

## Minister Biswajit narrate BJP's development mantra and appealed people not to believe in cheap propaganda



IT News  
Imphal, Feb 16:

Flag hoisting ceremony of BJP candidate in Thangmeiband Ac Jotin Waikhom was held today at his residence in Thangmeiband Assembly constituency. The flag hoisting ceremony was organised

by Thangmeiband BJP mandal and was attended by a large number of BJP supporters from different areas of Thangmeiband assembly constituency.

The flag hoisting ceremony was attended by union Minister of state External Affairs and Education Rk Ranjan, Asok singhal election co-in-

charge Manipur, BJP Manipur state President A Sarda Devi and Minister Th Biswajit among others.

Speaking at the flag hoisting ceremony, Works Minister Th Biswajit expressed that the BJP led government is fixing almost all the devastation created by the Congress in the 15-year tenure, in last five

years. By introducing various welfare schemes, programmes and missions under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the people of Manipur have started witnessing a fruitful life, he contended. Where there is BJP, there will be development and peace, Biswajit said, adding that going together with the BJP is same as going with success.

"Those unfaithful former BJP ticket contenders who left the BJP and chose Congress and other parties are like moving towards the end of their career", Biswajit said. The minister recalled that the renaming of Mt Harriet into Mt Manipur in honour of the unsung war heroes of Manipur and the extending of ILPS in Manipur by the BJP-led government led by Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah is the biggest gift to the people of Manipur by the BJP.

contd. on page 4

## Flag hoisting ceremony of BJP candidate N. Budhachandra held

*Last five years BJP government of Manipur brought lots of development ushering in peace and normalcy in the state - CM*

IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, Feb 16:

The Flag hoisting ceremony of BJP candidate of Jiribam AC, Nameirakpam Budhachandra was held at his residence at Ningsingkhun, Jiribam today.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh as a Chief Guest and hoisted the BJP flag in presence of Rajya Sabha M.P. Eningthou Leisemba Sanajaoba and Ashok Singhal, Cabinet Minister, Housing & Urban Affairs, Irrigation, Govt of Assam. Election Co-Incharge BJP, Manipur.

Thereafter, a public meeting was held at Uchathol play ground.



Speaking on the occasion Ashok Singhal asserts confident that BJP will cross 40 seats in Manipur. He also said, Budhachandra will surely win from Jiribam Assembly Constituency.

He added, BJP government of Manipur has brought many development. Jiribam District is

connected with Imphal through airway by providing helicopter services as well as it connect railway line in Manipur with rest of the country.

He assured that the BJP candidate of Jiribam Assembly Constituency will work for the development of every communities of Jiribam District.

Addressing the public meeting, the Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh said that in the last five years BJP government of Manipur brought lots of development ushering in peace and normalcy in the state.

contd. on page 4

## Till Naga issue is resolved, AFSPA may remain – Neiphphiu Rio



IT News  
Imphal, Feb 16:

Naga peoples' Front (NPF) today kick start its election campaign at Senapati ground. The political party which came into existence for the cause of the Naga issue in the state in early 2000s has field 10 candidates to contest in the 10 Assembly constituencies in the state.

Talking on the occasion the President of the NPF said that the party has field 10 candidates in 10 Naga dominated areas of the state.

"I appeal to all the right thinking Naga People of Manipur to support the Naga people", Rio said as, supporting the Naga candidates is supporting for resolving of the Naga issue.

Talking about the Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1958, Rio said that the act which has been imposed in the state for suppressing of the Naga insurgence group

may remain unless and until the Naga issue is resolved.

"The AFSPA may remain, it may go or it may come until the Naga issue is resolved", the NPF supremo told the gathering. He added that if the NPF candidates are given public mandate with thumping majority then it will give signal to resolve the Naga issue. He said that there are also other candidates who are well qualified contesting this election. But as for the NPF it is the Naga issue that is fighting for and people in the Naga dominated area need to sacrifice to give mandate to the NPF candidates.

The NPF leaders besides talking about the Naga issue said that as the party is working for increase of Naga seat in Lok Sabha, State Assembly, the same will be demanded for the Nagas of the Manipur.

It may be mentioned that, 4 candidates of the NPF got elected in the 11th Manipur legislative Assembly. The

party fielded 15 candidates last time. The NPF was the partner of the BJP's N. Biren Singh led government. Two among the four were given ministerial berth. This time, in the election for the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly scheduled to hold on February 28 and March 5, the NPF is fielding 10 candidates in 10 Assembly constituencies. Polling of these 10th Assembly election will be held in the 2nd phase, i.e on March 5.

Those 10 candidates are L:anghu Paulhring Anal in Chandel AC, Dangsawa Korungthang maring in Tengenoupal AC, Leishiyho Keishing in Phungyar AC, Ram Muivah in Ukhrul AC, Khashim Vashum in Chingai AC, Khoho Siile Anthony in Karong AC, Losii Dikho in Mao AC, Francis Ngajokpa in Tadubi AC, Awangbou Newmai in Tamenglong AC and Khangthuanang Panmei in Tamenglong AC.

## CEO Manipur flags off all-women polling team for Postal Ballot for Absentee Voters for Imphal East

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 16:

Chief Election Officer, Manipur Rajesh Agrawal, flagged off the delivery and collection of Postal Ballot by the Postal team for Imphal East District for Postal Ballot

for Absentee Voters at DC Complex, Porompat today.

16 all-women team consisting of two polling officers, videographers, a micro-observer and 1 Half-Section of armed security personnel each (one woman included) will visit all the 1524 electors who opted for Postal Ballot.

Speaking to the media, Rajesh applauded the District Election Office, Imphal East for taking up such an important step, an all-women polling team for the postal ballot, which shows women empowerment and large scale participation of women in the electoral process. ECI has always been encouraging maximum participation of women; he said and further added that for Manipur state, this is the first time that postal ballots have been provided for absentee voters in any general elections. It is a very important experiment. He also wished the entire 16 teams success for this important exercise.

DEO Kh Diana (IAS) has appealed to all stakeholders to give their full support to the exercise.

The flagging off ceremony was also attended by Imphal East Superintendent of Police M. Pradip Singh, IPS, Joint CEO, Manipur Md S. Daulat Khan and ADM, Imphal East Shamim Ahmad Shah and ADM, Imphal East Polem Lenin and other DLOs of the District.

The facility for voting through ballot paper is being imparted to Senior Citizens (AVSC), PwDs (AVPD) marked in Electoral roll and COVID-19 suspect or affected persons (AVCO) at their houses or place of quarantine/hospital. For Imphal East District, altogether 1524 electors which comprises of 1254 AVSC and 270 AVPD voters will avail the service.

The schedule for house-to-house visit for 10 Assembly Constituencies in two rounds will be completed on February 25, 2022. The 10 ACs of Imphal East District will go to polls in the first phase of the Two-Phase polling for the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Elections on February 28, 2022. The counting of votes will be on March 10.

## Armed rebel group Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) today observed "Army Day"

IT News  
Imohal, Feb 16:

Commemorating the launching of the army wing of the KYKL, the Meeyamgi Yawol Lanmee (MYL), the KYKL today observed the "Lanmeegi Numit" or the Army day today.

The day is taken as an important day by the armed rebel group engaging in the national liberation movement. A statement of the rebel group said that on February 16th of 2005, the valiant liberation fighters of MYL launched an attack on a patrol party of the 10th Assam Rifles, where five Assam rifles



personnel were killed following KYKL's establishment of its armed wing, Meeyamgi Yawol Lanmee (MYL). The attacked was the first attack against the

Indian occupation forces.

"To commemorate this event, the central committee of KYKL has declared it "Lanmeegi Numit". Since then, Febru-

ary 16th has been marked as "Army Day." It was also observed this year by KYKL throughout Kangleipak and beyond, including GHQ-1st

Bn., CHQ, 2nd Bn., 3rd Bn., units, and sections", the statement said.

As per the statement the main function was held at CHQ under the chairmanship of N. Oken, supreme commander, MYL, KYKL. The observation was attended by many prominent and important members of the armed wing as well as the Central Committee. With the hoisting of the party flag by the supreme commander, the function began. As part of the occasion, the supreme commander spoke categorically about the challenges the national liberation movement faces.

contd. on page 4



# With streaming videos come sleep deprivation

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Some people are suffering from insomnia, while there are many who willingly do not want to sleep. With the growth in income and wealth, some people indulge in different types of pastimes. The common factors for sleeplessness include consumption of tea, coffee, alcohol and excess indulgence in phone, computer, movies, new age series and parties etc. The sleeping habits of people with a decent income also change. A healthy person needs at least seven hours of sound sleep, which the new lifestyle has robbed of. Teenagers and youth are so obsessed with watching streaming videos and series on OTT platforms like Netflix, Bigflix and Amazon Prime Video that they watch it continuously for hours sacrificing their much needed sleep. They keep on staring at their mobile screens. Social media initiated this trend followed by OTT series. Due to this, many types of physical problems including fatigue, boredom, burning sensation in the eyes come around. The people in the US suffer more in this respect. Sleep deprivation is a big problem out there, and Americans are spending a lot of money on gadgets that help them sleep well.

Due to the new lifestyle, the market for sleep aids is booming. According to a report by Global Market Insights, in the first year of the Covid pandemic, sales of sleep aids in the world exceeded Rs 94,000 crore. This figure is expected to triple by 2025. Although the results of these devices are not 100 percent. A lot of work still needs to be done in this direction. People in the USA are not satisfied with their gadgets. A healthy person should get enough sleep every night that after waking up s/he does not feel tired. If this happens, it means that there is a lack of sleep. According to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an adult person needs at least 7 hours and maximum 9 hours of sleep a day. Getting less sleep can increase blood pressure. Such people are 20 percent more likely to have a heart attack. They can also suffer from obesity. Actually, sleep keeps a balance of hormones, due to which the development of the body and the mind remain intact.

Getting good sleep increases efficiency. This increases the immunity of the body and keeps the weight under control. Getting enough sleep keeps diseases like heart diseases and diabetes away. It is famous about Portugal's famous football player Cristiano Ronaldo that he never gets eight hours of sleep at a stretch. On the contrary, he sleeps five times a day for one and a half hours. His routine has been going on since he used to play for Manchester United. A 40-minute power nap after lunch is also a part of his routine. Consumption of alcohol also interferes with sleep. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 3 million people die every year in the world due to excessive alcohol consumption. Alcohol-borne diseases account for five percent of the world's expenditure on treatment of diseases. Similarly, 8 million people die every year due to tobacco. These include 1.2 million passive smokers, people who do not use tobacco themselves, nor do they smoke cigarettes, but who live with those who do.

# Where has gone the free& fair election?

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh  
Asst. Prof. JCRE Global College, Babupara, Imphal

India has a parliamentary system as defined by its Constitution with Power distributed between the Central Government and State. In a Constitutional democracy, election provides an opportunity to ascertain the popular Will in regard to the governance of the Country. Election is the act of choosing an individual usually for holding public office through free Will of the people in a representative democracy. Democratically elected nations postulate free and impartial election and India being a colossal democracy demands such process. The Constitution of India promises free and fair election to the citizens of the country and empowers the Election Commission to superintend, control and direct the election in India. Part XV of the Constitution lays down the right of vote promised to the citizens and other provision related to the citizens and other provisions related to election in India. In response to that, the Parliament enacted the Representation of the People Act 1950 and the Representation of the people Act 1951, to regulate the conduct of election.

Political parties are campaigning and gears up in full force for the upcoming Assembly elections 2022 in five states across India- Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur- which are set to be conducted in February and March. The Election Commission of India always imposes its Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in states where the elections are set to take place to make sure that the voting and campaigning process goes smoothly for a free and fair election. A Free election is one in which all citizens are able to vote for the candidate of their choice and fair

election is one in which all votes have equal power and are counted accurately. The concept of Free and Fair election may include: delimitation of the constituency, preparation, revision or amendment of electoral rolls; political liberty and equality in matters of election, it implies that no one in the electoral process is under the bondage of another; while exercising his/her right to vote, one is not under undue influence of party discipline, religion, caste creed, sex, language and also one is not under the strain of corrupt practice. But electoral malpractices/irregularities have taken a new form in recent times. Voter bribery and manipulation through the media have become the techniques to intimidate voters and unjustly influence voters instead of seizing booths. India is the second most populated country in the World and boast of having approximately 90 crore voters. However, Indian voters have a tendency of being swayed away or threatened by the political parties into unconscious voting. The voters are either provided monetary benefits or are simply cautioned. Money is an important factor in election because modern election campaign equipment is expensive. Since election is an exorbitant affair in India and candidates splash a lot of money, illicit substances like liquors, drugs and localized feast, gathering womenfolk creating so called self-help group (however never help themselves), erection of local women volunteers (Meira paibis or Nisha bandh) office building, with monetary help for Zarda Pan (particularly in Manipur) in order to win election and in doing so, they offer money to voters and request them to vote in their favor, ignoring the unending issues faced by everyone for which they were on the streets shouting slogans in the name of saving Manipur and for a flourish future. Prior to Election Model Code of Conduct come in to force, how the intending candidates and sitting representatives of various assemblies' constituencies of Manipur, started election campaign is witnessed by everybody (amid the threat of Covid-19 pandemic) as 12th Manipur State assembly election is in February and March 2022. There has been an increased in the incidence of corruption in public life over time, in which politicians and bureaucrats have diverted available resources to personal use. Public money was misused and the moral as well as ethical atmosphere of the country was destroyed. According to Vohra Committee report, high level criminalization of politics and competition is destroying the structure of our parliamentary democracy, political bureaucrats, the Civil service and the Judiciary. It is an accepted fact that in times of external support and coalition government of the state and center levels, the people representatives in the legislature and parliament receive money to support a particular government. Thus, members of parliament or state legislature become the commodity of sale, the subject of sale, purchase or horse-trading. The availability of large sums of money usually increases the number of votes a can-

didate receives. This money is often in the path of counterfeited money, which is collected in vicious and illegal manner like Drug trafficking, Akash bill of contractual work etc. Election bonds have proven to be counterproductive in enabling legal and transparent means of political financing. This amounts to electoral practice and inflicts punishment under the Representation of the People Act 1951 and other statutory laws. However, the Constitution restrict the judicial intervention during the course of election but the authenticity of the elections may be called into question through a writ petition in the High Court and an appeal can be preferred in the Supreme Court.

The Election Commission is authorized to make sure that equal opportunity is given to all the political parties and the candidates to contest the election. So, Election Commission has formulated a set of rules called the Model Code of Conduct and encompasses all the features of campaigning and it has to be meticulously followed by all the political parties. Election Commission also puts caps on the funding of elections at both Union and state level. In spite of security measures taken at the polling stations to exercise the power empowered to the election officers for free and fair election, a lot of threat has been witnessed and many more have succumbed over the years particularly in the insurgent and Naxal prone areas. Occasions are in abundant when it comes to candidates buying votes from poor people since India is a poverty-stricken nation and promised to eradicate poverty for years which has never come true till today. It is undeniable fact that the process of election in India is vacillating since there are so many issues that one can fathom. Issues like :criminalization of politics; corrupt practices; undue influence like use of physical forces and booth capture; inciting hatred and violence amongst people of same community and different communities; influencing public officials; defection politics; unlawful activities and unlawful organizations; demanding votes on the basis of religion and caste; expenditure on campaigning exceeding the permissible limits; publication of false statement by candidates; misuse of election machinery etc. It is usually alleged that the party in power misuse the government machinery to tilt the electoral process in their favor in order to win the election in a constituency. With the approaching of 12th Assembly election in Manipur, violence is increasing each day. Some intending candidates have led to pick up violent activities just to get votes forcefully. Recent pre-poll violence and even killings in certain assembly constituencies of valley and media report of intervening and threat to candidates of certain political party in the hill constituencies of Manipur clearly depicts the involvement of goons/hooligans in Manipur's politics. NPP Media and Communication Cell, New-Delhi said that outfits namely KNF-MC, KNF-Z, UKLF, KNA, HPC(D) have threatened their candidates in different constituencies and have openly come out to support candidates from BJP and NPF. In our tiny state Manipur, it is a well-known fact that many tainted candidates having criminal records have been elected in local bodies as well as in state assembly. As per media report, it is clear that many candidates of various political parties of ensuing assembly election in Manipur have several serious criminal records. As many as 31 candidates of the 173 who are contesting the first phase of the ensuing Manipur election 2022 have declared pending criminal cases against them in their poll affidavit. The embezzlement of government machinery can be in different forms and includes advertisement out of govt funds; using govt. vehicles for election purposes; showcasing their accomplishments using govt. funds and expenditure for personal use of the ministers. Such embezzlement gives unjust edge to the party in power at the time of election. The seriousness to the misappropriation of public funds to increasing the chance of winning the candidates of a particular party. The Election Commission admitted this fact in an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court. Corruption in India is due to many reasons and politicians are one of them. It is not the outcome of political system as such. Constitution is what people make of it. Attempts have been made to defeat the principles of constitution and the rule of law. If it is so, then where has gone the free and fair election in India?

The Civil Society has scored over many obstacles and determined challenges cases pertaining to the rights of the dispossessed and weaker section, gender discrimination and corrupt activities. It has been successful in securing transparency in electoral process by declaring the background of the candidate involving education, criminal records, and assets. However, it is generally spelled by general public (subject to correction) that in Manipur, a leader in a civil society organization is more powerful than an opposition MLA, so organizing a civil society organization in Manipur is something like a business (voice of people). Media too, has played an important role by galvanizing the attempts to curb electoral malpractices and enlightening the masses to fight against the menace of corrupt practice. An active media challenges the accountability of the government in a country like India. Therefore, as the guardian of democracy, the media should follow ethical reporting of events that cover real issues affecting the people and should not engage in paid news and propaganda politics. However, there has been paradigm shift in the functioning of media. Ethics of journalism has taken of back seat in the evolving media scenario. Journalists have to be more vigilant and rational in dealing with such political menace in the country. Taking all these accounts together, a dream of free and fair election is a reality far away from us and it's a nice word but will be an impossible task.

Writer can be reached to: [sjugeshwor7@gmail.com](mailto:sjugeshwor7@gmail.com)

# Sant Ravidas : Kranti Jyoti Yugpurush

India has witnessed the birth of a number of Avatars, Sants and powerful spiritual personalities who have illuminated this Holy land with their succinct teachings and awakened the masses about the real essence of Bhakti. Satguru Ravidas was one of the renowned Sant of Bhakti Aandolan, who created an enduring impetus through his devotional songs and verses. He was the leading stars of Sant Parampara or Nigun Sampradaya and valued the worship of formless God.

Born on Maghi Purnima of Vikrami Samvat 1433 at Shri Govardhanpur village (now renamed as Sri Guru Ravidas Janma Sthan) in Kashi in a Dalit family, Gururji was the backbone of the Bhakti Aandolan. He fought against discrimination based on caste, creed and colour and taught lesson of universal brotherhood. Because of his untouchable social status, he has now become an important figure for down trodden sections of the society, although his followers are also from the upper castes like Krishna-Bhakt Meerabai, the Rajput queen of Chittor. He is considered to be spiritual Guru of Meerabai, which she had expressed through her verse "Guru Milya Ravidas Ji, Dini Gyan Ki Gutki; Chot Lagi Nijnam Hari Ki, Mharey Hivrey Khatki".

Gururji was a great follower of Lord Ram and Krishna and his writings are full of names like Ram, Raja Ramchandra, Krishna, Govind, Raghunath, Hari etc. He was the true messenger of God. He took birth on earth to save the true Dharma, as at that time the social as well religious pattern was distressed due to several man-made discrimination over social beliefs, castes, colour etc. He taught that one is not identified by his caste or beliefs in God, but is known for his Karma (great work). Ravidas Janma Ke Kamai, Hot Na Kou Neech; Nur Kun Neech Kari Dari Hai, Oehhe Karam



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

Ki Keech (No one is inferior by birth, but his doings make him inferior. So, always focus on great deeds). On the tune of Bhagwad Gita, he preached in his own version as "Karam Bandhan Mein Bandh Rahiyo, Phal Ki Na Taijiyo Aas; Karam ManushKa Dharma Hai, Sat Bhakha Ravidas". (i.e. Always perform your duty and do not desire its fruit, because duty is our Dharma and Fruit is our destiny)

Regarding untouchability and discrimination, he spread the message that God has created man and not man has created the God. So, every human being has equal right on this earth. "Tohi Mohi, Mohi Tohi, Antar Kaisa; Kanak Katik Jal Tarang Jaisa", i.e. There is no difference between you (God) and me as there is no difference between the Gold & its ornament, and water & its wave. He expressed his feeling as "Let us make this world without any discrimination and race like colour".

Sant Ravidas had given a variety of spiritual and social messages through his writings. He said "If you can not do well, at least do not harm others. If you can not live like a flower, at least do not live like a thorn". He gave emphasis for education by saying "Avidya Ahi Keen, Taatay Tivek Deep Bhava Maleen" (i.e. Lack of education has caused great harm and it has eclipsed our rationale).

He is revered by both Hindus and Sikhs. Nearly 40 of his sacred hymns have been made an integral part of the Sikh scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib by the 5th Guru Arjun Dev. He is known as the inventor of Gurumukhi Lipi (script) and entire Sikh Vani is written in Gurumukhi. Although, after some untoward incidents, the Ravidasia Samaj has parted itself from Sikhism and replaced Guru Granth Sahib with Amritvani having nearly 240 hymns of Ravidas. The Panch Vaani text of the Hindu Warrior-ascetic group of Dadupani tradition within Hinduism also includes numerous poems of Ravidas.

Ravidasji was a great saint and preferred to live as a common man. Gururji's teachings of equality and brotherhood in the society are the greatest inspiration to us. There will not be unity among human beings, without abolishing the caste system. "Jati Jati men Jaitahi, Jo Ketan Ke Pat; Ravidas Manush Na Jud Sakai, Jak Tak Jati Na Jar". He had propounded and advocated the concept of Begumpura (Be-Gum-Pura) or a city without sorrow (Gum), which would be stateless, classless, casteless and where there would be no discrimination. He wrote "Aisa Chahun Raj Main, Jahan Milai Saban Ko Anna. Chhote Bade Sab Sam Base, Ravidas Rahe Prasanna."

He cautioned the people against unwanted customs and beliefs. In one of his hymn he pointed out "Man Changa To Kathauti Mein Ganga" (i.e. If your heart is pious, then the Holy river is right in your tub and you need not go anywhere else to take a dip).

The teaching of Guru never fails and his word never goes wrong. He is the true source of light in life. The valuable teachings of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas are a great treasure for those who are heading on the divine path of Bhakti to get liberated from all the shackles.

(The author is a technocrat & academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj)

# Bite-size learning



By: Vijay GarG

How does an igloo keep you warm? Why do we feel nostalgia? What would happen if the world went vegetarian? One can find answers to these queries from short videos. This is what Microlearning is all about.

Figures from Statistic Brain Research Institute show that, in 2000, the span of human attention was 12 seconds. In 2015, it further decreased to 8.25 seconds. No wonder then that mMicrolearning is seen as a way of creating effective learning in a short span.

The recent pandemic has put tremendous pressure on education institutions and educationists, glo-

novation, which offers a skill-based approach to teaching, which renders information in highly focused, small chunks that students can grasp in a short time, according to their preferred location and schedule. Although bite-size learning has become increasingly popular in the last two years, it has an extensive history even before desktops were a thing. But, it became relevant when it met the modern smartphone. In this era of immediacy and short attention span, it is a model that can be used across various kinds of learning.

## Skill-based approach

Microlearning is one such in-

contd. on page 3

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

# India logs 30,615 new cases; active tally drops below 400,000

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 16:

India on Wednesday reported a net decrease of 52,887 in active coronavirus cases to take its count to 370,240. India's share of global active coronavirus cases now stands at 0.52 per cent (one in 192). The country is twenty-sixth among the most affected countries by the active cases. On Tuesday, it added 30,615 cases to take its total caseload to 42,723,558 from 42,692,943—an increase of 0.07%. And, with 514 new fatalities, its Covid-19 death toll reached 509,872, or 1.19 per cent of total confirmed infections.

With 4,154,476 more Covid-19 vaccine doses being administered on Tuesday, India's total count of vaccine shots so far reached 1,738,681,675. The count of recovered coronavirus cases across India, meanwhile, reached 41,843,446 — or 97.94 per cent of total caseload — with 82,988 new cured cases being reported on Wednesday.

Now the twenty-sixth-most-affected country by active cases, third by deaths, second by total cases and recoveries, India has added 312,582 cases

in the past 7 days.

India now accounts for 0.52% of all active cases globally (one in every 192 active cases), and 8.74% of all deaths (one in every 11 deaths).

India has so far administered 1,738,681,675 vaccine doses. That is 4069.6 per cent of its total caseload, and 124.09 per cent of its population.

Backwards from here, the last 1 million cases for India have come in 14 days.

The count of active cases across India on Wednesday saw a net decrease of 52,887, compared with 55,755 on Tuesday. States and UTs have seen the biggest daily net increase in active cases are Ladakh (1).

With 82,988 new daily recoveries, India's recovery rate stands at 97.94%, while fatality rate remained unchanged at 1.19%.

The Indian states and UTs with the worst case fatality rates at present are Punjab (2.33%), Nagaland (2.13%), and Maharashtra (1.83%). The rate in as many as 14 is higher than the national average.

India's new daily closed cases stand at 83,502 — 514 deaths and 82,988 recoveries. The share of deaths in total

closed cases stands at 0.62%.

India's 5-day moving average of daily rate of addition to total cases stands at 0.1%.

India's doubling time for total cases stands at 966.9 days, and for deaths at 687.2 days.

Overall, five states with the biggest 24-hour jump in total cases are Kerala (11776), Maharashtra (2831), Mizoram (1616), Karnataka (1405), and Rajasthan (1387).

India on Tuesday conducted 1,251,677 coronavirus tests to take the total count of tests conducted so far in the country to 754,284,979. The test positivity rate recorded was 24%.

The five most affected states by total cases are Maharashtra (7847746), Kerala (6428148), Karnataka (3929642), Tamil Nadu (3439221), and Andhra Pradesh (2313827).

Maharashtra, the most affected state overall, has reported 2831 new cases to take its tally to 7847746.

Kerala, the second-most-affected state by total tally, has added 11776 cases to take its tally to 6428148.

Karnataka, the third-most-affected state, has reported 1405 cases to take its tally to 3929642.

# ED Raids Mumbai Locations Linked to Dawood Ibrahim in a Money Laundering Case

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, Feb 16

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted raids at nearly 10 locations including Nagpada in South Mumbai, linked to wanted fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, in a money laundering case on Tuesday.

According to information, the raids were conducted based on the case registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) registered by the ED against Dawood Ibrahim.

The NIA has registered the case under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) against Dawood after learning that he has been spreading terror activities and has been pumping money through hawala channels to finance those working for him to create unrest across India. Recently, the presence of the



Dawood Ibrahim gang was found in Punjab, indicating that Pakistan's ISI has started using the underworld to spread terror in Punjab.

The ED officials began conducting raids on people associated with Dawood Ibrahim and his late sister Haseena Parkar. Dawood is believed to have set up a vast business empire since he fled India in the 1980s. Earlier this month, security agencies had arrested Abu Bakar, a 1993 Mumbai serial blast accused and a close aide of Dawood from the UAE after 29 years of manhunt.

Dawood Ibrahim is a wanted terrorist for his role in the 1993 serial Bombay blasts

cases. He is the son of a police constable who was with the Mumbai police. He started his crime life with gang wars in the Dongri area of South Mumbai. In Dongri, he got in touch with gang members of Haji Mastan and his gang war began. He was first arrested for a robbery case in the 1980s, and later his criminal activities increased manifold. He became more powerful and dangerous due to the fights between the Haji and the Pathan gangs, comprised mostly of migrants from Afghanistan.

Dawood and his associates fled to Pakistan before the 1993 Mumbai blasts, which left 257 people dead. He has been linked to multiple terror organizations and is also believed to be helping narco-terrorism through his hawala network. The sources said that a politician from Maharashtra is also under the scanner in a money laundering case being investigated by the ED.

# Manipur Governor La. Ganesan enrolled as voter in Sagolband AC

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 16:

Governor La Ganesan is enrolled as a voter in the 11-Sagolband Assembly Constituency said Returning Officer Dr. Md. Imran Khan adding that Governor will cast his vote at the 11/34 Old Lambulane (B) Polling Station, which is identified by the Chief Electoral Officer's Office for virtual tour of the International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP).

He said it is indeed fortunate to have the Governor enrolled his name as a voter in the Assembly Constituency.

For smooth implementation of Silent Dispersal System which will be used for the first time during transportation of polling personnel on the polling day in the district, RO Dr. Imran and his team has been assigned the colour Red.

Dr. Imran said out of 36 polling stations in the constituency, five have been included under the Mission 300 Programme of the CEO, Manipur with an aim to increase voter turnout. The five Polling Stations are 11/28, 11/29, 11/30, 11/32, 11/33, with Polling Station 11/29 recording the lowest voting percentage of 54.88 per cent in the 2017 election.

Expressing his confidence for an improved voting percentage in the constituency this time, the RO stated that preparations, including intensive SVEEP activities, have been stepped up in the Assembly Constituency under the supervision of DEO, Imphal West Th. Kirankumar. He further appreciated the staffs and officials engaged in the election process and said preparation for the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly election in his constituency has been going smooth due to the support and cooperation of the staff and officials.



The Returning Officer further stated that 11-Sagolband AC covers five Revenue Villages and four Imphal Municipal Council Wards. Altogether 180 polling personnel including women and reserved personnel will be utilized for the 36 Polling Stations.

Sagolband AC has 23,920 electors of which 12,869 are female, 11,045 are male and six are Transgender. 11/36 Yaikul Police Lane, with only 240 electors, is the Polling Station with lowest number of electors, and 11/9 Thounoujam Leikai P/S has the highest with 976 electors. 11/33-Tamphasana Girls' Higher Secondary School-Eastern Wing and 11/34 Tamphasana Girls' Higher Secondary School-Western Wing have both been identified as Women Polling Stations and Model Polling Stations.

RO Dr. Imran further appealed to the electors in the constituency to come out in numbers and ensure high voting percentage in the constituency for a successful conduct of the election process.

Sagolband AC has

achieved 95.5 percent of first dose COVID Vaccination and 87 percent of second dose vaccination.

Three candidates including sitting MLA RK Imo of the BJP, INC candidate Moirangthem Momo and JD(U) candidate Dr. Khwairakpam Loken Singh are contesting for the Sagolband seat.

11-Sagolband AC is the only constituency to have produced a Chief Minister as well as a Union Minister. RK Jaichandra became the Chief Minister of the State after winning by-polls to the 11-Sagolband AC in 1988. He was also the first Union Minister from the State and served as the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, and later on as the Chemicals and Petrochemicals Minister in the Cabinet of Rajiv Gandhi between 1985 and 1988.

In the 1972 Assembly election, Thokchom Bira of the Communist Party of India defeated Salam Gambhir of the MPP and became first Sagolband MLA. However, sitting MLA and CPI candidate Thokchom Bira was defeated by MPP candidate Salam Tombin in the 1974 election.

In 1980, Moirangthem

Kumar Singh, contesting on MPP ticket, defeated Independent candidate Salam Damodar. In the 4th State Assembly Elections, 1984, Damodar turned the tables and defeated MLA Kumar of MPP.

Ahead of the 1990 State Assembly elections, a bye-poll for 11-Sagolband AC was held in 1988, in which RK Jaichandra of the INC defeated M Kumar of the MPP. RK Jaichandra repeated the feat and defeated his rival M Kumar in the 1990 State Assembly elections.

In the 6th General Elections to the Manipur Legislative Assembly, 1995, MPP candidate Moirangthem Kumar Singh defeated Janata Dal candidate Dr. Khwairakpam Loken Singh. The 2000 Assembly Elections witnessed a reverse result, as Dr. Khwairakpam Loken Singh, contesting with a Janata Dal (Secular) ticket defeated Moirangthem Kumar of the Manipur State Congress Party.

In 2007, INC candidate Dr. Khwairakpam Loken Singh emerged victor over Soram Natum Singh of the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Five years ago in 2002, Soram Natum Singh, who contested the election on a Manipur National Conference ticket, had defeated the then INC candidate Dr. Khwairakpam Loken Singh.

In the 10th State Assembly Elections, 2012, Rajkumar Imo Singh, son of former CM RK Jaichandra, contesting on Manipur State Congress Party ticket, defeated INC's Dr. Loken.

Imo Singh defended his seat in 2017 election, with Indian National Congress ticket, defeating Dr. Khwairakpam Loken Singh of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

# Covid vaccination during pregnancy helps protect babies after birth: Study

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 16:

Vaccinating pregnant women against the coronavirus may help prevent COVID-19 hospitalizations in infants after they are born, especially if the expecting mothers got the shots later in their pregnancy, U.S. researchers reported on Tuesday.

The findings shed light on whether the benefits of vaccination during pregnancy extend to infants who would be too young to receive vaccines.

Researchers from several pediatric hospitals and the

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) looked at children under six months old between July 2021 and January 2022.

The study analyzed data from 379 hospitalized infants - 176 with COVID-19 and 203 who were admitted for other issues. It found that COVID-19 vaccines were 61% effective overall at preventing hospitalizations in children whose mothers were vaccinated during pregnancy.

That protection rose to 80% when the mothers were vaccinated 21 weeks through 14 days before delivery. Vaccination effectiveness fell to 32% for the babies whose mothers were not vaccinated earlier during pregnancy.

The study authors warned that the estimates for effectiveness earlier in pregnancy should be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size.

"Right now we want to ensure that we are protecting both the mom and the infant," CDC's Dana Meaney-Delman told reporters. "So as soon as a pregnant woman is willing to be vaccinated, she should do so."

Pregnant women are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, and having COVID during pregnancy can increase the risk of preterm birth, stillbirth and possibly other pregnancy complications, according to the CDC.

The CDC recommends that women who are pregnant, are breastfeeding, are trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future get vaccinated and stay up to date with COVID-19 shots.

Previous studies have shown that COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy was not associated with preterm delivery or underweight newborns.

Contd. from Page 2

# Bite-size learning

However, there is no one way to deliver this. Microlearning tools consist of articles, videos, blogs, quizzes, audio clips, simulation, e-books, infographics, and gamification. As long as the content is in short bursts of information that help the learners to acquire customised knowledge in a short span, the tool used is not of much relevance. It is not just about content consumption. There are various ways in which students can implement the strategy.

Supplement courses: Modules can be devised to reinforce learning, and used to facilitate recollection of information

from within the lessons or post-lecture session.

Flipped classroom learning: Students can avail modules outside class hours and effectively utilise class hours for practical work and discussions.

Learn new language: They can learn creative writing or learn to write in a new language by compiling small sentences.

Despite following a bite-sized format, Microlearning should be integrated into higher education. For educators looking to offer learners useful skill honing chances, it provides a means to stand out from the crowd, and can effectively upskill students in aid

ing retention. Instead of loading them with long content and information, short snippets help them grasp key points easily, thereby leading to information retention and being able to use it to advantage.

According to data from Educational Computing Research, the short form of content aids in better retention of information by at least 20%. It also helps them focus on relevance.

Essentially Microlearning is task-oriented, which does away with extraneous information. It provides learners with the precise information they need, to get the job done as effectively as possible.

# Assam mulls changing names of cities, towns which are 'contrary to Indian culture'; to launch portal for suggestions

Agency  
Dispur, Feb 16:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said that the state government is considering changing names of cities, towns and villages which are "contrary" to the culture and tradition of the state, and "derogatory" to any caste or community.

Sarma also said that the state government will launch a portal to seek suggestions

from the public on change of names of cities and towns.

In a tweet, the Chief Minister of the BJP-ruled state said that name of a city, town or village should "represent its culture, tradition and civilisation."

"THERE'S MUCH IN A NAME Name of a city, town or village should represent its culture, tradition & civilisation. We shall launch a portal to invite suggestions on change of names across Assam which are contrary to our civilisation, culture & derogatory to any

caste or community," he tweeted this morning.

Speaking at a groundbreaking ceremony of a medical college in Guwahati, the Chief Minister said that people do not want to take name of some places.

# Bank Passbook Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Bank Passbook of State Bank of India, bearing Account No. 38924694645 on the way between Langol and Uripok on February 10, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Jerimy Chanu Khumukcham  
Mayang Imphal Bazar  
#8731904572



# NSCN-IM sensitises Nagas of Manipur on peace talks

Courtesy: TOI  
Guwahati, Feb 16:

The NSCN (IM) has plunged into the Manipur election environment by carrying its inconclusive peace talks with the Centre as a problem to the poll-bound state the place the Nagas have the second highest inhabitants outdoors Nagaland.

Out of Manipur's over 28 lakh inhabitants (2011 Census), about 5 lakh are a mixture of a number of Naga tribes, who predominantly dwell within the hills. The bulk group, the Meiteis, who comprise greater than 53% of the inhabitants, inhabit the valley. Out of the 60 seats within the state, 40 are within the hills and the remaining 20 within the valley. NSCN (IM)

supremo Th Muivah hails from Somaal village of Ukhrul district of Manipur

An announcement from NSCN (IM) stated, "With the Manipur meeting election marketing campaign heating up", the group's Zeilad area of Tamenglong district of Manipur "is on full gear to make the individuals perceive the significance of the continued Indo-Naga political talks as regards to the Framework Settlement (FA)," which was signed within the presence of PM Narendra Modi in 2015 in New Delhi.

A discourse was organised for the Hengle meeting constituency of Manipur on the convention corridor of All Naga College students' Affiliation, Manipur underneath the aegis of the Zeilad

area. It was attended by all village authorities, civil society organisations, youth wings and college students' organisations, who prolonged their full help to the continued Indo-Naga political talks primarily based on the Framework Settlement of third August, 2015, the assertion stated.

Whereas stressing on the "crucial significance of staying alert lest persons are trapped by the unscrupulous components/brokers for mere politicking and appealed to the attending individuals by no means to compromise the Naga individuals' rights for financial positive aspects," it was reminded on the discourse that the peace speak was shifting

in the suitable observe and fruition will come quickly.

On the finish of the assembly, the individuals of the Rongmei Naga tribe underneath the Hengle constituency unanimously adopted the declaration to increase full help to the collective management of NSCN(IM) and to attraction to each NSCN (IM) and the Centre to expedite the Framework Settlement inclusive of the Naga nationwide flag and the Naga structure (Yehzabo).

Additionally they resolved that the "answer must be inclusive, honourable and acceptable to the Naga individuals primarily based on the distinctiveness of the Naga historical past."

# Haomee appeals politicians to be more concern on peoples' issue

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 16:

Federation of Haomee in a press release stated that during election campaign, candidates ignore the peoples' issues. Such attitude of the candidate may be

a blunder game and it may be a road to defeat the election.

"We all know that we have many international treaties. From the Merger agreement to Manipur statehood and 8th scheduled, to establish University and to

repeal AFSPA 1958 and to remove AR from Kangla, to implement ILP all these are the credit for the peoples of Manipur", the Federation Of Haomee said and asked the government and political party that all these issues are succeeded by the people.

# PANDAM condoles the demise of KT Rahaman

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 16:

Peoples' Action for National Democratic Movement (PANDAM) has deeply mourned the sudden demise of former AMUCO president, KT Rahaman.

PANDAM in a condolence note, recalled the dedication and role of the late civil society leader

at the time of critical social and political issues of the State.

KT Rahaman had also worked closely with UCM in various movements to keep the territorial integrity of the State intact, stated UCM while also noting that the late leader played a key role as the chairman of Joint June 18 Observation Committee of UCM and AMUCO.

His demise is an irreparable loss to the State, said PANDAM while praying for his soul to rest in peace.

PANDAM also shared the grief of the bereaved family members.

KT Rahaman has passed away on February 12 at his residence in Lilong Haoreibi Makha Leikai at around 3.20 pm today. He was 57.

Contd. from Page 1

# Armed rebel group Kanglei Yawol .....

He also stated that the revolutionary movement we are launching now is related to the question of our continued existence as a people, which is why this is a crucial movement that we cannot abandon or run away from.

The supreme commander said, "Our society today is riddled with many unnatural phenomena. It is a society crumbling in every sphere: economy, politics, social structure, even moral behaviors. There are significant questions to be answered regarding why societies crumble and what the way out is. Giving a definitive answer to the question is the epochal task of revolutionary leaders and today's youth. If we dig a little deeper, we can find that our society has been caught in

the trap holes of Indian colonial economy, politics, and culture, because the Indian colonial economy devastated Kanglei's economic backbone and all productive forces, we have become entirely on Indian handouts. We have come to believe that we couldn't exist without the Indians. As a result of the Indian Hinduization process, our social and cultural identities have been gradually diluted. For the Indian policy of wiping out the indigenous people from the earth, they have used both repressive state apparatus, which is a hard tool, and ideological state apparatus, which is a bit softer and yet equally powerful. As a result of all these machinations, we have today become a bunch of people who have disintegrated

in all spheres. This fact implies that if we continue to exist under Indian colonialism, our nation is on the path to extinction. We shall never be able to steer our society down the correct historical path under Indian colonialism", the statement said.

It further added that Indian colonialism's principal objective is to uproot indigenous people from their land and replace them with Hindus from mainland India.

"It is self-evident that if we continue to be a part of India under its colonial rule, we will cease to exist as a people. The other reality implicit in this situation is that the freedom struggle we are currently waging against India is correct. Clearly, this is the only way to ensure that we can protect our

nation and people. Today, on the occasion of the 18th Army Day, I would like to appeal to all revolutionary organizations and cadres to take an oath to transform ourselves into true revolutionary armies, equipped with revolutionary principles and revolutionary consciousness, capable of confronting and overcoming the current challenges." Many prominent Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup's central committee members and important persons from MYL's armed wing spoke after the supreme commander finished his address. They all stressed the significance of continuing the fight with a new strategy and energy. They also all expressed a need to make our armed wing more disciplined and dedicated", the statement added.

# Minister Biswajit narrate BJP's development mantra....

On behalf of the BJP, Biswajit promised to make Thangmeiband an economically stable and progressive constituency and asked the voters to study the differences between the Congress regime and the BJP regime before casting their valuable votes.

Minister Biswajit, who is also a member of the BJP Na-

tional Executive Committee further stated that now the time has passed for the Congress party now the time has come for the BJP. During the 15-year Congress government in Manipur Congress created triple CCC - that is crime, criminal, and corruption. Now they passed and will not come back again. And now the congress is paralyzed

they cannot walk and sit only they can speak it is their duty.

The people of Thangmeiband AC need to remember that in the pre-independent period and post-independent, who ruled the country even in Manipur after statehood? Congress ruined the country and Manipur. We need to recall and we need to remember the past.

# Flag hoisting ceremony of BJP....

People are beginning to feel the change and we are happy that we have been able to achieve this in such a short time, under the leadership of Narendra Modi.

He gives an ample example

"Tamenglong District will become one of develop district in Manipur"

Regarding the Jiri-Tipaimukh road, CM Biren said construction of JT road is the main priority of BJP in

Jiribam and it has already sanctioned 114 crores by the government.

Jiribam District is the western gateway of Manipur and it is utmost require to make it model district of Manipur.

# Sports

# ISL: Manvir scores double as ATK Mohun Bagan strengthen grip on top-four

Agency  
Bambolim, Feb 16:

ATK Mohun Bagan made it a hat-trick of wins to remain second in the table and in a commanding position as far as the semi-final race is concerned, with a clinical 2-0 victory over FC Goa in the Indian Super League at the Athletic Stadium, here on Tuesday.

Manvir Singh (3rd, 46th) scored a brace on either side of half-time to ensure the Mariners stretched their unbeaten run to 11 games under Juan Ferrando, who did a double over his former side after switching allegiances mid-season.

FC Goa's slim chances of making the semis all but went up in smoke as they remained on 18 points from 17 outings.

The Mariners were at it from the word go, taking the lead as early as the third minute. Prabir Das' cross was cleared for a corner by Dylan Fox. Liston Colaco whipped in a delightful flagkick for Manvir to flick the ball home with his back behind the goal. Dheeraj Moirangthem had little time to react as the Gaurs were stung early.

Goa upped the ante as the



half went on and started asking a lot of questions of the ATKMB backline which had Sandesh Jhingam for the first time from the start.

Jorge Ortiz had a huge opportunity to kickstart Goa's onslaught as he tried to find his teammate selflessly from a good angle only for Tiri to stick out a left boot and clear away the danger.

Liston was once again brilliant, making those dazzling runs and linking up well with Joni Kauko and Manvir. Anwar Ali found the crossbar soon

after the cooling break when his rasping effort from long range came off the woodwork.

After the break, ATKMB doubled their advantage to pour cold water on Goa's hard work and build-up play. One minute into the second half, Manvir scored his and the team's second goal of the night as he pounced on a Lenny Rodrigues ball after Rodrigues latched on to a loose ball from Princeton Rebello. Manvir controlled the ball, dribbled past Dheeraj and guided the ball inside the goal.

Manvir almost got his hat-trick four minutes later, getting on the end of a Liston ball but could not beat Dheeraj who did well to get his body on the line. ATKMB could have had more goals as Kauko and Manvir also spurned gilt-edged chances.

Colaco hit the underside of the crossbar after he whipped in a cross from the left flank. Dheeraj finally scrambled to clear the danger. ATKMB held fort till the end to ensure all three points and maintain their upturn in form.

# Cristiano Ronaldo breaks goal drought as United defeat Brighton

Agency  
Manchester, Feb 16:

Cristiano Ronaldo broke his goal drought to score Manchester United's opener in a 2-0 defeat of Brighton & Hove Albion that lifted them into the Premier League's top four on Tuesday.

Ronaldo, without a goal since December and dropped to the bench by interim manager Ralf Rangnick in some recent matches, answered his critics five minutes after half-time with a superb finish after being played in by Scott McTominay.

Brighton had been the better side before halftime with United again looking disjointed and lacking spark. But their hopes of responding after falling behind were damaged when Lewis Dunk was sent off after a foul on Anthony Elanga, an initial yellow card being upgraded to red. Even then United were unconvincing and Brighton's Jakob Moder curled an effort against the crossbar before former United striker Danny Welbeck headed over a late chance.



Bruno Fernandes gave the scoreline a flattering look with a well-taken solo goal in stoppage time as United moved above West Ham United into fourth spot with 43 points from 25 games. The opening 45 minutes were tough to watch for United fans with Brighton looking the more polished side. But for a sensational save by David de Gea to deny Ronaldo's header, the boos at halftime would have

been louder. Ronaldo changed the mood, however, after the break. He had gone six games without a goal, his driest spell at club level since a run of seven games without scoring between December 2008 and January 2009. Some have even suggested his second spell at United was fizzling out but his goal against Brighton was vintage Ronaldo.