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Ekai khumnajariba Shri Narendra Modiji adombu taramna okchari



Ekai khumnajariba Pradhan Mantri Shri Narendra Modiji na

MEEYAMDA WAROL THAMBA

Venue: Luwangpokpa Cricket Stadium, Imphal

Date: 22-02-2022 , Tuesday

Time: 9:30 am



Mangjil Thaba Manipur, Mipal Tangdaba Manipur

BJP Ga Loinana

Thambalgi Markada Namiasi



BJP Bu Maipakhanlasi

Banks need to make effort to stop online frauds

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



After the setback of the past two years due to the pandemic, the current year has been showing the rays of hope. Normalcy is returning and the economic activities are gaining momentum. Experts are predicting that the use of technology in day to day life and digital transactions will grow rapidly this year however the financial institutions will have to ensure protection of common users from online frauds. Before the pandemic, artificial intelligence (AI) did not have much role in the normal functioning of the banks and other financial institutions. But the lockdowns changed the trend. Online banking and Net banking eventually became a transformative measure in finance. Digital banking is not just about going paperless or cashless, but it has brought more convenience and freedom to the people with the help of technology. Those days are gone when visiting a bank was necessary to withdraw, deposit or transfer money from one's own or others accounts. With the arrival of financial technology (fintech) startups like Paytm, GooglePay and PhonePay, financial transactions have become a few seconds job only. Your mobile has turned into a bank. With the introduction of AI in the banking sector things have improved faster.

Dr Hemant Garg, Nodal Officer (Social Media) at the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA), believes that crypto currencies and crypto assets powered by decentralised blockchain technology across the world will evolve and become popular in the same way as social media evolved and showed quantum jump from what it was in 2015. The government is in the process of releasing Blockchain CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) as the only legal tender or blockchain based cryptocurrency. But by imposing 30 percent tax on crypto assets sale and purchase, it has initiated the process of recognising the technology and its beneficial trends for government revenue and a step towards recognising user transactions regarding crypto assets in India. In the coming times, the focus of Indian Fintechs will be on securely speeding up the payment process and financial transactions with the help of technologies like Blockchain, Quantum Computing etc. Financial Institutions like banks are now looking for technology partners for themselves. For example, HDFC Bank issued a special credit card in association with Paytm.

Joint products of banks and technology firms are a good sign of the progress of FinTech, but banks will have to make every effort to stop online frauds. Only then will the real benefit of Fintech be available to the common man, feels Dr Garg, who recently made India proud by successfully managing the Infinity Forum, an international FinTech event, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and addressed by several business leaders from across the globe, including Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, and Soft bank CEO Masayoshi Son, to name a few. The Infinity Forum 1.0 was organized in collaboration with NITI Aayog, Invest India, FICCI and NASSCOM. The AI-backed fintech solutions will further improve financial transactions. A lot more is in the pipeline and things will unfold one by one in the coming time, however, the core concern remains the same, that is how to control online financial frauds. Banks need to make people aware of digital frauds and ways to avoid them.

Significance, theme of International Mother Language Day

(The theme of the 2022 International Mother Language Day is "Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities")



By: Vijay Garg

There are somewhere between 6,000 and 7,000 living languages in the world today (the exact number is a matter of debate). According to the Endangered Languages Project, over 40% of the world's languages are threatened with extinction.

UNESCO announced this day on November 17, 1999, which was later formally recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002. On May 16, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/61/266 called upon the Member States "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world".

The theme of the 2022 International Mother Language Day is "Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities", which focuses on how technology can be a potential factor for fostering multilingual education and would support the development of quality teaching and learning for all.

Here are 10 interesting facts about languages in India that you should know: 1. India's treasure trove: India has 234 identifiable mother tongues, 121 languages and around 22 official languages! Sindhi, Konkani, Nepali, Manipuri, Maithili, Dogri, Bodo and Santhali are the languages which were added to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution after amendments in the Constitution. Earlier, there were 14 languages which were initially included in the Constitution.

contd. on page 4

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Crucial role of Matribhasha in children's education

UNESCO has declared 21st February as International Mother Language Day to promote the dissemination of mother language and awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions around the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue. It believes that education based on first language or mother language must begin from the early years as Early Child Care & Education is the foundation of learning.

The first word a child hears from his/her mother is in the language of mother. Mother Language is usually the language which the child speaks at home with the family. Education in mother language refers to when a school integrates the child's language into classroom and school lessons. Mother Language plays vital role in the development of personnel, social and cultural identity. Language may be just a way to communicate with each other, but mother language is something that helps us to stay connected with our roots and unique culture. Young children learn and grasp more quickly when they are taught in the mother language, because when they develop their mother tongue they simultaneously foster other basic skills like literacy and critical thinking.

A strong mother language foundation equips the children with skills required to learn a second or additional language. Cognitive as well as intellectual development is relatively faster when a person is proficient in the mother language. The children learning in mother language feel comfortable in the school environment and learn faster. They have a better understanding of the curriculum and don't have to re-learn the skills learned when the child transfers to second language. Parent-child interaction increases as the parent assist in home-works easily. Knowing mother language boosts one's confidence and increases self-esteem.

Mother Language is the blood of the soul in which thoughts move and from which they grow. In our country, the "Mother Language" is often neglected and actively suppressed on the name of globalization. The present education system has completely ignored the mother language as the medium of instruction in schools, especially in English medium schools. The teachers at the



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

local level are also not so fluent in foreign languages. Neither they are able to transfer the required knowledge nor are the learners in a position to grasp it, resulting in knowledge deficit.

Children whose primary language is not the language of instruction in schools are more likely to drop out of school or fail in early grades. Recognising the crucial role of mother language in the every aspect of life, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has emphasised on its mandatory use in the education system at the foundational stage. Clause 4.11 of NEP 2020 states, "Wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the

mother-tongue/ home language/ local language/regional language. All efforts will be made early on to ensure that any gaps that exists between the language spoken by the child and the medium of teaching be bridged. In cases where home language/mother tongue text-book material is not available, the language of transaction between teachers and students will still remain home language/mother tongue wherever possible. The teachers will be encouraged to use a bilingual approach, including bilingual teaching-learning materials, with those students studying whose home language may be different from the medium of instruction".

In India, Matribhasha Diwas is celebrated every year in schools on this day to promote the use of mother tongue with the following objectives :- (1) To highlight the linguistic diversity in our country, (2) To encourage usage, not only of the respective mother tongue but other Indian languages as well, (3) To understand diverse cultures, in India and the various forms of literature, craft, performing arts, scripts and other forms of creative expression.

Mother Tongue can be used as an effective tool for learning and developing holistic education and knowledge. The government should strictly implement the provision regarding use of Mother language in all government and private schools of the country to safeguard the learning skill of children.

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



Indian constitutional ethics including secularism are under attack

Congress Party's ideological moorings have weakened letting BJP rise

By: Arun Srivastava

Narendra Modi ever since he came to occupy the office of prime minister has been insinuating worst nature of jibe against Jawahar Lal Nehru. This is the greater part of the RSS design to portray Nehru as an enemy of Hindus. RSS for pretty long time has been presenting secularism as a decadent concept and idea.

RSS knew a vibrant secular idea and philosophy will be a major stumbling block in the growth of rightist philosophy and ideas. This is the reason that it systematically and planned manner has been attacking Nehru.

The current political and cultural crisis that India has been in owes to indifference of the secular forces to strengthen and purgative the ill ideas and notions that has started afflicting the secular ethics and values and keeping enlightened the spirit of secularisation of the body politics.

The decline of the secular morality primary owes to the lack of conviction and commitment to the cause by the secular forces. It cannot be denied that the secularist became content with the achievement of Independence. They forgot their basic responsibility of strengthening and preserving the secular fabric of the secular country.

With Indira Gandhi incorporating secularism in the Constitution, these people perceived that no anti secular forces even the rightist forces could pose any challenge to their hegemony. They were fundamentally wrong. Secularism has never attained the character of an institution. Its character became more fragile and weak in the massive inflow of foreign investment.

A free India was the pasture of their unfulfilled dreams. They maintained the façade of being of secular

in personal lives but in reality they divorced secularism in their personal lives. The reforms provided them keep aside their secular values.

Look at the vertical rise of their lives. No one condemns their craving for economic and social empowerment, but they should have adhered to the basic secular values. They promoted and patronised the crony capital. Only an ideological weak person will resort to this. A large number of bodies and forums with huge financial resources were opened as the centres to rectify and promote secular. But unfortunately the facilities were misused for self-promotion.

Within some years of Independence a mad rush was witnessed to have foreign benefit on the pre-test of exchange of ideas as to how to strengthen secularism. The logic of exchange of intellect property and strengthening and promoting education became the key factor. But sorry to say that these two were used to promote the interest of the protagonist of secularism in India. On the huge foreign financial support they build their own empire. They allowed them the secular to grow on its own.

With the rise of the rightist forces these leaders and elements got scared as they are unable to evolve mechanism to counter it must courage to fight. They were flabbergasted. With these forces enjoying the patronisation on centrist and neo liberal centre government started feeling scared of the safety of their gains. I am not criticising a leader deserting the Congress. A direction less party having no national vision and perspective, and incapable to fight for the ideological values cannot think to uphold the national ethos and aspiration of the people. A disconnect with the people started gradually taking place

turning the party claiming to represent secular ideas worthless. The situation received a major jolt and severe decline with the leadership failing to pursue the corrupt elements from the organisation. This shaken the confidence of the secular elements. They lost trust in the leadership.

Obviously the leaders are free to search for a new operational ground. Ironically these desertions have been devoid of any rational and search for self-ideological identity and any attempt to rectify the rot. The basic reason has been the leaders utterly lacked ideological commitment and used the available situation to accumulate wealth and join the rank of capitalists, of course behind the veneer of being a hardened secular.

Their fake pretentiousness was in fact so weak that they failed to withstand the onslaught of the right attack and they got shattered. In their pursuit to protect their fake image they continued to uphold secularism, but in reality they searched for some alternate to preserve their class interest. In the process they accused of secular being not relevant.

It cannot be denied that L. K. Advani had rightly pointed out this misconstrued smug practice and described it as pseudo-secularism. The so called secular forces instead of finding and the mechanism to clear the weed pushed it under carpet. By doing this they inflicted greatest damage to secularism. They not only weakened the base and strength of secularism, but maligned its character and image. These people ruined it. These people turned the hard core of practitioner of crony capital.

Some time back the group of 23 senior Congress leaders had raised the issue of lack of functional democracy. But sad enough the Con-

gress high command instead of taking it seriously to start the process of rectification. Instead the leadership took them as the enemy of the party. But the fact was the leadership look at them as the baiters who Rahul Gandhi who according to them dislike his promotion. But it was entirely wrong notion nursed by the party chief. This group has already unravelled the truth that secularism was under threat.

It is a sad that Congress instead of relying on the ground level secular element relied on the neo rich people and youths who had no practical relation with the secularism and lived in their world of make believe secularism. Since they came from the neo rich and aristocratic family they lacked the perspective and vision as how to connect with the people. They had their liberal perception which was secularism for them. They nursed contempt for the people who did not belong to their social and economic camp. For them Congress was a social club and no a platform to promote secularism and fight for the common man. For them political was twitter having no connect with the people.

Ashwini Kumar who quit the party a couple of days may join BJP or keep aloof from active politics, but he rightly pointed out that they have to wait endless for appointments with senior leaders to discuss party affairs is a very diminishing experience. This is the most disgusting development. Why a democratic and centrist party shut its door on the face of interaction? It is really sad to witness that the party has virtually become a Monday club where ideology has been relegated to the extreme corner of the room. It has ceased to be the mouthpiece of national aspirations and is failing to provide a transformative leadership to the nation. (IPAService)

Narendra Modi comes with a sense of superiority, I come with humility: Rahul Gandhi in Imphal



IT News
Imphal, Feb 21:

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi lambasted the PM Modi-led government, accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and RSS of 'undermining' the state's history, culture, and language when they come to the state.

Addressing a political campaign at Hapta Kangjebung in Imphal, the Congress MP said: "When BJP and RSS come to Manipur, they come not with respect, not understanding. They come with a sense of superiority. I don't come with a sense of superiority; I come with humility." "I come with humility because I understand that you have a lot to give. I come with

humility because I know that there is a lot I can learn from you, from the diverse tribes, from the hills and valley, from everybody here," the Congress scion added.

Rahul, attacking PM Modi, said: "He believed that he has a superior language and that he has the right to define India. On the contrary, I want to help preserve your language. I want to help preserve your culture and harmony. This is the difference between us."

Rahul also questioned the benefits of Oil Palm Mission Manipur to the state's people and alleged that BJP wants to destroy Manipur's future with it.

"BJP wants to take your beautiful state and planing

palm oil plantation. Will it help Manipur or the companies like Patanjali and two or three really big businesses in the country? The same business demonetization helped. Their flawed GST, demonetization, and three farm laws helped. That is not our vision for Manipur," Rahul asked and added: "We are not interested in helping Baba Ramdev; we want to protect the future of Manipur...empower rice farmers and guarantee MSP."

In the last few days, BJP leaders who visited Manipur to escalate the election campaign tears into Congress party and its leader Rahul Gandhi as they attend poll campaigns in different parts of the state.

On Friday, Union Minister

Smriti Irani and BJP Manipur in-charge Sambit Patra berated Rahul Gandhi, saying that the "Congress party always 'neglected the North East region and operated it as an ATM to fill their pocket.'" The duo urged an assemblage under the Wangkhei assembly constituency to boycott Rahul Gandhi's today's visit.

Union minister and former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, joining the aggressive campaign on Sunday, hit out at the grand old party, saying that the party is corrupt and is responsible for turning Manipur into a conflict zone." However, BJP can ensure the peace remains in Manipur, Sonowal stressed.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Imphal tomorrow to address an election rally at Luwangsham in Imphal East, near the residence of state chief minister N Biren Singh amid a boycott by the Coordination Committee or CorCom, a conglomeration of six banned armed proscribed groups in Manipur.

20, 48, 169 electorates will vote in two phases to elect its 60-member Assembly on February 28 and March 5. The counting of votes takes place on March 10.

Biswajit lands at ground once more, inspects preparation for PM visits, interacted with people of various Assembly constituencies



IT News
Imphal, Feb 21:

Works Minister Th. Biswajit, who is also the National Executive Committee member of the BJP today inspected the preparation going on for

All set for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits in poll bound state of Manipur. Works Minister Th. Biswajit, who is also the National Executive Committee member of the BJP today inspected the preparation going on at Luwangsham sports complex, in Imphal East district where the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the people.

Earlier, minister Th Biswajit interacted with the bazar community for the upcoming election at Thangmeiband and Khundrakpam Assembly Constituency till late hours yesterday evening.

He expressed Narendra Modi vision for the north east states.

Speaking to people of various localities at Thangmeiband and Khundrakpam Assembly constituency Biswajit reiterated on how Manipur become a bandh free state, besides bridging close relationships with all communities of the state. He

also said that the long pending demand for Inner Line Permit has been granted by the BJP led government in the center.

"BJP's another name is development", the state BJP leader said while adding that Thangmeiband assembly constituency which is at the heart of Imphal city needs to change.

"Thangmeiband need to be changed, the representative of Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency need to be change for a better future of the people of Thangmeiband", Biswajit said and appealed the people of Thangmeiband to support BJP candidate Jotin Waikhom to win the election.

He further expressed that the Prashant Kishor predicts poll strategist that BJP will remain powerful for decades. Now in the state Manipur BJP led government has formed and after this election again BJP government will come again.

When the BJP government came in the centre Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to household living below Poverty Line (BPL) in the state.

Biswajit also elaborated the

election promises published in the manifestoes of the BJP. He said the BJP promises two-wheelers to meritorious female college students, increasing the monthly pension for senior citizens to Rs 1,000 and setting up to Rs 100 crore start-up fund. He said BJP will provide free scooter to all meritorious college-going girls to empower the women of the state.

BJP also promised Rs 25,000 to girls from economically weaker sections under the 'Rani Gaidinli Nupi Maheiroi Singi Scheme' if voted back to power. "Laptops will also be provided to all meritorious students who pass class 12, as a gateway to higher education. "Scholarships will be given to children of marginal, small and landless farmers, pursuing technical education at the graduate and post-graduate level. The BJP also announced setting up Manipur Skill Development University to train youths for making them job-ready, and an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to ensure that people do not have to travel out of the state for medical treatment.

The BJP promised Rs 100 crore 'Start-Up Manipur Fund' would be set to give zero-interest loans of up to Rs 25 lakh to entrepreneurs.

More than 315 Defence Veterans benefitted from Suvigya Cell

IT News
Imphal, Feb 21:

To facilitate smooth resettlement and resolve the pension related anomalies of all defence and Assam Rifle veterans, a Suvigya (Expert) Cell was established at Churachandpur ECHS Polyclinic by Red Shield Signaller under the aegis of Red Shield Division of Spear Corps.

The cell was functional from 17 to 19 Feb 2022 and assisted the Veterans in documentation, family pension, medical allowances, AGIF benefits, ADLR(Assured Decent Last Rites) etc. Queries related to Post Discharge Claim (PDC) and financial assistance of NOK (Next of Kin) were also addressed. Total Anomalies of 315 ESM amounting to Rs 86,12,490/- were resolved.

World Pangolin Day celebrated

IT News
Imphal, Feb 21:

World Pangolin Day was celebrated in Manipur's Tamenglong district under the aegis of Corbett Foundation in association with The Rainforest Club Tamenglong and The Forest Department Tamenglong Division, on Saturday.

The event was sponsored by Indigo Reach. Four schools of the district Christian Heritage Institute, Trin-

ity Public School, United Builders School and Pretty Lamb Institute participated in the day's observation.

Awareness activities on the importance of pangolin on the landscapes of Tamenglong, trafficking of pangolin and Wildlife protection Act 1972 were highlighted to the student's community. The role of pangolin on controlling excessive termites and ants in the ecosystem was discussed with the students.

Chief of Naval staff reviews preparations for 12th President's Fleet Review

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, Feb 21:

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff on Sunday reviewed the overall preparations for the 12th President's Fleet Review (PFR)-2022 which will be conducted at Visakhapatnam on Monday as a part of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, being celebrated as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

President Ram Nath Kovind, arrived in Visakhapatnam on Sunday on a three-day visit to the Eastern Naval Command (ENC). Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of ENC Vice-Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta and others extended a warm welcome to the President at the Naval Airbase INS Dega.

As per an official statement from the Ministry of Defence, the president who is also the Supreme Commander of

the Armed Forces embarked on the Presidential Yacht INS Sumitra to review the Indian Naval Fleet. The indigenously-built Naval offshore patrol vessel INS Sumitra, has been specially-designated as the 'Presidential Yacht', to review all participating ships, anchored in a formation off the Visakhapatnam coast in four precise columns, by 'steaming past' them, according to a Indian Navy release.

President Kovind will review two fleets of the Navy, including warships, and of Coast Guard, Shipping Corporation of India and Union Ministry of Earth Sciences comprising 60 ships and submarines manned by over 10,000 personnel. Also, 50 aircraft will be part of the event, wherein they will conduct a fly-past. Ships from all Naval Commands and Andaman and Nicobar Command are anchored in four columns. The Presidential yacht will sail past 44 ships anchored in four lanes and will be accorded the cer-

emonial salute, one by one.

The participating platforms in the review include newly inducted combat platforms, the latest stealth destroyer INS Visakhapatnam and INS Vela, a Kalvari class submarine recently commissioned into the Indian Navy. IN Ships Chennai, Delhi, Teg, and three Shivalik class frigates and three Kamorta class ASW Corvettes will also form part of the review.

All aircraft in operation under the aviation wing of the Indian Navy will participate in the fly-past that will include latest acquisitions like Mikoyan MiG-29K, Chetaks, ALH, Sea Kings, KAMOVs, Dorniers, IL-38SD, P8I, Hawks, MiG 29K, Boeing P-8I Neptune and the HAL Dhruv MkIII will also form part of the review. After the flypast, the Marine Commandos (Marcos) will present a demonstration of an anti-terrorist operation, a search-and-rescue drill, and a steam-past by a few submarines, the Navy said.

It is pertinent to mention that 47 out of the 60 ships and submarines participating have been constructed in Indian shipyards, thus showcasing indigenous capabilities and progress towards Atmanirbharta, the ministry added. The President will also release a specially-designed First Day Cover and a Commemorative Stamp on the occasion.

As the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, every President of India reviews the Indian Naval Fleet once during his five-year and PFR-22 will be the 12th edition. The PFR is aimed at assuring the country of the Indian Navy's preparedness, high morale and discipline.

This is the second time that Visakhapatnam has been hosting the PFR, the first being in the year 2006 by the then President of India APJ Abdul Kalam. In 2016, the then President Pranab Mukherjee inspected the International Fleet Review in Visakhapatnam, popularly called the City of Destiny.

PREPAK claims blast at Wangoo in Kakching district

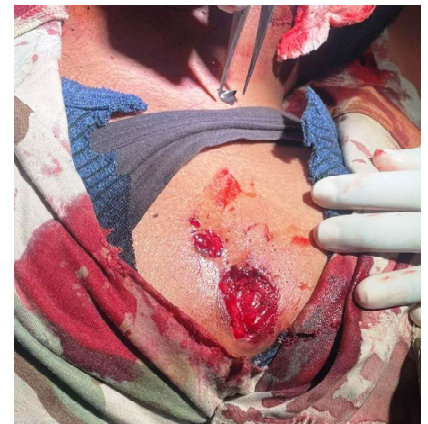
IT News
Imphal, Feb 21:

Proscribed group People Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) has claimed responsibility for the blast that injured two personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Wangoo Lupa Marup area in Kakching district at around 8 pm yesterday.

The ITBP has been stationing at Wangoo High School as election duty. The incident happened when the troop were patrolling the area.

As per a statement of the PREPAK two IED were planted, but only one exploded. It said that had both the IED blasted as per plan there could have been more casualties on the side of the Indian troops.

The PREPAK said that the blast was triggered by Special Task Force C of the Red Army, the armed wing of the revolutionary group. It further added that the attack was carried out



in connection with the boycott called by the CORCOM to the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in connection with the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election scheduled to hold on February 28 and March 5. It ap-

pealed to the people not to support the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In the IED attack, two riflemen of the ITBP identified as Gijra Shankar and Gaurab Rai both below 30 years old from Uttarakhand.

BJP campaign reaches peak at Keirao Assembly constituency



IT News
Imphal, Feb 21:

A different poll campaign is noticed at Keirao Assembly constituency with MLA L. Rameshwor Meetei, visiting almost each families of his constituencies appealing the

people to restrain any form of hate speech and poll related violence.

Earlier, there were report of some violence at some parts of the Keirao Assembly constituency. 6 candidates are in the fray at Keirao Assembly constituency. INC candidate

Th. Tony, NCP candidate MI Khan, NPP candidate MD Nasiruddin Khan, JD (U) candidate Y. Shanta, Siva Sena candidate T. Devananda and the BJP candidate L. Rameshwor Meetei are contesting the upcoming poll schedule to hold on first phase

ie on February 28.

Today MLAL. Rameshwor Meetei and his supporters staged a peaceful Road Show as a part of the election campaign reaching out to all areas of 'Kyamgei spreading the message to the people for a free and fair election.

One day Political Conference of INC held Congress never played religious based politics, the party think for the development of all: Shiddeque Ahmed

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Feb 19:

One day political conference of Indian National Congress was held today at the Ahmedabad, Jiribam, organised Jiribam Block Congress Committee.

The conference was attended by Shiddeque Ahmed, MLA, South Karimganj, Assam as a Chief Guest.

Addressing the public meeting Shiddeque Ahmed, said election is the mode of bringing changes in the formation of government so that development could be achieved by the people through their mandate.

"You have seen, since the Independence congress party has brought lots of development in the nation", he added.

When the Narendra Modi led BJP government came to

power, we have started to see the oily speech and false commitment with the people of India. That things we have seen from demonization that Narendra Modi makes people queues in front of Banks saying that to bring back black money.

Taking jibe at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiddeque Ahmed said BJP leaders should "avoid telling

lies "They are good at telling lies in front of you and me.

Shiddeque also took a swipe at the Ashab Uddin, he asked how many times you have changed the party after getting the mandate of people in the last election. He said the condition of road in Jiribam so deplorable, which indicates that development in the areas remains unseen by the local MLA and BJP ruling party in Jiribam.

Sports

ISL: Jamshedpur FC defeat Chennaiyin FC 4-1, assure semi-final spot

Agency
Vasco, Feb 21:

Jamshedpur FC underlined their might with a brilliant performance as they breezed past Chennaiyin FC 4-1 to move to second place, in the Hero Indian Super League tie at the Tilak Maidan Stadium, here on Sunday.

Ritwik Das (23rd), Boris Singh (33rd) and Daniel Chima Chukwu (40th) got on the scoresheet before Deepak Devrani scored an own goal (46th) as Jamshedpur made it three wins in a row to rack up 31 points from 16 matches. They are one point behind league leaders Hyderabad FC with a game in hand.

For Chennaiyin, Nerijus Valskis (62nd) scored a consolation goal against his former side. Chennaiyin are eighth in the table with 20 points from 17 matches and are all but out of a semifinal berth.

Jamshedpur bossed the game from the start with Boris warming Debjit Majumder's gloves early on with an effort from the right-wing. The Red Miners saw a lot more of the ball and that translated into a goal soon. Greg Stewart's corner was headed back by Peter Hartley as Chennaiyin failed to clear their lines. Ritwik was on hand and the in-form midfielder guided the ball on the rise into



the back of the net past Debjit who tried hard to get his hands to it.

Three minutes after the cooling break, Boris made it 2-0 after Stewart darted inside the box to find him and it was an easy tap-in from close for the young right back.

It rained goals in the first half for the Men of Steel and this time it was Chima again, the Nigerian striker scoring his fourth goal in five games for Owen Coyle's side. A poor goal kick from Debjit saw Eli Sabia

ping the ball back in the attacking third for Chima to trap it nicely, drop his shoulder, turn to his left and tuck it into the left corner.

Chukwu got another golden opportunity to double his tally just before half-time when the excellent Stewart put a nice through ball for him but the striker hit it straight at the keeper.

Just after the break, it was more misery for Chennaiyin as Devrani put the ball in his own net from a Stewart floater. There

was some respite when Valskis turned in a long punt from Ariel Borysiuk which was initially saved by T.P. Rehenesh but only as far as Valskis who fired it in from close range.

Ishan Pandita replaced Chukwu as Coyle went for the kill. Hartley and Stewart were also taken off with Narender Gahlrot and Alexandre Lima replacing them. It was scrappy in the final exchanges of the game but for Jamshedpur, the game was won in the first half itself.

Every Vote Counts, Urges absentee to Vote: RO Konthoujam AC

IT News
Imphal, Feb 21:

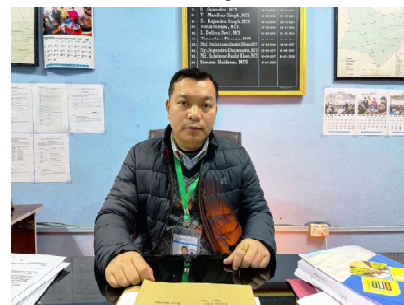
Postal Ballots for Absentee Voters, with which Senior Citizens and PwDs can cast their votes at their homes, has been introduced for the first time in the ensuing 12th State Assembly Elections, said 18-Konthoujam AC Returning Officer Samson Huidrom. Appealing to the 303 electors eligible for Absentee Voters (80+ and PwD) in his constituency to grab the opportunity, he said, they should not waste their votes, as every vote counts.

The RO said polling teams will visit the homes of the every Absentee Voters in the constituency on two occasions. The first round of visits will start from 8 am of February 21 and continue till February 22. For those who missed the first round, a second trip will be made by the teams on February 25, he said.

Samson said Konthoujam AC has been a relatively peaceful constituency with a high voter turnout in the previous elections. The constituency, which has no expenditure sensitive pocket, had recorded 92.68 percent voter turnout in the 2017 Assembly election. The constituency is divided into 4 sectors where 164 polling officials will be utilized for the election.

Konthoujam Assembly Constituency has a total of 29,732 electors including 14,497 male and 15,229 female electors. There are 475 electors above 80 and three 100+ electors, he said, adding that the constituency also has six transgender electors and 298 PwD electors.

Polling Station 18/18, with 1039 has the highest number of electors and is also the home polling station of two candidates. Polling Station 18/11 with just 305 electors has the lowest number of electors. Polling Stations 18/15 and 18/16 in Yurembam High School have been identified as Model cum Women Polling Stations.



18-Konthoujam AC has five candidates in fray for the ensuing election. They are NPP candidate Konthoujam Sharat Singh, NCP candidate Khoirom Binarani Devi, INC candidate Laishram Nando Singh, JD(U) candidate Nongmaithem Herojit Singh and sitting MLA and BJP candidate Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh.

In 18-Konthoujam Assembly Constituency, Manipur People's Party candidate Khangbam Lakshman defeated Thangjam Babu of the CPI in the 1st State Assembly Election, 1972. However, Lakshman faced defeat in the hands of Independent candidate Heigrujam Thoithoi Singh in the 1974 General Election.

Henam Lokhon, one of the most successful candidates in the constituency, defeated CPI candidate Thangjam Babu and Independent candidate Heigrujam Thoithoi Singh in the 1980 and 1984 elections, respectively. Lokhon fought the 1980 elections as the Indian National Congress (Indira) candidate and 1984 elections on an INC ticket.

MPP's Heigrujam Thoithoi, who lost the 1984 elections as an independent candidate, broke INC's sitting MLA Lokhon's winning streak by defeating him in the 1990 elections.

However, Lokhon returned stronger and won the next two consecutive elections in 1995 and 2000 defeating sitting MLA Thoithoi and CPI candi-

date Nongmaithem Joykumar, respectively. Henam Lokhon contested the 2000 elections as the Manipur State Congress Party candidate.

In 2002, teacher turned politician, Dr. Thokchom Meinza contesting as a candidate of newly formed Democratic Revolutionary People's Party defeated four-time MLA Henam Lokhon, who contested the election on a MSCP ticket.

In the 2004 bye-polls for the Assembly Constituency, Dr. Sapam Budhichandra Singh of the INC defeated MPP's Konthoujam Ranbir Singh. Dr. Budhichandra retained the seat winning the 9th Manipur Legislative Assembly Elections, 2007 defeating Konthoujam Sharat Singh of the Nationalists People's Party.

Following the demise of the sitting MLA Dr. Budhichandra in September 2010, a bye-poll was held for the constituency in February 2011. Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, son of MLA Dr. Budhichandra, contested the bye-poll on an INC ticket but lost to Konthoujam Sharat of AITC. Sharat retained the seat in the 2012 General Elections defeating INC's Dr. Ranjan again.

In the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Elections, 2017, Dr. Ranjan contested as the BJP candidate and defeated sitting MLA Konthoujam Sharat, who contested as the INC candidate.

India reports 16,051 new Covid-19 cases, 206 deaths

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 21:

India reported 16,051 new Covid-19 cases and 206 related deaths in the last 24 hours ending 8 am, Monday. The daily cases are down from Sunday's 19,968, data provided by the Union Ministry of Health showed. The active caseload

stands at 2,02,131, accounting for 0.47 per cent of total cases.

With this, the total number of Covid-19 infections in India has reached 4,28,38,524 and the death toll has reached 5,12,109.

Meanwhile, West Bengal's Covid-19 tally rose to 20,13,353 with 278 new infections recorded at a positivity rate of 0.91% in the last 24 hours, ac-

cording to a bulletin issued by the state health department on Sunday.

In Maharashtra, with the addition of 74 new cases of coronavirus, the infection count in Thane district has gone up to 7,07,986, an official said on Monday. These new cases were reported on Sunday, he said.

Contd. from Page 2

Significance, theme of International....

2. English and Hindi as official languages: The Constitution of India designates English and Hindi as the official languages of the Government of India. However, as per Article 343 (1) of the Indian Constitution, it is only the Hindi written in Devanagari Script that is accepted as the official language of the Union Government.

3. Legal language: The Supreme Court and High Court use English as their official language as directed by the Constitution of India.

4. The categories: Almost every Indian language fall into

one of the four groups: Afro-Asiatic, Dravidian, Indo-Aryan, and Sino-Tibetan.

5. Meet the classics: Because of their history and having stood the test of time, languages like Tamil, Sanskrit, Malayalam, Odia, and Telugu have honoured with the classical languages status.

6. The difference: In Uttarakhand, Sanskrit is used as the second official language; Jammu and Kashmir uses Urdu and for Goa its Konkani.

7. Did you know?: Telugu is known as the 'Italian of the East'. And, even today, French

is commonly spoken in Puducherry!

8. Languages of the islanders: Apart from Nicobarese, people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands also speak Bengali, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu.

9. Sanskrit's German connect: Did you our good of 'Sanskrit' is a popular language in Germany with more than 10 universities in the country offering Sanskrit as a subject!

10. Ancient roots: Nearly all Indian scripts come from the same script named Brahmi and most of the major Indian epics were written in Sanskrit!