



Free scooty to all meritorious college going girls



Mangjil Thaba Manipur, Mipal Tangdaba Manipur



BJP Ga Loinana

Thambalgi Markada Namiasi



BJP Bu Maipakhtanlasi

## All arrangements for dispersal of polling parties made

*Holding Public Meetings prohibited during silence period - Rajesh Agrawal*



IT News  
Imphal, Feb 24:

With the General Election to the Manipur Legislative Assembly 2022 nearing its poll date, all arrangements for dispersal of polling parties have been made. Webcasting/ videography will be done in all Polling Stations.

A statement by Rajesh Agrawal, Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur said that adequate CAPF will also be deployed in all polling stations. ASHA and Anganwadi workers are engaged while two volunteers will also be engaged in each polling station for assisting voters. Voter Assistance Booth will be set up in all polling stations. Provision for Pick up/Drop facilities for PwD and aged electors are made available with wheelchair facility being provided.

To ensure safe voting for electors, all polling stations will be sanitised one day before

poll. Earmarking of circles, token system will be in place to avoid crowding in polling stations and adequate sanitiser, mask, glove, face shield, PPE kit etc. will be provided to polling parties.

During the Silence period which starts from 48 hours prior to close of poll, presence of political functionaries from outside the Constituency will be restricted. Election matters shall not be telecasted/broadcasted in radio, TV or similar apparatus, while pre-certification by State/District MCMC is mandatory for publication of political advertisement in newspaper during the period. Public Meeting, procession etc will also be prohibited. On poll day, candidates shall not canvass within 200 metres of polling station. Candidates shall also not enter polling booth with security. No one will be allowed to carry mobile phones inside the polling booth except for the Presiding Officer and Polling Officer-I.

As per Section - 126 of the Representation of People Act 1951, holding public meeting is prohibited during period of forty-eight hours ending with hour fixed for conclusion of poll. No person shall convene, hold or attend, join or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election. No person shall also display to the public any election matter by means of cinematograph, television or other similar apparatus. No person shall propagate any election matter to the public by holding, or by arranging the holding of, any musical concert or any theatrical performance or any other entertainment or amusement with a view to attracting the members of the public thereto, in any polling area. Further, any person who contravenes the above provisions shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Regarding Identity Proof for voting, ECI has discontinued Photo Voter Slip as an identity proof with effect from 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. Photo Voter Slip is no longer a Standalone Identity Proof. For identification at Polling Station, voter shall present her/his EPIC or any identification documents approved by the Commission, which include Aadhaar Card, MNREGA Job Card, Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour, Driving License, PAN Card, Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR, Indian Passport, Pension document with photograph, Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies and Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MCs, along with the Voter Information Slips.

For making the upcoming elections inclusive, accessible and participative, provision of Postal Ballots (PB) had been made available. Postal Ballots for service electors have been issued to all 21944 electors electronically and 147 have been received till date. 19263 voters on election duty have applied for postal ballot till date and 1512 issued out of which 1454 received. Further, 5928 postal ballots have been issued to Absentee voters out of which 5608 postal ballots received till date.

*contd. on page 4*

## Pre-Poll violence

# Man shot at leg for supporting BJP workers; spewed communal venom

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 24:

Earlier pre-poll violence occurred in the state never reflected communal politics in the poll-bound state of Manipur, however, for the first time, a member of a family belonging to a minority community in Keirao Assembly constituency was allegedly shot at thigh by a supporter of NPP candidate belonging to the minority community for supporting BJP candidate belonging to the same assembly constituency. The supporters of the NPP candidate also allegedly thrashed the sister of the injured victim using a brick.

Sahauddin who was shot at thigh was undergoing treatment at Raj Medicity Hospital.

The incident happened at around 8.30 pm yesterday at Kiyamgei Taphok Makha in Keirao Assembly constituency. Family members told Imphal Times that Sahauddin was hit by the bullet while trying to protect one of his brothers identified as Kh. Masiruddin, after one Rakiuddin, son of late Tomba along with large number of his friends stopped their vehicle and shot at them. According to family members of Sahauddin, Rakiuddin the per-



son who shot Sahauddin is serving in the Commando Unit of Thoubal Police. The incident happened when Sahauddin along with his three younger brothers were returning after they failed to find their ailing aunt, Sophia wife of Mosiruddin said.

"The vehicle was also dismantled by around 100 people who are supporters of NPP candidate Md. Nasiruddin Khan, besides taking away cell phone, Jacket and Purse containing around Rs. 10,000/- from my husband, however, he managed to escape from the attack", 33 years old Sophia told Imphal Times.

On asking why they were attack, Sophia said that since

the past few days those supporters have been intimidating them of serious consequences if they support BJP candidate , Lourebam Rameshwar, instead of supporting the Muslim candidate Md. Nasiruddin Khan of NPP.

"Our family support Lourebam Rameshwar because we were friends since a long time and we trust him even though he belongs to Meitei", Sophia said and added that we are one and we have been living as brothers and sisters no matter, we follow different religions.

Sophia also names some of the attackers who allegedly threatened them to stop supporting BJP candidate.

## Day Legal Awareness programme at Wangbal

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 24:

District Legal Services Authority, Thoubal under the aegis of Manipur State Legal Services Authority organised a one Day Legal Awareness programme at the Swadhar Home, Wangbal. The awareness programme was organised on the topic "Violence against women & Domestic Violence Act, 2005".

The event was graced by Binny Ngangom, Chairperson, DLSA, Thoubal, Km. Bineshwori Maibam, Secretary, DLSA, Thoubal and Babita Sapam, Secretary, Rural Voluntary Service as presidium members.

*contd. on page 4*

## RPF President Irengbam Chaoren greets people on 43rd Foundation Day Says, "RPF has no intention to enter peace talk with India"

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 24:

President of the proscribed group Revolutionary Peoples' Front greets the people of the region on occasion of its 43rd Foundation Day which the armed outfit celebrates as Independence Demand Day on every February 25.

In his message the RPF chief said that historically Manipur had never been a part of India, it is only within the span of 70 years and Manipur became the part of India, that too, without and against the wishes of our people. In other words Manipur was forcibly annexed to India by

humiliating and insulting the sovereign right of our king. As such there is no reason that people of Manipur should remain contented and happy to be part of India.

He said, "It is unfortunate that some lumpen elements in our society consider Manipur becoming as part of India an inevitable part in the evolution of Geo-political process and they consider it as necessary for the development and prosperity of Manipur. These lumpen elements by taking part in the Indian electoral process not only make themselves a puppet but also work hard to tarnish or destroy our independent political history by

helping the alien rule in various ways. Some elements are helping to strengthen colonial forces and working against the wishes of freedom loving people of our land. They treated their own people as their enemy. Their Self-deceiving character of showing themselves real Indian and wholeheartedly helping towards the assimilation of our people within the fold of India have only strengthened the colonial regime".

"Taking the advantage of this situation colonial regime insult or humiliate our liberation struggle and revolutionaries.

*contd. on page 4*

## PIL challenging the declaration of Disturbed Area under the AFSPA in Manipur filed

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 24:

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the High Court of Manipur, challenging the declaration of Disturbed Area under the AFSPA in Manipur. Sanoujam Shyamcharan Singh, 61, filed the petition under Article 226, seeking to withdraw the 'disturbed area' status from the entire state.

The petition seeks to quash a notification issued by the Special Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur, on December 8, 2021. The notification declared "Disturbed Area" in the entire area of the State of Manipur, excluding

the Imphal Municipal Area under the provisions of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

The matter is moved today before a division bench comprising of Chief Justice and Justice MV Muralidaran.

In the course of the proceeding, after hearing the submission of the counsel for the Petitioner, Mr. Meihoubam Rakesh, the Court issued a notice of motion which was made returnable on March 31, 2022. Accordingly, Ld. Advocate General, Manipur, Mr. N. Kumarjit Singh, Sr. Advocate, accepted notice on behalf of the Respondents.

In the wake of the Oting massacre in Nagaland,

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh claimed that the State Cabinet had asked the Centre to remove the 'Disturbed Area' tag from Manipur. However, the status was extended for another year despite their repeated assurance to the public that their government will continuously push the Centre to remove the status.

On December 8, a state Home department's notification stated the Governor of Manipur has given "ex-post facto approval to declare the entire State of Manipur excluding the Imphal Municipal Area as 'Disturbed Area' for 1(one) year with retrospective effect from December 1, 2021."

*contd. on page 4*

# Corona fails to make an impact due to hybrid immunity

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



The atmosphere of fear that was created when the Omicron variant came into picture is vanishing fast as the world population has developed more than 50 percent immunity against Corona. The virus is still making an impact in Western countries, but the Omicron variant could not cause much damage in India. Experts believe that natural immunity developed in people infected during the first and second waves. It doubled after getting the vaccine. Presence of both natural and vaccine related immunity is called hybrid immunity, which has obviously benefited India and the third wave did not make much impact here. Now almost all the states are giving relaxation in the rules and restrictions are being lifted. Schools and colleges have opened and the markets are buzzing with activity. This is a good sign for all of us. Coronavirus had taken the economy and the entire population hostage for two years, but the current situation is indicating that the bad time is about to pass.

There is a hope that the coming days will be good for both businessmen and employed people. This is much needed, only then the world will be able to run and the country will again start moving on the path of progress. Common people use bicycles for mobility. There is good news for the cycle owners. They can now dream of riding an economic e-bicycle. Recently a video went viral on social media, in which a person fits a small device on the top of the pedals in a simple bicycle and within minutes turns it into an e-bicycle. The battery of this e-bicycle gets charged up to 50 percent within 20 minutes. On a full charge, the cycle can cover up to 40 km distance at a speed of 26 km per hour. It can carry 170 kg of weight, which means two persons can comfortably travel on this bicycle. This e-cycle is going to be very useful for common people in rural areas. As soon as the Dhruv Vidyut Electric Conversion Kit is installed, the bicycle starts flying.

Industrialist Anand Mahindra has shown interest in this e-bicycle kit. Mahindra has great interest in *jugaad* and inventions useful for the common people. Sharing the video of this bicycle on his Twitter, Mahindra wrote that the device is resistant to both fire and muddy conditions and is quite lightweight also. He wrote in his tweet that it is not that this is the world's first device, but it has a compact design and is capable of running the cycle on rough roads. Thirdly, with the help of this kit, the cyclist can also charge his mobile phone. Mahindra has expressed his willingness to invest money in this venture. What he liked the most about this kit was that it can make the life of the common people of India comfortable and efficient. This will prove to be a boon for the hardworking people of the country. This is true, because the cost of existing e-bikes or e-scooters goes into five to six figures. In such a situation, the dream of converting a bicycle into an EV has a reason now.

# The burden of one-sided relationships



By: Vijay Garg

One sided relationship is epidemic. Back and forth, relationships without giving and receiving and cooperation. These relationships are troubled and can be seen in any kind of relationship. Whether it's friendships, business partnerships, close relationships, even family relationships, most women carry the weight of a relationship or many relationships on their backs.

Any relationship at work requires teamwork, cooperation, and the willingness of both (or all) parties to work. However, the effort and energy of a relationship is not always the same. Whether you are an employee who works overtime, travels extra miles, arrives late and arrives early but does not receive adequate compensation, or a partner who always makes sacrifices, compromises, or pays someone. Gratitude never returns, you are a part. It is epidemic.

There are women who, after investing so much time, energy and emotions in something or other, find it difficult to walk away due to their emotional investment. However, when it comes to your happiness, peace, understanding and most importantly your health, this relationship is worth going away and making your own choices.

Choosing yourself does not mean defeat. Choosing your destiny does not make you a bad person or wrong. But when you choose to give to the people and situations you are breastfeeding, it costs you not only time and energy, but also your finances, which prevents you.

Somewhere you have left behind your dedication, generosity, caring nature, and the people you choose are reaping the benefits. Selfish people, leeches, narcissists, consumers, whatever you want to call them pragmatic. Because of the energy and hard work, you pass them by even if they don't give anything back.

Your relationship doesn't work when you give them something. You face situations or situations that are not good for you. You are investing in something that does not pay off your investment. You hang on to the hope that it should be gone a long time ago and try to realize this person's potential when they show you who they are countless times. Believe them. Believe that they are showing you, not the picture that you have formed in your mind. It doesn't matter how much you want to change someone or whether you simply believe that you have the ability to change them. You have no choice but to change yourself.

Fear of being alone has kept many women (including men) in one-sided relationships. But if we are honest you have been alone in this relationship all the time, so it won't make much difference.

If you find yourself in a one sided relationship where you do all the work and someone else benefits from your energy, let it go. Throw away the burden. Reclaim your time, your energy and most of all, your strength.

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# Know Yourself



By: Fr. Paul Lelen Haokip

Indian Philosophy exhorts us, "Forget yourself." I think you need a blending of both. You need to know yourself - your capacities, abilities, talents, innate gifts and prove yourself to the world as an honourable citizen who contributes to the welfare of society. You also will learn that there are certain things beyond human reason and human capacity. Then you should forget yourself and surrender to God almighty for guidance. This is a balanced step towards self-awareness or self-knowledge. Continually conduct a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat) analysis for yourself. This exercise can be done in your room without disturbing anyone. This is a good workout for self-improvement. The constant endeavour to know oneself leads to self-improvement.

The beauty of self-awareness is:

you will know your possibilities and limits, so you will stop judging yourself. You will come to know the abilities of others and decrease judging others. You will concentrate on a particular area that will lead you to produce more and better outputs. Once you know your actual worth, you will no longer believe comparisons. You will systematically eliminate covers or masks you have been wearing for so long that has kept you from realizing your capacities.

"Self-awareness is believed to be the cornerstone of emotional intelligence," said Anna-Lucia Mackay. What is emotional intelligence? According to Daniel Goleman, it is the "capacity for recognizing our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in ourselves and in our

relationships." The capacity to manage ourselves plays a vital role in living one's life and managing one's responsibilities. This capacitates you to deal with your reactions and maintain relationships (with yourself and others). Self-awareness enables you to perceive your personality, motivations, responses to situations, behaviours, emotions, habits, and thoughts." The first thing you have to know is yourself. A man who knows himself can step outside himself and watch his own reactions like an observer" (Adam Smith). If you know your worth, you are more likely to vote for a worthy person who could represent you for the next five years. If not, you may vote for some short-term benefits at the expense of your future half a decade. "The life you live is the outward expression of your inner journey" (Will Craig). Trying to know oneself is a well-intentioned pursuit worth it.

(The author is a PhD research scholar, Department of Sociology and Social Work, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore, Karnataka, India. Email: paulhowkeep20@gmail.com)

# By using Hijab issue, Sangh Parivar is trying to assert Hindu supremacy

By: Kavita Krishnan

To understand the true meaning of the 'hijab issue' playing out in Karnataka and other states, one only needs to pay close attention to the way in which it is being invoked in poll-bound states by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders aiming to create and consolidate a Hindu vote-bank.

Union Minister and BJP leader Giriraj Singh said last week, "There are some vote se audagar (votes dealers) who for their political benefits are supporting such illogical demands of wearing Hijab in school. Such people are playing with the lives of innocent girls for votes. I feel Uniform Civil Code is need of the hour and it should be discussed from the streets to Parliament."

With his characteristic audacity, Giriraj Singh attacked the hijab for votes, while accusing those defending Muslim women's right to wear the hijab, of doing so for votes. Note, however, that his message places himself and his party on the side of public as opposed to political benefit; of logic as opposed to illogic; of "innocent girls" who are pawns of manipulative and guilty (Muslim) men; of a lofty "uniformity" rather than partisan and selfish interests; and even of democratic "discussion" as opposed to the Muslims' stubborn and rigid refusal to be reasonable. This, then, is the political message the BJP is conveying, with the help of the dominant media across languages, on the subject of the hijab in particular, and Muslims in general.

Rather than rely on carefully phrased dog-whistles that dance around the Election Commission's injunctions against religion-based propaganda and hate-speech, the BJP Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Domariyaganj and the Uttar Pradesh in-charge of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's own private outfit the Hindu Yuva Vahini, Raghavendra Pratap Singh spelled things out quite explicitly. "If I become MLA again this time," he said, "gol-topis (skull caps) will vanish, and the mizyan log (a derogatory term for Muslims) will have to give up the skull-cap and wear the tlik instead; they will have to say 'Jai Shri Ram' and not 'salaam'."

BJP Parliamentarian (also an accused in the Malegaon Hindu-supremacist bomb blast conspiracy case) Pragna Singh Thakur declared, "Those unsafe at home wear hijabs, but they are safe around Hindu Samaj (Hindu society), so they cannot wear them to schools and colleges, it will not be tolerated." In this single sentence, she managed to deliver a threat to hijab-wearing Muslim women, insinuate that Muslim men are abusive to their daughters, perpetuate

rape culture by implying that the headscarf or veil is needed for 'safety' from sexual violence, and declare that Muslim women must perform before exposed to the 'safe' gaze of Hindu men.

Raghavendra Singh's and Thakur's words, and the actions of the Hindu-supremacist outfits in Karnataka, offer a preview of what the BJP's version of "Uniform Civil Code" will be. "Uniformity" will mean the erasure of plurality, not gender justice, in plural and culturally specific civil codes.

When the Constitution adopted the goal of the 'Uniform Civil Code', the word 'uniform' in the Indian mind may have been innocent of the taint of Hindu-supremacy. But since the 1990s, 'uniform civil code' no longer just means a civil code that is 'commonly' accepted by and accessible to all citizens. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and BJP campaigns have ensured that 'uniform' now spells a violent erasure of the 'particular' and 'specific' cultures of minorities, especially Muslims. Muslims will have to be subject to the codes of "Hindu Samaj", since Hindu-ness will no longer be treated as a specific faith, but instead as the nation itself.

The issue was never the hijab's compatibility with school uniforms, or its association with patriarchal prescriptions of modesty - after all, Sikh turbans are worn with uniforms even in the police and armed forces, and the dupatta, pallu, ghoonghat, and sindoor, all have equally patriarchal associations. The reason for targeting the hijab was always to humiliate, harass, and isolate Muslims and, eventually, force them to assimilate to Hindu-ness - "wear tlik", in other words.

It is already happening in Karnataka. In colleges where 'Saraswati Puja' (a ritual worship of the Hindu goddess of learning) has just been officially celebrated by the administration, Muslim students and teachers are being forced to strip off their headscarves or burqa (the loose outer garment) before they enter the campuses. Hindus can wear bindis, and pottu and tlik; Sikh men can wear turbans; Hindus, Christians, Sikhs alike can wear religious lockets, bracelets or threads; wearing symbols of their faith in the same spaces where Muslims cannot wear hijabs.

There is a criminal law analogy in the BJP spin on the Uniform Civil Code. Prime Minister Narendra Modi insists that it is an affront to Hindus to suggest that any Hindu could ever be a terrorist: he is implying that draconian terror laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act [UAPA] or the sedition laws are not meant to apply to Hin-

dus. When Hindus conspire to instigate or organise the massacre of Muslims, as Thakur is accused of doing, they can not only evade being charged under such laws: they can even claim the mantle of patriotism. Instead, UAPA or the sedition law are now almost exclusively applied to Muslims who are a religious minority, or to Left activists or intellectuals who are seen as an ideological enemy of the 'Hindu nation'.

Just like terrorism is not terrorism when done for the Hindu-supremacist cause, desertion of your wife is not a crime when a Hindu man does it. It is a punishable crime only when a Muslim man deserts his wife, by resorting to "instant triple talaq" - which is a legally untenable form of divorce. The BJP's campaign for the 'Uniform Civil Code', like its campaign against the hijab, quite explicitly states that Muslims as a community embody separatism, patriarchy, violence against women, and medieval social regression, while Hindus, by definition, are 'safe', benignly 'protective', and progressive.

The hijab is today being stigmatised as a visible embodiment of the Indian Muslim's willful separatism. Similar practices like covering the head with a pallu or even covering the face with the ghoonghat, or the wearing of Hindu symbols like the kalava thread or the kada bracelet are "Indian culture" - not to be compared with the 'alien' and 'regressive' hijab or burqa. Members of the Hindu Janjagan Samiti [HJS] can be seen these days on TV, defending the prohibition on wearing a hijab inside schools or colleges. The HJS website, and that of its sister organisation the Sanatan Sanstha, have posts full of pseudo-science explaining why covering one's head with the pallu of one's sari is beneficial for Hindu women, while wearing clothes like skirts or jeans or T-shirts is harmful! But these gents can publicly campaign against the Muslim headscarf as something intolerable. Remember, the young women in Udupi are not demanding that other women wear hijab; they are merely wanting to study in peace while wearing their hijabs.

It would be a mistake to see this attack on the hijab as merely an election ploy, even though the BJP is also deploying it as such. It is part of the larger project of gradually putting in place and acclimatising Indians to a legal and governmental infrastructure suited to a Hindu-supremacist India. And every element of that infrastructure the BJP introduces, is in keeping with the RSS's vision of a Hindu Nation. The campaign to erase the hijab is in keeping with the kind of forced as-

similation RSS founding father Golwalkar wrote of in his book 'We or Our Nationhood Defined': "The foreign races in Hindustan must either adopt the Hindu culture and language, must learn to respect and hold in reverence Hindu religion, must entertain no idea but those of the glorification of the Hindu race and culture, i.e., of the Hindu nation and must lose their separate existence to merge in the Hindu race, or may stay in the country, wholly subordinated to the Hindu Nation, claiming nothing, deserving no privileges, far less any preferential treatment not even citizen's rights."

Deen Dayal Upadhyay, another RSS leader whose bigotry is veiled by mumbo-jumbo about "integral humanism", said much the same as Golwalkar. In an article titled Akhand Bharat (Undivided India) from 1953, Upadhyay wrote of the need to find a solution for what he called the 'separatist and anti-national attitude of the Muslim community.' He asked if the Indian National Congress party, that government much of India, want that "Muslims should be driven out of India"? If not, he said, Muslims "will have to be assimilated into the national life of this country"; in other words, Muslims must be "made Indian." In the next breath, Upadhyay made it clear what this process of "making Muslims Indian" would require: "we must also change the 30-year old policy of Hindu Muslim unity, which Congress adopted on a wrong basis... If we want unity, we must display Indian nationalism which is Hindu nationalism, and Indian culture which is Hindu culture."

For over a decade, Hindu-supremacist men have conducted a violent campaign to break apart those linked hands: bullying and forcibly separating Hindu and Muslim classmates, neighbours, friends and lovers. Those linked hands that survived this campaign keep hope alive and fighting. They remind me of another photograph: that of social reformers Fatima Sheikh and Savitribai Phule, who braved stones and shit flung at them to educate girls in 19th century Pune. In the only surviving photograph of them, both are wearing similar saris that look like teachers' uniforms, with the pallu drawn over their heads - Savitri with a horizontal tlik on her forehead, Fatima with her forehead bare and a hint of a smile on her lips. Behind them, a Muslim woman in a hijab, and in front of them two little schoolgirls, one of whom has a bindi on her forehead.

Salaams to Fatima and Savitri and their daughters today who link hands to go study - in all their glorious unity against enforced uniformity. (IPAServe)

# Naoriya RO calls for peaceful poll day sans violence

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 24:

Let's ensure a peaceful poll day sans violence and enjoy our right to vote on February 28 in a free and fair manner, said 21-Naoriya Pakhanglakpa AC Returning Officer Scindia Laipubam appealing to the people of the constituency to participate in the election process peacefully. Stating that the constituency witnessed 92.12 percent voting in the last State Assembly Election in 2017, she appealed each and every elector of the constituency to participate in the electoral process and ensure a higher voting percentage in the ensuing election.

21-Naoriya Pakhanglakpa Assembly Constituency has 47 Polling Stations with 5 sectors and 188 Polling Officials. 21/30 Ningombam (Ningombam Junior High School) with 1943 electors has the highest number of electors and 21/6 Naoriya Pakhanglakpa (Naoriya Pakhanglakpa Lourembam Leikai Mayai Anganwadi Centre) has the lowest number of electors with 370 electors. The two Polling Stations of 21/4-Heinokhongnemi (Regular English High School) and 21/32-Malom Tulyaima (Malom Megha High School) have been identified as Model cum



Women Polling Stations.

The constituency, she said, has 34,676 electors including 18,040 females, 16,630 males, 352 PwDs, 611 electors above 80 years, two above 100 years and six transgender electors. A total of 367 electors, who had opted for Postal Ballot (12D) for Absentee Voters including 285 Absentee Voters for Senior Citizens and 82 Absentee Voters for PwD have been found eligible in the constituency.

She said Naoriya Pakhanglakpa AC has four candidates in fray. The candidates are Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Sagolshem Kebi Devi, ex-MLA and National People's Party candidate Soibam Subhaschandra Singh, Indian National Congress candidate Sorasham Manaoton Singh and Janata Dal (United) candidate Konthoujam Manoranjan Singh.

Angou contested as the INC(U) candidate and as INC's candidate in 1984 and 1990.

In the 1995 Assembly elections, Independent candidate AK Langam defeated the sitting MLA Angou to represent the constituency in the State Assembly.

For two consecutive terms, Naoriya Pakhanglakpa sent a woman representative to the Manipur Legislative Assembly, electing Wahengbam Leima Devi in the 2000 and 2002 Assembly elections. In the 2000 Assembly Elections, Leima defeated Akoijam Ibobi of the Samata Party and RK Anand of the Democratic Revolutionary People's Party in the 2002 elections.

In the next Assembly election, 2007, RK Anand, contesting on a MPP ticket, defeated Keisham Rojenkumar Singh of the Rashtriya Janata Dal to represent 21-Naoriya Pakhanglakpa in the State Assembly. Anand retained the seat winning the 10th Manipur Assembly Elections, 2012 with INC ticket. He defeated Keisham Rojenkumar Singh of the All India Trinamool Congress again.

In the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Elections, 2017, Soibam Subhaschandra Singh defeated sitting MLA RK Anand to represent the constituency.

# Jiribam District heading for Polls on March 5

## DEO Jiribam appoints 6 separate polling teams for Absentee Voters

IT News  
Jiribam, Feb 24:

Poll preparation process for second phase election is moving on in full swing at Jiribam District as in other districts of Manipur with the District Election Officer, Jiribam Shri W. Malmnganba Chenglei appointing 6 separate polling teams exclusively for the Absentee voters.

The 6 polling teams for Absentee voters comprise of 2 (two) Polling Officials with videographer, micro-observer and security personnel each. The main purpose of forming

these teams is to pay visit to the address of eligible Absentee voters and also to issue and receipt of postal ballot apart from conducting a house-to-house visit. The house-to-house visit has been fixed in 2 rounds.

As per Election Commission of India's decision dated the 16th July 2020, the facility for voting through postal ballot paper is being imparted to Senior Citizens (AVSC), PwDs (AVPD) marked in Electoral Roll and Covid 19 suspect or affected (AVCO) persons at their houses or place of quarantine/hospital.

The number of Absentee voters marked in Electoral Roll for AVSC, AVPD, AVCO are 387,173 and 0 respectively with the total figure coming to around 560 voters.

All stakeholder including absentee voters for postal ballot, candidates and agents are requested to ensure the following guidelines of ECI for categories of electors in order to have a transparent and accountable election in addition to maintaining secrecy of voting and ensuring 100% voting by all absentee voters of the district, as per a notice issued by DEO, Jiribam.

# AR conducts Security Meet

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 24:

Shangshak Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted security meet at Kasong village, Kamjong district yesterday.

The security meet was attended by village authorities,

representatives of SSB, Police, Civil Administration & Student Unions of nearby villages. During the meet the locals were updated about prevalent security situation existing in the area and likelihood of various anti national activities being planned by insurgent groups in the run

upto upcoming Assembly Elections.

Necessary measures required to be undertaken by locals in synergy with Assam Rifles for maintaining a strict vigil against illegal activities in the area, particularly extortion and smuggling were also discussed.

# Study finds limited efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines against Omicron

Agency  
London, Feb 24:

Wuhan, Delta and Omicron variants.

People who are double-vaccinated and those who have recovered from infection by previous strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus have virtually no antibody protection against the Omicron variant, according to a study.

The research, recently published in the journal Allergy, found that only individuals vaccinated with a third or booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine form antibodies that can partially block Omicron.

Researchers from the Medical University of Vienna examined an Austrian subpopulation of vaccinated and recovered individuals for their antibody status and protection against the

test developed for the previous variants, which investigates whether the virus can bind to the receptor on human cells via its receptor binding domain (RBD). RBD is used by SARS-CoV-2 to enter human cells via the ACE2 receptor on cells.

The researchers also examined people who had received different vaccines and combinations currently licensed in Austria.

The findings show that both COVID-19 convalescent individuals and individuals who had been vaccinated twice developed antibody protection against Delta.

However, the antibodies

were not able to block receptor binding domain against Omicron, the researchers said.

The study found that blockade of Omicron was better in those individuals who had received a third vaccination.

"The third vaccination developed protective antibodies in many individuals however, there is also a significant proportion (20 per cent) in whom no protection was established," said Rudolf Valenta, who led the research team.

The RBD differed only slightly in all previously known SARS-CoV-2 variants, so that infections with these and the currently available vaccines provided protection against the previous variants, the researchers said.

# Covid-19: India records 14,148 new cases, 302 deaths

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 24:

India witnessed a slight drop in fresh coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases and a rise in daily deaths, recording 14,148 new infections and 302 fatalities on Thursday, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Daily Covid-19 cases have remained below one lakh for 18 consecutive days, data shows. The country's active caseload currently stands at 1,48,359, comprising 0.35 per cent of total cases.

With 30,009 patients recover-

ing from Covid-19 since Wednesday, the recovery rate is now at 98.46 per cent. The daily positivity rate is now at 1.22 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate stands at 1.6 per cent, according to the health ministry.

Cumulative vaccine doses administered cross 176.47 crore

More than 176 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far as part of the nationwide vaccination drive, the health minister also said on Thursday.

Over 26 lakh (26,88,373) vaccine doses have been ad-

ministered till 7 pm on Wednesday. So far, over 1.94 crore—1,94,97,567 to exact—precaution doses were administered to healthcare workers, frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities have been given, it said.

Despite its huge diversity, India not only addressed the pandemic but also generated a blueprint for the world to deal with future public health crisis, stated two reports released by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday.

Titled 'Covid-19-India's Vaccine Development Story' and 'India's Covid-19 Vaccination Administration Journey', the two reports have been prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness which is a part of the global network of the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness and affiliated to Harvard Business School, PTI reported.

Meanwhile, the department of biotechnology on Tuesday approved the inclusion of six private laboratories to India's Sars-CoV-2 genomic sequencing consortium, which has been keeping track of the mutations in the virus and emerging variants since last year.

# Indian Navy's Multi-National Exercise Milan-2022

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Feb 24:

The latest edition of Indian Navy's Multi-National Exercise Milan-2022, in which over 40 countries are participating, is scheduled to commence on February 25 in the 'City of Destiny', Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

MILAN-2022 will be conducted over 9 days in two phases with the harbour phase from February 25 to 28 February and Sea Phase from March 01 to March 04. The theme of the MILAN 2022 exercise is 'Camaraderie - Cohesion - Collaboration' which aims to project India as a responsible maritime power to the world at large.

While India is celebrating the 75th year of its independence, the MILAN 22 provides an opportunity to commemorate this milestone with our friends and partners. The exercise aims to hone operational skills, imbibe best practices and procedures, and enable doctrinal learning in the maritime domain, through professional interaction between

friendly navies, an Indian Navy statement here said.

Key events planned during MILAN 22 include an opening ceremony followed by the inauguration of MILAN Village on February 26. An Operation Demonstration will be followed by International City Parade on February 27, with the participation of foreign contingents. An international seminar with the theme - 'Harnessing Collective Maritime Competence through Collaboration' will be organized on February 27 and February 28. Other activities include professional/ subject matter expert exchanges, Deep Sea Rescue Vessel (DSRV) demonstrations, sports fixtures, cultural visits to Agra (Uttar Pradesh) and Bodh Gaya (Bihar) for foreign visitors.

MILAN 22 will witness its largest-ever participation, with more than 40 countries sending their warships/high-level delegations. This edition of MILAN would be larger in 'scope and complexity with a focus on exercises at sea including exercises in surface,



sub-surface, and air domains and weapon firings. Operational conferences and seminars are also being conducted, providing participating navies/delegations an opportunity to express their views on maritime security. The high-profile foreign delegates will comprise the highest level naval leadership, agency heads, Ambassadors, and equivalent. MILAN is a biennial multinational naval exercise incepted

by the Indian Navy in 1995 at Andaman and Nicobar Command. The event was held biennially except in 2001, 2005, 2016, and 2020. The 2001 and 2016 editions were not held due to International Fleet Reviews. The 2005 edition was postponed to 2006 due to the 2004 Tsunami. Similarly, the 2020 edition of MILAN was postponed to this year due to COVID-19. Starting with the participation of only four countries, viz

Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, in 1995, the exercise has since transitioned leaps and bounds in terms of the number of participants and complexity of exercises. Originally conceived in consonance with India's 'Look East Policy', MILAN expanded in ensuing years with the Government of India's 'Act East policy and Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative, to in-

clude participation from island nations in the Western Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as also IOR littorals.

The participation increased from six regional countries to 18 countries in 2014 including IOR littorals. With the Indian Navy's engagement with friendly foreign countries expanding over the decades, a need was felt to further consolidate the naval cooperation by enhancing the scale and complexity of the MILAN exercise and engaging both regional and extra-regional navies of the world. MILAN 22 will provide an invaluable opportunity to foster bonds of maritime brotherhood across the oceans, the IN statement added.

"Cobra Warrior-22"

In the meanwhile the Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in a multi-nation air exercise titled 'Ex Cobra Warrior 22' to be held at Waddington, the United Kingdom March 06 to March 27.

Five Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas flew to the UK on Wednesday, along with IAF's C-17 transport aircraft which

will provide the necessary transport support for induction and de-induction of Tejas and will ferry maintenance crew and ground equipment.

Other Air Forces participating in the drill include fighter jets from Sweden - 'Gripen' fighters, Belgium's F-16 fighters. Saudi Arabia will be sending Typhoons and Tornado fighters, an IAF statement said.

The exercise "Ex-Cobra" is aimed at providing operational exposure and sharing best practices amongst the participating Air Forces, thereby enhancing combat capability and forging bonds of friendship.

"Ex-Cobra" is one of the largest exercises of the Royal Air Force, in which training is imparted to pilots in planning and executing air-borne missions. The training is the final step for those seeking to qualify as Qualified Weapons Instructors (QWI), Qualified Multi-engine Tactics Instructors, QWI Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, and the Qualified Space Instructors Course.

# Dry Run for Evacuation of Poll Personnel conducted

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 24:

In connection with the forthcoming General Election to Manipur Legislative Assembly 2022, a dry run for urgent evacuation of polling and security personnel by helicopter from remote locations for immediate medical care was conducted today. The Helicopter started from Bir Tikendrajit International Air-

port, Imphal to Kangla – Kangla to Parbung – back to Kangla – Kangla to Kasom Khullen – back to Kangla – back to Bir Tikendrajit International Airport, Imphal.

It may be mentioned that the helicopter will be stationed at Bir Tikendrajit International Airport on 27th February to 1st March, 2022 for the Phase-I Poll to be held on 28th February, 2022 in five electoral districts. For Phase-II Poll, which

is scheduled to be held on 5th March, 2022 in six electoral districts, the helicopter will be stationed at the Airport from 4th to 6th March, 2022. As per the Medical Emergency Response Plan, the helicopter, after airlifting casualty polling and security personnel from remote location, will land at Kangla. Two Helicopter Rapid Response Teams (one each from Imphal East and Imphal West) will station with full pre-

paredness for evacuation of casualties to hospitals. The composition of Helicopter Rapid Response Team will be 4 Doctors, 6 Nurses and 6 Paramedics.

Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Naorem Praveen Singh, OSD (Election) Ganesh Nagarajan and State Nodal Officer (Health) Dr. Tomcha Khuman also took part in the dry run for evacuation of polling and security personnel.

# Minister Biswajit appeals people to vote for the right candidates

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 24:

Y Nabachandra of BJP candidate of Wangkhem Assembly Constituency hoisted flag today at Haokha Mamang USDA ground Thoubal District.

Addressing the large public gathering, Th Biswajit expressed that the Election is the one of the biggest festivals of democracy. Congress had been in power for many decades in the country and Manipur and Congress ruled the country from pre independence. We need to remember the past during this election time which political party is for the people.

We are celebrating Azadi ka Amrit and we need to remember what has been done by the congress party in the state and nation. We need to think about which road we should take.

When we make our future we need to remember our past so that we can create a good future, said Th Biswajit during the flag hoisting ceremony at wangkhem constituency of BJP Candidate Y Nabachandra.

He further stated that the congress party did not work for the welfare of the people and made the public suffer for many years.

Congress party went on to attack the Congress party, alleging that they did not work for the welfare of the people and made the public suffer for many years. And during congress regime in manipur bandh and blockade.

We promised a bandh and blockade-free Manipur; we have fulfilled it. To protect the indigenous population of the state, we have brought the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system,"

Biswajit said, addressing a meeting organized as part of his flag hoisting program at Nigomthong Bazaar under the Thongju assembly constituency.

The minister said the Congress party must accept the fact that the Bharatiya Janata Party has extinguished the challenges the people of Manipur faced during their period. "Now, the people of Manipur do not have to queue up outside the filling stations overnight just to get a liter of petrol," Biswajit added.

The minister said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has also fulfilled Manipur's dream of better road and air connectivity, which the previous governments had neglected. He also attended an interaction programme of BJP candidate M Binod at Sugnu.

# 5 Days to Kangpokpi Poll; Political & Security Meeting held

IT News  
Kangpokpi, Feb 24:

Five days are left for 99,982 electors of Kangpokpi district to cast their votes on Monday (28.2.2022) in the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 2022. Total number of 2,784 first-time voters in the age group 18-19 years and 1 (one) transgender will also exercised their franchise. The voting will be held from 7 am to 4 pm.

49,446 male and 50,535 female voters will be participating in the festival of democracy to elect their representatives. Meanwhile, total number of 44,782 male and 47,000 female voters had voted in the 2017

general election.

Voters of the district will be casting their votes in 166 polling stations, out of which 25 are identified as normal, 35 as vulnerable and 106 as critical. During the 2017 general election, out of the 156 polling stations- 88 polling stations were identified as normal, 33 as vulnerable and 35 as critical.

Webcasting will be done in 73 polling stations - 12 in Saikul (ST), 27 in Kangpokpi and 34 in Saitu (ST) Assembly Constituencies of the district. This time, there are 1,880 service voters as compared to 1,019 in the 2017 general election. 43 micro observers have been properly trained for the election this time.

On the day of the election, voters have to carry identity card/documents along with them and they will be given Voter Information Slip by the Booth Level Officer at the polling station. As per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI), voters can bring Voter ID Card (EPIC/e-EPIC). The e-EPIC is for the newly registered electors.

Voters can also bring Aadhar Card, MNREGA Job Card, PAN Card, Passbook (issued by bank/post office with photo), Health Insurance Smart Card (issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour), Driving License, Passport, Service Identity Card (with photograph is-

sued to employees by Central/ State Govt/PSUs/Public Limited Companies), Smart Card (issued by RGI under NPR), Pension Document (with photo) and Official Identity Card (Issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs).

On the other hand, today General Observer Prohuddutta David Pradhan, IAS, Expenditure Observer Manish Kumar Chavda, IRS (C&CE) and Police Observer Sarat Kaviraj, District Election Officer Kengoo Zuringla had a district security co-ordination meeting along with the SP, Commandants of CAPF and ROs. Later, meeting was also held with the political parties.

# PIL challenging the declaration...

The notification issued by Special Secretary (Home) Government of Manipur H Gyan Prakash maintained: "that due to violent activities of various extremist/insurgent groups, the entire State of Manipur is in such a disturbed condition that the use of Armed Forces in aid of civil power is necessary."

The notification stated that the Governor of Manipur is of the opinion that the areas within the State of Manipur be declared as a "Disturbed Area" under the provisions of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, as amended from time to time.

The Manipur Human

Rights Commission has observed that AFSPA is now an undemocratic and unjust law to be rooted out wholly given India's largest democracy in the world. Accordingly, the commission had given several grounds for withdrawing "disturbed area" status from Manipur.

# All arrangements for dispersal...

Commissioning of EVMs for Phase-I has been completed while commissioning for phase-II will be completed today. New Symbol Loading Unit is used for the first time wherein symbol loading process is displayed through TV screens to representatives of candidates and political parties. To track

the movement of EVMs Traccar App will be embedded in all mobile phones for polling teams and sector officers.

With regard to Law & Order and Seizure, 60 FIRs had been filed and 58 persons had been arrested so far. A total of 18120 licensed arms have been deposited till

date (80.89%) and 6892 persons have been bound down under CrPC. Total Seizure amounting to Rs. 165.4738298 Crore has been made including Cash (Rs. 1.826986 Crore), Drugs (Rs. 143.4735214 Crore), Liquor (Rs. 0.6383562 Crore), Gold (Rs. 12.1676592 Crore) and others (Rs. 7.367307 Crore).

# Day Legal Awareness programme...

Binny Ngangom expressed the concern of the huge number of Domestic Violence cases in the Thoubal District and expressed the need for awareness on the Domestic Violence act and its important provisions.

M. Swami Singh, Advo-

cate gave speech as resource person; through his speech he elucidated the abuses and exploitation of the Domestic Violence act by recounting various instances and talked to the participants about how to correctly utilise the Domestic Violence act against abu-

sive husbands, in-laws in the context of our Manipuri society.

Further, the presidium members answered various questions and experiences of the participants and talked to them on how to obtain legal help on domestic abuse is-

# RPF President Irengbam Chaoren greets people on 43rd ....

They consider revolutionaries as misguided ones and is evident from the slogan "bringing back to mainstream" used by the colonial regime. This slogan is not only insulting the liberation struggle but also an attempt to destroy the true character of our struggle. The slogan is an attempt to treat our struggle as internal problem of India. What need to be remembered here is that SOO or Peace Talks entered with India by revolutionary groups of Manipur or WESEA were done intentionally and there is no desire or intention to trade or diminish the goal of liberation by willingly entered into SOO or peace talk.

"The so called SOO or Peace-Talks were entered out of various compelling factors. As of now RPF does not have any intention to enter into Peace-Talk with India. We know that India's strategy of Peace-Talks aims at making the revolutionaries disarm or immobile thereby losing the real character and capacity of a revolutionary. Many of the revolutionary groups of WESEA, who have entered into Peace-Talks with India are now in a situation of being "the Scylla and Charybdis". History is testimony to this fact. We have seen failed process of Peace-Talks and agreements fallen apart. We have seen the 9 Point Agreement of 1947, 16 Point Agreement of 1960 and the 1975 Shillong Accord between India and Naga revolutionary and more than 6 years old Framework Agreement, are

meant to trade Naga's freedom with some material benefits. Likewise, Mizoram Accord of 1986 and TNV Tripurite Accord of 1988 were the agreements that had destroyed the idea of freedom. Besides, India has snatched away the special autonomy enjoyed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir and kept the region in semi-military rule.

"Under such situation it is not possible to achieve freedom through peace talks particularly in WESEA region which India treats as their enemy by enforcing AFSPA and other draconian laws. India, which harbour the intention of colonising even the independent neighbouring countries under the vision of "Akhand Bharat", it is hard to believe that freedom of Manipur will be achieved through peace-talks or political dialogue. Recently a BJP leader against the backdrop of incident of burning down some Hindu temple in Bangladesh commented India could have annexed Bangladesh in 1971, when India had defeated Pakistan and still if India has the intention it could annex Bangladesh anytime. There is no reason for not to considering such fact and rethink wisely when there is offer of peace-talks with India. Even though India has occupied Manipur, the love of freedom which we have nourished in our heart cannot be occupied. This love of freedom is something that has engrained in the hearts of all of us which cannot be vanquished by any

forces. It was the love of freedom that our forefathers had fought the mighty British Empire in 1891 even though the defeat was inevitable. It was because of this spirit that there was no intention to surrender even after the defeat.

"The liberation struggle that we are waging against Indian colonialism has not seen any defeat, so there is no question of trading Manipur's freedom by entering peace-talks with India. As India is using several methods and ways to suppress our liberation struggle, we also need to find out new methods and ways to defeat India. However, it does not mean that we think we can defeat India easily. As strategy we not only need the support of outside power but also a unified revolutionary front and struggle of all revolutionary groups of WESEA region is necessary and essential. However, our first priority is making ourselves a complete and stronger revolutionary party. The revolutionary movement related problems faced by our people and lack of communication or misunderstanding between our people and revolutionary groups in recent times have strained the relationship between the two and it has negatively impacted the growth of revolutionary journey.

"However, problems faced by the people is not intentionally done by the revolutionary groups. Any revolutionary group does not harbour the intention to cause any problem or injury or misery to people, it was purely creation of many

compelling factors and situation. There were Mes-022522/RPF-PRE Page 3 of 4 times when revolutionaries tried to defend themselves from the clutches of enemy our people had suffered because of this. But it was not intentionally done by revolutionaries. Such misunderstanding between our people and revolutionaries have hampered in the growth of collective struggle of our people and revolutionaries against the colonial regime. But we cannot make our revolution hinder due to these factors. It is the duties and responsibilities of every revolutionary groups to chalk out new strategies to hasten the pace of our revolution. In the process we should learn from the past mistakes and take the revolution forward by giving priority to life, liberty and property of our people. We should carry our revolution along with masses based on the respect and understanding of the wishes of people. Instead of spreading propaganda about the mistakes committed by the revolutionaries, which enemy has used as an instrument to suppress the revolution, our people should give a chance to the revolutionaries to rectify the mistakes through self-inspection. RPF believes in the collective independent struggle by uniting all the communities of Manipur irrespective of religion, ethnicity, languages and race. Many individuals from the hill areas of Manipur who believed in our ideology had started to join the RPF. How-

ever, some revolutionary groups started threatening the individuals and their family, this has led to a situation where conflict between the revolutionary groups became imminent possibility. It is due to this fact RPF has to postpone the recruitment from among the hill areas. Taking due advantage of the situation Indian colonial regime and their agent had spread propaganda that revolutionary groups of Manipur are confine to valley area only in order to throw our revolution in a wrong light. Besides, Indian Army through the instrument of SOO and Peace-Talks have built up the camps in the hill areas. As a result there is difficulty of our organization in establishing camps and free movement in the hill areas. This has hampered in the establishment of cordial relationship between people and revolutionary groups in the areas. But situation has changed now because of the emergence of revolutionary groups, who are against the ideology of ethnic exclusivism and its futility. Now people have realized the real danger of such ideology and Machiavellian tactics of Indian regime. RPF is marching the revolutionary journey with such groups through cooperation and collaboration for the liberation of Manipur. This shows clearly that independence of Manipur is desire and wishes of every communities inhabiting in Manipur. Finally, what we like to place is that covid-19 pandemic, which has

claimed the lives of more than 58 lacs across the world and more than 2000 lives in Manipur is a pandemic that pose a great challenge and danger to humanity as a whole in a new form and variant. So far Government of India has claimed that pandemic has claimed the lives of more than 5 lacs people. But a recent study published in the Journal Science believed that the pandemic might have taken the lives of more than 30 lacs people in Mes-022522/RPF-PRE Page 4 of 4 India. Even in Manipur, people believed that the figure could be more than what the government claimed. As such we cannot remain careless and complacency even though the situation is improving with lower positivity rate. Smaller nation like Manipur should take extra precautionary measure to protect ourselves from the pandemic. Therefore we appeal to the public to follow the SOPs given by the experts. Government also need to formulate the appropriate strategy to stop the spread of pandemic. Even in the country like China following strict "Zero COVID Policy", the pandemic has not spared and spreading. We know that very recently 2000 people were infected with the disease in Xian. However, due to their proper strategy and strict policy and prompt action was able to control the spread of pandemic without any casualty. But in Manipur the situation is not improving and more and more people are getting infected. This is because

Manipur follows India's strategy which is based on strategy of western Democracy. What we need to understand is that even in the USA, claimed to be the most developed and advanced in every field the pandemic has claimed more than 9 lacs people. Even the Europe is facing immense difficulty while curbing the pandemic. If we imitate the movement against vaccination such as "my body my choice" and movement against wearing mask which are taking place in some of the Western Democracies in the name of liberty, the pandemic will naturally increase. Even though Western countries had criticised Quarantine Center in China as Detention Center and Strict Regulation as Human Rights violation; and Chinese regime as authoritative, western countries cannot formulate appropriate policy to protect their own people from the pandemic. But they have the ability and power to face the challenges posed by the pandemic and even though pandemic claims some, that will have no impact upon their society as they are large nation. The situation is not the same for the smaller nation like ours. Every life claimed by the pandemic is great loss for us. Therefore the experts need to device appropriate policy and strategy to face the pandemic. People should follow the COVID Appropriate Behaviour given by the experts in the field and they should get vaccinated to protect us from the pandemic, the RPF chief added.