use authorisation to Corbevax for children between the ages of 12-18 subject to certain conditions.

The DGCI is expected to give final approval to the two-

dose vaccine soon. Official sources told news agency ANI on Monday the expected cost of Corbevax will be ₹ 145 excluding taxes.

In December last year, the DGCI had approved Corbevax for restricted use in an emergency situation in adults. But the vaccine is not yet included in the ongoing vaccination drive in the country.

According to the Union health ministry, Corbevax is India's first indigenously developed RBD protein sub-unit

vaccine against Covid-19.

It will be the second vaccine after Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has received an emergency use authorisation for children below the age of 18. The above-mentioned sources also told ANI that Biological E will soon submit data for clinical trials of Corbevax done on children below the age of 12.

At present, the Centre has still not taken a decision to vaccinate children below the age of 15.

## CEO, Manipur chaired...

The CBIC and DRI officials discussed about sharing of information and monitoring on transportation of items into the State through the international border. They were directed to co-ordinate with Customs authorities also. Regarding drugs and narcotics, the NCB and State Police were instructed to

intensify efforts for destruction of poppy-cultivation and to file F.I.Rs against involved citizens of the area where such cultivation occurs. The SLBC officials were instructed to enforce submission of reports of suspicious transactions regularly to the DEOs and Income Tax officials. The CISF, AAI and

BCAS officials were informed about sharing of information and intelligence about arrival of passengers and baggage via scheduled flights, chartered flights, helicopters etc. among the various Agencies/Departments and Flying Squads of DEOs to enable seizure of any illicit, illegal items etc

## Sports

## Mirabai Chanu to compete in new weight category in 2022 Commonwealth Games

Agency  
Birmingham, Feb 15:

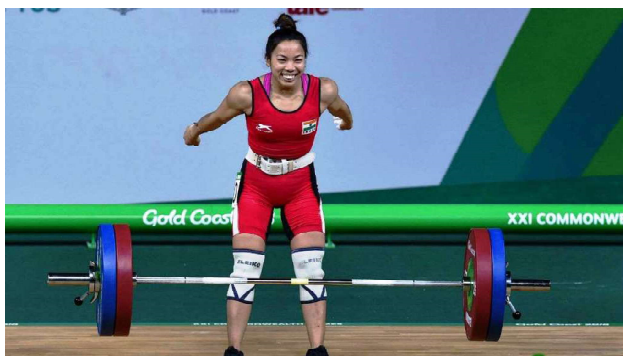
Olympic silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu will compete in a new weight class - 55kg at the Commonwealth Games later this year to help maximise India's chances of winning more gold medals in the multi-sport event in Birmingham.

Chanu has achieved a lot of success competing in the 49kg weight division, including winning a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics last year. She also holds the clean and jerk world record in this weight class.

Before that, she used to compete in the 48kg class, winning the world championship gold in 2017. She also won 48kg silver and gold in the 2014 and 2018 CWG respectively.

However, head coach Vijay Sharma and the Indian Weightlifting Federation feel the 27-year-old has a better chance of winning the gold medal in the 55kg category at the 2022 CWG than compatriot Sorokhaibam Binyarini Devi, who won a silver at the Commonwealth Championships in December last.

"We (coach and federation) had a meeting and discussed that India should bring back medals on all the women's weight categories in the 2022 Commonwealth Games," Chanu



told PTL.

"There is a chance of getting 4-5 gold medals and that's why we decided that I'll move up to 55kg. So, we can win one there," Chanu, who is already a two-time CWG medallist, added.

India still have a gold medal contender in the 49kg in Jhilli Dalabehra who won a silver in the Commonwealth Championships.

Chanu should be a sure-shot gold medal winner in 49kg but now she will have to work hard to win a gold in 55kg.

"I'll have to work really hard, I'll have to increase the weight (1 lift) because it will be competitive (in 55kg). I won't increase

my weight, I'll keep it as 50kg-51kg which is my natural weight," said Chanu, who has a personal best of 207kg (88kg+119kg).

With the Asian Games scheduled to begin just a month after the Birmingham CWG (July 28 to August 8), the diminutive Manipuri is not yet sure if she will switch back to the 49kg class or continue in 55kg in the continental event.

"I haven't decided which weight category I'll compete in the Asian Games. I will decide that after CWG. If all goes well I might continue in 55kg," she added.

Chanu will be seen in action for the first time since her his-

toric Tokyo performance at the Singapore Weightlifting International later this month, where she will look to qualify for the Commonwealth Games in her new category.

The lifter from Manipur is tweaking her snatch technique and she is hopeful that will also help her in sorting out her "unbalance issue" and staff off injuries.

"I am focussing on snatch a bit more because it is my weakness. Snatch is all about technique so I'm working on that, I'm trying to change it a little."

Chanu is keen to visit Horschlag again next month for rehabilitation and endurance training.

## ISL: Kerala Blasters FC edge past SC East Bengal to get back into semis contention

Agency  
Vasco, Feb 15:

Kerala Blasters FC breached the top-four positions after securing a narrow 1-0 win over SC East Bengal in the 2021-22 Indian Super League (ISL) at the Tilak Maidan Stadium. The Yellows reached the third position from sixth, thanks to the solitary goal by Enes Sipovic (49') who scored the winner for the Kochi side with a towering header.

As for the Red and Gold Brigade, the winless run extends to five matches. A measured approach from both teams saw less clear scoring chances in the early stages. Alvaro Vazquez was the first to hit the target for KBFC with a diving header which was easily saved by Sankar Roy between the sticks.

The SCEB goalkeeper was quite busy in the remainder of the first half as well but commanded his area expertly to deny a goal to the Yellow Army.

There were no goals to report in the first half as neither team was able to break the deadlock before going into the break. The second half began on a sensational note for KBFC as they went into the lead courtesy of Enes Sipovic.

Four minutes into the half, he connected well with a corner and guided the header past the goalkeeper to score his first goal in the ISL. Ivan Vukomanovic's men continued to push for another goal after getting their noses in front. Jorge Diaz made room for himself on the 68th-minute mark but had his shot

saved easily by Roy. Immediately on the other end, Antonio Perosevic unleashed a volley that almost caught Prabsukhan Gill off-guard but did not lead to a goal. Mario Rivera made a whole host of changes post the second water break in order to inspire his team to find an equaliser.

## Pliz collect your vehicle

Two vehicles bearing registration No. DL 2C AG 3601 (Martiz) and MN 1W 8045 (Alto car) which was put for repairing at the Garage at Patsoi Part-1, owned by Mutum Gopen Singh, some 3/4 months ago is still lying in the garage.

I therefore request the owner to collect the vehicle as repairing has been completed many days ago.

Sd/-  
Mutum Gopen Singh  
Patsoi Part-1

## Name change

I, the undersigned, MD Zakir (Hav, Rank No. 38338P) do hereby declare that I have entered the name of my wife Sh. Shahira (35) as Miss Saira Banu due to clerical mistake. The name of my wife should be entered as Sh. Shahira and not Miss Saira Banu. I do hereby declare to correct the name of my wife as Sh. Shahira.

Sd/-  
Md. Zakir  
Rank Hav. No. 38338P  
Address: Yairipok Bishnunaha Sipkai Leikai  
P.O. & P.S. Yairipok, Thoubal district, Manipur