

UNLF condoles demise of Binodkumar

IT News
Imphal, Feb 25:

Proscribed United National Liberation Front (UNLF), Manipur and its armed wing Manipur People's Army (MPA) has condoled the demise of its member Nangom Binodkumar, who passed away due to an illness on February 21 morning.

A statement by M. Sak-hen, Dy. Secy. of Publicity UNLF, informed that Binod was born to Nangom Ibohah and Ibecha Leima of Haobam Marak on January 16, 1943 as the second child among eight siblings.

He passed matriculation in 1966, married Mutum Tampakleima on May 6, 1975 and joined UNLF in 1968 and played important roles in different capacities in the freedom struggle.

He spent some time in jail after he was arrested in 1969. After his release, he remained active in party related activities and guided several youths, who want freedom, into the front.

He was also a farmer with zeal to bring self-reliance in terms of food, which is one of the objectives of UNLF.

He had remained as member of the advisory committee of UNLF.

Till his last breath, he strived to bring unity, and promote patriotism among the youth of Manipur, the statement said.

UNLF and its armed wing Manipur People's Army (MPA) give revolutionary salute to the departed soul and also share the grief and pain of the bereaved family while praying for his soul to rest in peace, the statement added.

'Covid vaccination certificate mandatory for entry to polling stations'

IT News
Tamenglong, Feb. 25:

Deputy Commissioner Tamenglong on Thursday issued a notice in connection with the 12th General Elections to Manipur Legislative Assembly 2022 that all polling agents and counting agents of all contesting candidates will be allowed to enter polling station and counting hall on the production of certificate of double dose of Covid-19 vaccination.

In case they are not vaccinated or single dose vaccinated, an RT-PCR negative report from an authorized laboratory taken within 72 hours from the start of polling or counting is required, the notice also added. Meanwhile, a notice issued

by the Deputy Commissioner Tamenglong District, officers said that officials assigned for election who didn't attend the first round of training from 19 to 22 February, 2022 and second round of training the 19th and 21st February 2022 will be directed to show cause notice and explanation call.

Deputy Commissioner Tamenglong Hungyo Worshang further warned those absentees stringent necessary action including even suspension of services in case of non-response of the show cause. If they still continue repeated absence and callous negligence of election duty, then strict action shall be taken ex-parte against them, the notice also added.

Polling personnel who were

absent during the second round of training have to furnish explanation to the showcause notice on or before the 24th February 2022. The DLOs concerned shall be responsible for the reply of their respective staff on time.

1st round designated teams of polling officers for Jiribam AC flagged off

Jiribam, Feb 25:

To ensure 100 percent voting in 40-Jiribam Assembly Constituency in the 12th State Assembly Election, 2022, the District Election Officer, Jiribam Shri W. Malemnganba Chenglei today flagged off 6(six) separate designated

teams of polling officers for the 1st round from the DC Office Complex to facilitate eligible absentee voters categorised as Senior Citizens (AVSC), PwDs (AVPD) marked in Electoral Roll and Covid 19 suspect or affected (AVCO) persons.

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ZUF observes 11th Raising Day

IT News
Imphal, Feb 25:

Armed group the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) observed its 11th Raising Day today.

A statement in connection with the raising issued by the Information & Publicity Secretary of ZUF, KD. Gangmei said that the birth of every revolution signals the change and restructuring of government of the people. History of human civilization and society comes through revolutionary movement of the people.

It added, "The vision and action for determining and asserting the rights for creation and fulfilling the aspiration of the people was duly rooted and established 11 years ago on 25th February 2011 in the form and name of Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF). The Day and year is remembered and honoured with revolutionary salute to all the comrades and patriots who stood steadfastly to the cause of determining Zeliangrong Homeland till date".

"On this Day, we also pay our high homage and tribute to our beloved patriots and martyrs who laid down their precious lives as the price of freedom of our people. Their

supreme sacrifices are acknowledged, valued and remembered as revolutionary examples," the statement added.

The statement also recalled the hardship, pain, struggle and risk-taking moments faced 11 years ago, and thank to the almighty God for giving them strength.

"Today, our conviction and commitment are made stronger and greater as we observe and visualize our ever-cherishing aspiration for our secured homeland despite apparent odds and hardships lays before us. We shall ever march forward with greater commitment till victory is won", the statement said.

The ZUF also sent message of hope and right to self-determination.

It further said, "we shall soon be rewarded with deserving solution to our long cherishing aspiration and struggle. We reaffirm that our mission objectives remain strong and shall ever adhere to the principle and preamble of our constitution with renewed Will and Spirit. We appeal our people and all concerned to continue your valued support and cooperation towards the cause for which we have been committed since Day One to this Day."

Irresponsible statement, says Thoubal Ima

IT News
Imphal, Feb 25:

Reacting strongly to the speech of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh at which he stated that selling of Indian made liquors will be legalized in the state, Thoubal district United Women's Development

Organisation (Thoubal Ima) said that such a statement is an irresponsible statement.

"It is an act of insult and humiliation to the movement of Nisha Bandhi since 1970s by the women of the state and the civil society organisation of the state", a statement by the women's body said.

RPF observed Independent Demand Day

IT News
Imphal, Feb 25:

Proscribed group, the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) today observed its 43rd raising day as "Independent Demand Day". A statement of the outfit said that the day is observed at various places including its Council Head Quarter, Central Bureau, Central Bureau Divisions, SR-1, SR-2, SR-3, SR-4, General Head Quarters of the PLA and its units Department, Stations etc. by following COVID-appropriate behaviours.

A t the rebel groups Division 2,3,4,6,8 and 10 the armed rebel group observed the day by hoisted their party flags, stars and festoon under its Central Bureau, the statement said. As a part of the observance



the members of the group and its army wing PLA paid salute to its party flags and also paid tributes to the martyred members of the RPF/PLA. Reading of the RPF President Irengbam Chaoen message to the people in connection with

the day (publish in this news paper) and pay of tribute mark the observance.

The statement once more reiterated its president message to the people regarding the Peace Talk. It said engaging talk with the India government

will be similar to tying of hands to the ongoing movement and the RPF is not ready to hold talk at the moment.

The statement reminded the failed process of Peace-Talks and agreements of 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 Tripartite Accord of 1988 were the agreements that had destroyed the idea of freedom. It said that when there are draconian laws being enforced in the state the RPF will never accept peace talk proposal.

Environment issues featured in Manipur poll Manifestos

By a Special Correspondent
Imphal, Feb 25:

Unlike previous elections, the environment-related issues particularly the conservation of the state's iconic Loktak Lake has been prominently featured in all the manifestos of political parties which were released ahead of the ensuing 12th Manipur assembly elections.

Manipur will go to polls on February 28 at 38 assembly constituencies and March 5 at 22 at constituencies while the counting will take place on March 10 to elect 60

MLAs.

In its election manifesto which was released 11 days ahead of the first phase of the elections, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) promises to ensure the protection and preservation of rich and unique natural resources of Manipur.

In a 30-page manifesto having 20 point key promises in a separate leaflet, the saffron party which fielded their candidates in all 60 assembly constituencies, promises "to formulate a comprehensive action plan/policy to safeguard the endangered species and flora and fauna of

the state."

Promising to preserve, develop and maintain the state's iconic gem, the Loktak Lake "to ensure it becomes an iconic wetland site of South East Asia," it also promises to overall development of Lake by restructuring Loktak Development Authority (LDA) for comprehensive management of lake and its associated wetlands and revisit the state water policy for overall improvement of water resources.

BJP also promises "to convert Champu Khangpok floating village at Loktak Lake to Heritage floating village to

conserve and promote the local heritage."

In 2011, the LDA had removed most of the floating fishing huts of Loktak Lake, a designated Ramsar Site, which is spread across three valley districts of Imphal West, Bishnupur and Thoubal, covering an area of 236 sq km (LDA).

The opposition Congress which fielded 54 candidates, also promises "to create State Forest Development Corporation and Loktak Lake research & training centre" besides forming Manipur state energy policy if they are voted to power this time.

In its 30-page manifesto having 30 promises with 11 goals in 37 different sectors, released on February 4, the grand old party promises Mountain economy for an integrated development of the land and people of the hill districts besides promising to introduce sustainable forest certification to identify and label genuine sustainable forest.

The National People's Party (NPP), a key ally of the ruling BJP led coalition government in Manipur, in its 25-page manifesto promises "to review Loktak Protection Act of 2006 and amend the

legislation to make it more scientific and people centric and align it with Ramsar convention and the national wetlands rules 2017."

Notably both congress and NPP promised to restructure the overall functioning of LDA "for the comprehensive conservation and management of Loktak Lake and its associated wetlands".

On the Climate Change sector, NPP, the first political party to release the elections manifesto here, also promises to review redraft and update the state action plan on climate change according to the changing needs.

Janata Dal (united) which fielded 38 candidates, promises to promote Geographical Indication (GI) status of local species and grow them extensively in the state as GI tags have great potential to play a major role in trade while the Nationalist Congress Party which nominated 8 candidates echoes that the 'aged old woods' to be preserved.

Interestingly Communist Party of India, a pre-poll partner of Congress in the ensuing elections, promises to take special steps to protect and preserve forest to face global climate change.

Digital Rupee will be guaranteed but not Crypto

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



India is about to launch its own Digital Rupee. Meanwhile, a few important instructions have been announced regarding the Crypto advertising. It has

become mandatory to clearly write the warning on the advertisements of Crypto, as is written about smoking on the cigarette packs. The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), a regulatory body that monitors the quality of advertisements in the country, has issued new guidelines regarding Crypto related ads, which will come into effect from April 1, 2022. According to the new guidelines, it will be mandatory to write in any Crypto related advertisement that there is no regulation on Crypto in the country and investing money can be highly risky. The investor himself shall be liable for any loss arising out of such transactions. These warnings have to be prominently displayed in the advertisements so that everyone can see them without a fail. Also, Crypto cannot be called a 'currency' in the advertisements. The logic behind this is that because people trust words like 'currency' and 'securities', therefore investors can be misled. The inclusion of children in these advertisements is also prohibited.

Crypto ads will also include the advertiser's name, phone number or email address, so that they can be contacted if needed. Celebrities who appear in Crypto ads are also advised not to make misleading claims and only get involved in any such advertisement after understanding everything thoroughly. Actually, digital transactions are a completely new thing in our country, which will take a lot of time for people to understand it properly. In such a situation, along with the government, it is also the responsibility of banks, news media and experts related to financial matters to make the general public aware and keep warning about any kind of financial risks. Considering Crypto a virtual digital asset, the central government has imposed a 30% tax on its transactions, but this does not mean that it has got government approval. Crypto in India is neither recognized by the government, nor is there any government agency to regulate it. In such a situation, if there is any fraud or loss, then it will be entirely the responsibility of the person investing money in Crypto.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is preparing to introduce a Digital Rupee, which will be like a bank note, but it will not require any ATM. RBI will take guarantee of this Digital Rupee. Since the central bank will have a direct role in this, there will be no risk of any loss to the people, as has been done in the case of commercial banks earlier. People will be able to transact it in the form of an online token through a smartphone wallet from their savings account. Over the years, customers of 21 banks, involved in malpractices, were barred from withdrawing their own money. However, the digital rupee also has a flip side. Imagine if the digital rupee becomes more popular then banks will find it difficult to maintain small savings accounts, because most of the people can switch to electronic cash. Finance experts believe that there is no need for a digital rupee in India right now, as there is enough cash in the country.

Time for compassion towards students



By: Vijay GarG

Since schools closed, students have been through a lot of changes. Not only have they aged, they have become different people, having lived through a pandemic at such a young age. So, what should schools expect when children return, and how can they prepare to support their emotional adjustment and safeguard their development beyond academic achievement?

As a society, we have always struggled to accept that school is about more than academic achievement. School is where children make friends, encounter bullies, face anxieties, experiment with identities, have secret adventures, live independent lives, and learn who they are away from their parents. If their home environment is unstable for any reason, they have the chance to live a different life where they can feel like they have a higher degree of freedom and control. That this is essential to their psychosocial development is beyond debate.

Being home for the larger part of two years has denied them these necessary developmental opportunities. Undoubtedly, children will have missed their friends, and the routine of going to school can have induced grief and listlessness. Beyond this, though, several children will have experienced Covid-induced health anxieties, the loss of loved ones, varying textures of violence, financial crises and several other issues.

The symptom grabbing everyone's attention seems to be an increase in screen time. Less attention has been paid to "nuisance" symptoms such as disrupted sleep or eating patterns, lack of focus and motivation to study, sullen behaviour and temper tantrums. Older children have been taken to doctors for anything from mild mood and anxiety disorders to instances of addiction and self-harm. Despite our intention to support our children, it seems we have instead decided to "manage" them and place the burden of coping — academically and emotionally — on them alone. It is one of the great privileges of adulthood to develop an amnesia about how we would have liked to be treated when we were children and adolescents.

Children do not always communicate directly, and often go unheard when they try. Nor do they have (read: are not given) an emotional vocabulary to explain the complexity of emotions they might be going through (neither do adults, if I'm being honest). Instead, they withdraw, get angry, stop studying or lose focus. Our instinct, unthinkingly, is to respond by telling them to engage, stop feeling angry, study harder and focus more. Unsurprisingly, such advice never works. These are expressions of their feelings. Withdrawing into their phones, for instance, can well be an expression of loneliness, despair and a feeling of being unmoored. Children are alive to everything around them. Holding it inside, trying to make sense of it, can be a lot to carry.

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Dr. Rajendra Prasad : Gems of Modern India



By-Er. Prabhat Kishore

Dr. Rajendra Prasad was a symbol of nationalism due to his efficiency, devotion to service, intellectual brilliance, truthfulness, sincerity, and gentleness by entering public life as Gandhiji's associate in Champaran. This pioneering leader of the Indian freedom struggle, with his service and support of Sardar Patel, held the highest office of the President of Congress, President of the Constituent Assembly and then the first President of the Republic of India for twelve years.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad was born on the 3rd December 1884 in Jiradei village of Siwan district in Bihar. After completing his early education in Chhapra and T.K. Ghosh Academy, Patna, he was enrolled in FA in the Presidency College, Kolkata in the year 1902. He passed the MA (Economics) honours in 1907, BL in 1910 and ML (Master of Law) in 1915 from the University of Kolkata. After this, he started practicing in the Calcutta High Court.

Rajendra Babu started his public life in the year 1905 with the Bang-Bhang movement. He became a member of the All India Congress Committee in 1911. After the establishment of Patna High Court in 1916, he shifted to Patna and

started practicing law. In Patna, there was less opportunity for advocacy and more opportunity to participate in public work.

In the Lucknow Congress of 1916, a delegation of farmers from Champaran met Gandhiji and narrated the atrocities of the Foreigners. Gandhiji reached Motihari and personally saw the plight of indigo peasants by the British. He called Rajendra Prasad and some other lawyers from Patna to Champaran and asked them to pen the sad story of the farmers. The statements of about 22 to 25 thousand raiyats were recorded. In Champaran, the work of emancipating the farmers from slavery was going on, while in Gujarat, under the leadership of Vallabhbhai Patel, the farmers of Kheda were performing satyagraha. Rajendra Babu went to Kheda to meet Patel and gave moral support to the movement. After about two years of agitation, the British indigo managers left Champaran.

In September 1920, Rajendra Prasad was completely engrossed in the service of the country by giving up his advocacy. For the promotion of the national movement, he started the publication of "Desh" in Hindi and "Searchlight" in English, which gave a big boost to the national freedom movement. On January 15, 1934, in the devastating earthquake of Bihar, lakhs of houses collapsed, wells were filled with sand and there was panic all around. An NGO named 'Bihar Central Relief Committee' was formed under the chairmanship of Rajendra Babu and efforts were made to control the situation with the money received in the relief fund. Gandhiji, Sardar Patel, Kripalani and others worked with full commitment and coordination in their help. Demolition was converted into construction and Rajendra Babu was

given the title of 'Deshratri' by the countrymen.

In 1934, for the first time, Rajendra Babu was elected as the Congress President. Under his presidency, the Golden Jubilee year was celebrated in the Bombay session in October 1934 to commemorate the 50 years of the Congress. He established the 'Deshi Rajya Praja Mandal' in the native states. When Subhash Chandra Bose was elected president for the second time in the Tripura Congress session, he was facing fierce opposition from Gandhiji. Subhash Babu called a meeting of the All India Congress Committee in Kolkata on 28 April 1939, in which he resigned when his leadership was not disclosed and Rajendra Babu was asked to take over the post of Congress President for the second time.

In the "Quit India" movement of 1942, all the top leaders were arrested. Rajendra Babu was arrested in a sick condition and kept in Bankipur Jail of Patna. On 15 June 1945, he along with other leaders, was released from the prison. On 16 February 1946, the British Prime Minister announced the constitution of a three-member "Cabinet Mission" and on 23 March 1946, its members Pethick Lawrence, Sir Stafford Cripps and A.V. Alexander came to India.

After talks with various political and social leaders in India by the three-member mission, two plans were published by the British Government. The first plan published on 16 May 1946 was related to the formation of the Constituent Assembly and the second plan published on 16 June 1946 was related to the formation of an Interim government at the Centre. After accepting the plan on 16 June 1946, a twelve-member cabinet under the leadership of the Congress President Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in on 2nd September

1946 and Rajendra Babu was inducted as the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

After becoming the Prime Minister of the Interim Government, Nehru had to leave the post of Congress President. As per Patel's wish, Acharya J.V. Kripalani became the President of Meerut Congress. Acharya Kripalani resigned from the post of Congress President on 17 November 1947 due to differences of opinion between the government and the Congress organization. Then Gandhiji wanted socialist Jayaprakash as president and Nehru wanted Acharya Narendra Dev, but eventually Patel's choice Rajendra Prasad was made Congress president. After some time he resigned from the post of Agriculture and Food Minister.

According to the long-term plan announced on 16 May 1946 and accepted by the Congress, the Constituent Assembly of India sat (in the Central Hall of the Lok Sabha) on 9 December 1946. Nehruji wanted N. Gopalaswami Iyengar to be made its permanent chairman, but ultimately Patel's choice Rajendra Babu was elected permanent chairman. On 15 August 1947, power was handed over to the Government of India by the British Government, which was transferred to the President of the Sovereign Constituent Council of India. At 12 o'clock in the midnight of 15th August, Rajendra Prasad proposed that the Viceroy should be informed that - (1) the Constituent Assembly of India has assumed the authority of India, (2) the Constituent Assembly of India has accepted the recommendation that Lord Mountbatten should not be the Viceroy but only the Governor-General with effect from August 15, 1947, and (3) this message should be conveyed to Mountbatten by the Speaker and Jawaharlal Nehru.

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Parenting is not same for all the parents



By - M.R. Lalu

Parenting in India has always been a great tradition. A route map drawn for the kids through good virtues and practices. Indian families have always been structurally strong and well fastened with all the members contributing to the welfare of the kids. Joint families to nuclear families, our journey has been consistent and evolutionary. Parents in most of the Indian families prefer to have one or maximum two kids these days. Fifty years ago, we were a society with more than six children playing in the courtyard of almost every Indian family. Parenting has always been a subject of discourse by academia and there were researches on ways to better parenting in societies across the globe time and again. This is mainly due to the changes that take place in a world of innovations and inventions and challenges. Involvement by the parents in the life of children was seen to be an effort to strengthen their aptitude to conduct themselves as a good social being. Unbiased care, compassionate attention, valuable guidance and firm protection are what parenting is basically built on; the necessary nourishment of a sapling to grow into a huge, gigantic tree. With a strong family structure that existed for generations, Indian parenting was an example for the rest of the world. Though economically backward, families in

the villages still firmly hold on to values that they believe are true and essential. Passing them from generation to generation they preserved. We are a country of diverse traditions and every tradition offers different ways of upbringing with variety of practices and customs. When a child is born, the first connection that he establishes is with his mother and mothers are regarded with great respect.

What makes parenting a challenging task? Mostly the parents of today struggle to find ways to guide their children through the advancement of a digital age. The present generation of kids are completely unaware of the difficulties that the generation of their parents faced in the process of growing up. Parents, stepping into modernity with smartphones and social media, find parenting a more challenging task today than it was 40 years ago. Majority of parents in developed countries feel it as a tough and unfulfilled task. Conclusions of surveys reveal that a significant number of parents find no time to systematically guide their children due to personal preoccupations or digital involvement. Number of parents regretting not being productive to their kids due to busy personal schedules is increasing. Most of the parents live with a generalized sense of anxiety around their lovely kids. Though India has traditional value systems, slowly it is making a shift in the direction of modernity as what the western countries have already been to. Increasing number of broken families, the world over, societies are facing complex parental problems that are inevitable and unsolvable. In India too higgledy-piggledy family relationships with disruptive parenting is gaining momentum, but

comparatively in a slow pace. Values that cement relationships in families become nonexistent. A meaningful parent child relationship is the foundation of the building of life of every child. Diverse practices rooting in the same value system, India has traditionally been giving importance to strengthen the families.

From instilling vitalizing values to help them fix a better career choice to everything, parents ensure their child from learning the essential human values such as love, compassion and honesty. Some surveys reveal the fact that lower income parents with school going children are more susceptible as they have less options to manage their kids at home than the affluent parents with affordable after school activities for their kids. In the villages, kids after school, find recreational games to spend their time, as availability of digital devices is less in comparison with urban areas. Deteriorating family atmosphere normally leads the children to various behavioral anomalies. Giving too much freedom to children can be harmful as it is the case with setting up an overprotective environment. Despite being busy, it is important for the parents to identify their responsibility in the total upbringing of their children. Forceful guidance and consistent interference may not help the child to make his own positive propositions on education and life. Therefore, too much aggressive involvement in children's affairs may turn things topsy turvy. Whereas, frequent interaction with the teachers on the child's behavioral and academic improvement is necessary.

Parents must ensure that they are enabling their kids to cope up with

a world of technical advancement creatively. Happy family life leads to happy parenting or vice versa. According to some surveys, parents from more than a dozen countries prefer to keep happiness as their ultimate objective. However, for most of the Indian parents, happiness was one of the goals that they thought was important. To tolerate disobedience is what most of the parents find difficult. Since every child is different in intelligence and understanding, comparing one child with the other on intelligence lines is unnecessary. Can a child be judged based on his classroom performance? The answer is no. A child in himself, is a world of tremendous potentialities and he is a compendium of unexplored intellectual possibilities. Therefore, judgement of any kind on the efficiency of a child will be indefensible. Parents usually become judgmental mainly because of their poor analysis of children's intelligence. To define success by their perceived standards and enforcing it on their children, to persevere for what the parent thought was right, would bring undesirable outcomes. Taking decisions on behalf of children is good. But parents should make adequate consultations with children with regard to their interest of pursuit, if not, such parental interventions may backfire in future. Every child is born with a special purpose to fulfill. Parents need to accept their children as what they are. Everybody is supposed to look at the world from different angles. Therefore, to give an instruction on what to do and what not to do to a teenager should be done after mature thinking. When it comes to collective responsibility, both father and mother in consultation with the teachers can bring about creative positive changes in the lives of the children.

Special Observers took stock of poll preparedness Polling for absentee voters begins in Chandel District



DIPR
Chandel, Feb 25:

As the polling for 41-Chandel (ST) and 42-Tengnoupal (ST) just a week away, polling for Absentee Voters for the 2 Assembly Constituencies in Chandel and Tengnoupal districts have begun yesterday. Altogether 74 people including citizens over 80 years of age and persons with disability are eligible for postal ballot to cast their votes at home in Chandel and Tengnoupal districts as Absentee Voters. Out of these 19 people are from Tengnoupal and 55 from Chandel. It also includes two

PWD.

Talking to the media the Additional DEO, Firoj Khan, MCS, informed that out of 5(five) teams 3(three) polling teams were dispersed from the DC office complex for the 41-Chandel and 2 (two) teams will be dispersed tomorrow for 42-Tengnoupal AC. The second dispersal of the teams will be done on 26th Feb, for Chandel and on 1st March for Tengnoupal district he added.

He further informed that a Facilitation centre for Postal ballot for voters on election duty had been open since 22nd Feb. and will remain open till 25th Feb. 2022 at C&D Block, Multipurpose Hall DC complex. He also informed

that same facilitation centre will be open at Maha Union Ground on 3rd & 4th of March where dispersal of polling personnel will be held.

He further informed that yesterday Special Police Observer, Arunkumar, IPS (Retd), and Special Expenditure Observer Rajesh Tuteja, Ex IRS (IT) visited Chandel District and take stock of the poll preparedness in Chandel and Tengnoupal Districts. The Special Observers had a review meeting with the District Election Officer, and the other election officials of 41 Chandel and 42 Tengnoupal assembly constituencies at DC office Chandel.

Wangoi RO urges people to set an example with peaceful poll

DIPR
Imphal, Feb 25:

22-Wangoi Assembly Constituency Returning Officer H Sukumar Singh has urged the people of the constituency to ensure a peaceful poll day on February 28 without any untoward incident, and set an example for other constituencies to look up to.

He said the district administration has identified 36 polling stations, out of 40 polling stations in 22-Wangoi Assembly Constituency, as critical and vulnerable for the ensuing 1st phase polling of the 12th Manipur Assembly Elections, said the RO.

Stating that vulnerable polling stations are identified through certain yardsticks including past records of law and order problem, lower turn out of voters, etc., Sukumarsaid that 34 polling stations have been identified as vulnerable PS in the constituency.

Two polling stations of 23/9 and 23/25 have been identified as critical polling stations, he said, adding that, if the vote polled in a certain polling station is above 90 percent of which more than 75 percent is in favour of a certain candidate in the last election, the polling station is identified as critical. The constituency had recorded a voting percentage of 94.13 percent in the 2017 General Elections.

Considering the number of vulnerable and critical polling stations in the constituency, the RO has urged the people to maintain proper decorum and ensure that there is no violation of model code of conduct.

He said 22/36-Yumnam Huidrom Makha Leikai with 1133 electors has the highest number of electors and 22/40-Chongtham Kona with 315 electors has the lowest number of electors in the constituency.

22/19 Wangoi Junior High School and 22/24 Social Welfare Club have been identified as Model cum Women Polling Stations.

There are 29,761 electors out of which 14,522 are male and 15,235 are female. Wangoi AC also has four transgender electors, 421 electors above 80 years, two above 100 years and 209 PwD electors. Altogether 293 electors who had opted for Postal Ballot (12D) for Absentee Voters have been found eligible.



Returning Officer H Sukumar Singh

22-Wangoi AC has three candidates, BJP candidate and cabinet minister Oinam Lukhoi Singh, Nationalist People's Party candidate Khurajam Loken Singh and Indian National Congress candidate Salam Joy Singh.

In the 1st Manipur Legislative Assembly elections, 1972, Manipur People's Party candidate Chungkham Rajmohan Singh defeated Wahangbam Nipamacha of Indian National Congress in 22-Wangoi AC.

In the 1974 election, INC's W Nipamacha Singh defeated MLA Rajmohan, who had won the 1972 election.

Rajmohan contested the 1980 election on an Indian National Congress (Indira) ticket and defeated Nipamacha, who contested the election as the Janata Party candidate.

From the 1984 elections till 2000 elections, Wahangbam Nipamacha retained the 22-Wangoi AC seat defeating INC's Chungkham Rajmohan in both the 1984 and 1990 elections. Nipamacha contested the 1984 elections as Janata Party candidate and as ICS(SCS) candidate in the 1990 elections.

In the 1995 and 2000 elections, Nipamacha, contesting as INC and MSCP candidate respectively, defeated Yumnam Mani consecutively. Yumnam Mani contested the 1995 election as Federal Party of Manipur candidate and 2000 elections as BJP candidate. Wahangbam Nipamacha became the Chief Minister of the State during later part of the 6th State Assembly leading the then MSCP government and early part of the 7th State Assembly.

In the 8th Assembly Elections in 2002, Yumnam Mani Singh contesting as Manipur State Congress Party candidate defeated Wahangbam Nipamacha Singh, who fought on a Manipur National Conference party ticket. Nipamacha suffered another defeat in the 9th Assembly elections in 2007 against NCP's Salam Joy Singh.

All India Trinamool Congress candidate Oinam Lukhoi Singh defeated Nationalist Congress Party's Salam Joy Singh in the 2012 election and National People's Party's Khurajam Loken Singh in the 2017 election.

In 2020 bye-poll, Oinam Lukhoi, contesting as the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate won against Kh Loken of NPP.

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Time for compassion

Shutting down — receding into technology — might be a protective response that offers stimulation and engagement on their terms. Other responses to this felt helplessness, no less extreme, could be additions of various kinds and attempts at self-harm.

It is, therefore, unreasonable to expect children to return to "normal" just by virtue

of them attending school again. Students may struggle to reacquaint with friends, while others may not know how to study in a classroom. Schools need to be prepared for hundreds of students, each carrying the burden of the past two years, coming together under one roof. This is a moment to think beyond labelling students as those "falling behind"

or "depressed" or exhibiting "conduct disorders" and sending them for behavioural interventions or calling their parents to reprimand them. It is an opportunity to move from a punitive to a compassionate, supportive stance. The aim, now, is not to graduate them from one class to the next but to help them mourn what was lost, recover and feel safe again.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad

The work of the Constituent Assembly started on 11 December 1946 and was completed and passed on 24 January 1950. Dr. Rajendra Prasad had received the blessings of Sardar Patel for the nomination of the first President of independent India, but Nehru wanted the then Governor General Chakravarti Rajagopalachari to get this responsibility. Patel could have agreed if it had been handled efficiently. But Sardar Patel changed his mind for two reasons. Firstly, Rajendra Babu was the choice of most of the members of the Party. The members of the Constituent Assembly did not forget the incident during Quit India Movement when Rajendra Babu went to jail but Rajaji was pleading for reconciliation with British Raj and Muslim League.

When the Chief Whip Mr. S.N. Sinha, quipped that the members of the Constituent Assembly were of the view that without Patel, Nehru could not make Rajaji the

President, Nehru tried to prove that he would do so on his own. He wrote to Rajendra Babu that he had spoken to Sardar Patel and he agreed that the present system should be continued i.e. Governor General Rajaji should be allowed to become the President, whereas in reality Nehruji has no talk with Patel on this issue. Both Rajendra Babu and Nehruji met Patel in Mumbai. Later in the party meeting also it seemed that Nehru would obviously lose, but handling the matter, Patel told Nehru that after his return from London, an appropriate decision would be taken on this issue. Writing a letter to Patel that night, Nehru threatened to resign if Rajaji did not become the President. Nehruji continued his campaign to get Rajendra Babu out of the field; but Rajendra Babu, blessed by Patel, remained adamant. Sensing Patel's choice, the wishes of the members and the adverse situation, Rajaji

announced his withdrawal from the field.

Finally, on 24 January 1946, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected unanimously by the Constituent Assembly and became the first President of the Republic of India on 26 January 1950. Praising Patel's confidence on the issue, Rajaji commented "this is the victory of the hasty Nehru". After retiring from the post of President on 3 May 1962, he came to Sadaqat Ashram, Patna. He took the last breath of his life on 28 February 1963.

The traditions and constitutional conventions upheld by Rajendra Babu as the President of the Republic of India are the biggest contributors to the stability of the Republic of India. Dressed in Khaddar from bottom to top, physique like a country farmer, humble eyes, chubby moustache - Rajendra Babu, the epitome of such proud gentleness, will always be an example to the Indian masses.

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

Russian invasion of Ukraine could trigger refugee crisis in Europe

Courtesy- Laura Ramirez-Feldman

Following months of a military buildup along the borders of Ukraine, Russia began a major military offensive in that country on Thursday.

As missiles began falling on the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, which is home to at least 3 million people, thousands were seen trying to flee the city in traffic jams that stretched for miles. U.S. intelligence services have warned that the unrest could signal the beginning of what could be the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since nearly a million Syrians, seeking to escape a civil war in their home country, flooded across the continent in 2015.

Pentagon officials estimate that a nationwide attack on Ukraine by Russian troops could result in 1 million to 5 million refugees. Many Ukrainians are expected to flee to Poland and other neighboring central European nations, including the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, a right-wing populist with close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, was among the world leaders who condemned Moscow's actions on Thursday. He said Hungary was preparing humanitarian aid for Ukraine and was ready to accept refugees.

To help prepare for the anticipated influx of refugees, the Biden administration had also deployed nearly 5,000 troops from the 82nd Airborne

Red Cross urges all sides in Ukraine war to protect civilians and essential services

Agency
Geneva, Feb 25:

The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Thursday urged all sides in the Ukraine conflict to respect international humanitarian law, protect civilians and essential services such as water and power supplies.

ICRC President Peter Maurer said in a tweet: "@ICRC teams

are responding to urgent humanitarian needs and they must be able to continue their life-saving work."

The Geneva-based agency, which has some 600 aid workers across Ukraine, including 400 in the east, has been helping provide water in the Donetsk region after two water pumping stations were damaged by weekend shelling, disrupting water supplies to 1 million people.

CM Bommai speaks to MEA S Jaishankar to rescue students

Bengaluru, Feb 25:

With a large number of students hailing from Karnataka stranded in war-torn Ukraine, Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai spoke to Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar on Friday seeking the Centre's intervention to bring them back to Karnataka safely.

In a tweet, CM said he spoke to the Minister and requested him to safely evacuate students from Karnataka stranded in Ukraine. "He reiterated that situation is being monitored closely and assured of students Safe Evacuation" CM tweeted. CM told reporters that the minister has taken note of all the details.

"The Union government is working out methods to

evacuate the students, attempts are being made to shift these students through road as an evacuation via air is not feasible at present. The Indian embassy has the details of the students and their locations. We have requested them to provide food and water to these students.

Both the Karnataka government and the union government have opened helplines. Meanwhile, a release from Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre that has opened helpline said as per the data 91 students from Karnataka including 28 from Bengaluru are stranded in Ukraine. All of them studying medicine. The same data has been shared with the ministry of external affairs.

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Support Somatai Shaiza to transform every village of Ukhrul: Th. Biswajit

IT News
Imphal, Feb. 25:

Minister Th Biswajit on Friday said the people of the Ukhrul Assembly Constituency should support BJP candidate Somatai Shaiza to enable him in transforming every village of the constituency.

Biswajit also highlighted BJP's election manifesto as he addressed a mammoth gathering who throng Sanakeithel, Ukhrul district, supporting BJP candidate Somatai Shaiza.

As part of the campaign, Th Biswajit, a BJP national executive member, felicitated fifteen members who defected NPF and joined BJP.

Addressing the public

meeting, Th Biswajit said: "We have seen the past and now the present has been given to us as a gift for us to do various developmental works. So we have to create a vision which will be benefited society."

The minister said, "We need to bring a change and develop the Ukhrul assembly constituency for the future. We all want development at all times. If voted to power, the BJP will bring a developmental change. When BJP came to power in the centre and the state Manipur, we have seen so many changes."

Now, 'development and peace' is another name of the BJP, he 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.

Th Biswajit 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. But the BJP, Biswajit stressed, has fulfilled the most promises made before the 2017 election.

Cabinet Minister Th Biswajit highlighted that the most significant achievement the BJP has achieved is bridging the hill-valley gap and bolstering the amicable relation among people from different communities dwelling in the state of Manipur.

Th Biswajit highlights the BJP promise to the people of Manipur that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Manipur, if voted to power. Maintaining that the BJP is committed to empowering all sections of the society, focusing on infrastructure, health, and education, the BJP supreme said: "The BJP Manifesto, unlike that of other political parties, is not just a piece of paper, but the

commitment of the BJP in the next five years."

Biswajit also underlined some of the key commitments made by the BJP in its manifesto, including the establishment of Manipur Skill University, free scooty for meritorious college-going girls, free laptops to meritorious students passing class 12th examination, and an incentive of Rs 25,000 for girls from economically weaker sections and backward sections under the Rani Gaidinliu Nupi Maheiroi Singi scheme.

Later, Th Biswajit attended a roadshow of BJP candidate for Bishnupur seat, Govindas Kontoujam, which was attended by thousands of supporters.

3 Foreign War ships reach to participate in MILAN-2022 MILAN Village is expected to give a Fleeting Glimpse of India to Participants

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, Feb 25

The warships from Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh arrived at Visakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday to participate in the Multilateral Naval Exercise MILAN-2022, beginning from Friday.

They included: VPNS Quang Trung (016) (Vietnam), SLNS Sayurata (P623) (Sri Lanka) and BNS Umar Farooq (Bangladesh). VPNS Quang Trung (016), is a Gepard class frigate of the Vietnamese People's Navy (VPN). VPN and Indian Navy regularly interact through bilateral exercises, port visits, and training cooperation which has resulted in enhanced understanding, interoperability, and trust between the two Navies, an Indian Navy statement said.

SLNS Sayurata (P623), is the Advanced Offshore Patrol



Vessel of the Sri Lanka Navy (SLN). SLNS Sayurata was built by M/s Goa Shipyard Ltd in India and was commissioned into the SLN on August 02, 2017, marking a significant milestone in the close naval and maritime ties that exist between India and Sri Lanka. BNS Umar Farooq (F 16), is a Helicopter carrying a Frigate of the Bangladesh Navy. These ships were accorded a ceremonial welcome by the Indian Navy on arrival.

The exercise is being 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. On the occasion Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command said that with a theme "Camaraderie - Cohesion - Collaboration" the Indian Navy is all set to host the MILAN 2022.

In another development, the Indian Navy has set up a "MILAN Village" at Sailors Institute (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief area) at Visakhapatnam. It houses, handicraft stalls and food stalls from reputed hotels featuring International and

Indian Cuisines to give all participants a fleeting glimpse of India within the short duration of MILAN 2022. It also has curio/souvenir shops, for the visitors to take back souvenirs/ event/ Indian memorabilia.

In addition, the village features a daily cultural performance at specified timings. Invited countries are welcome to participate in the same to facilitate a healthy cultural exchange. The village would be open from 1500 to 2200 hrs on all days during the harbour phase of MILAN from February 26-February 28.

Polling for absentee voters wrap up in Kangpokpi

DIPR
Kangpokpi, Feb 25:

House-to-house visit by the designated Polling Officials for Absentee Voters to exercise their franchise wrapped up for the three assembly constituencies of Kangpokpi district today.

Altogether 106 Absentee Voters that is, citizens over 80 years of age and persons with disability (PwD) and COVID 19 affected/suspected electors were eligible to cast their votes using postal ballot at home at the three assembly constituencies in Kangpokpi district. 17 polling teams visited the house of the Absentee Voters of the district to enable them to exercise their voting rights.

Sapam Bishwojit Singh, Returning Officer of 51-Saitu (ST) Assembly Constituency (AC), interacting with the DIPR officials of the district said that in the AC out of the 62 Absentee Voters - 59 electors cast their votes while 2 voters

were reported dead and 1 (one) was out of station.

It may be mentioned that for the 51-Saitu (ST) AC, the first round of briefing of electors on voting procedures and collection of marked ballot papers for Absentee Voters was held from February 22, 2022 through house-to-house visit by the designated Polling Officials. He added that a total number of 43,981 (22,418 female and 21,563 male) voters will exercise their rights in the 68 Polling Stations, out of which 6 (six) are Pink Polling Stations in the AC.

Laishram Manikanta Singh, RO, 50-Kangpokpi (Gen) AC said that for the AC, the first round of house-to-house visit by the designated Polling Officials started on February 23, 2022. Out of the 27 Absentee Voters, only 1 was unable to cast the vote from the constituency. He added that in the constituency, there are 42 polling stations of which 10 are Pink Polling Stations. A total number of 27,545 (13,727 female

and 13,818 male) voters will exercise their franchise in the upcoming assembly election, he added.

Shri Bungba Maibam Khuman, RO, 46-Saikul (ST) AC said that polling for the AC was held on February 23, 2022 and continued till today (February 25, 2022) through house-to-house visit by the designated Polling Officials. Out of the total 17 Absentee Voter, only 1 (one) voter could not cast the vote. He further added that there are 56 polling stations of which 3 are Pink Polling Stations. There are 28,825 (14,575 female and 14,250 male) voters in the constituency, he added.

All the Returning Officers appealed to the voters to cooperate with the district polling personnel to ensure that the election is carried out in a free, fair and transparent manner. They also appealed to the voters to cast their votes to elect their choice of representatives without any fear and biasness for a peaceful conduct of the poll.

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Russian invasion of Ukraine

As the invasion wears on, more Ukrainians will begin looking to find safety outside the country, Yayboke said. "You're gonna start seeing people leave Ukraine for Moldova, Poland, Romania and elsewhere," he said.

Some Ukrainians have already started trickling into Poland, according to some reports. That makes sense given that it is already home to around 1 million of them and is the easiest country to access from Kyiv.

Refugee agencies have also been preparing for the fallout from a Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Melanie Nezer, senior vice president of global public affairs of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), told Yahoo News that it has been actively coordinating with its partner organization in Ukraine, Right to Protection, on contingency plans and responses.

"We're starting to talk about how we can make sure that we can provide humanitarian assistance to those people, including emergency response kind of

activities like cash, food, blankets, transportation assistance and things like that," Nezer said. "All of these things are under discussion right now," she added.

Founded in 1881 to assist Jews fleeing persecution in Russia and Eastern Europe, HIAS is one of the world's oldest refugee aid organizations. In 2001, HIAS established an office in Ukraine to help Ukrainian Jews and other religious minorities seeking to migrate to the United States, and then later began assisting people who were seeking asylum in Ukraine.

Since the 2014 Russian annexation of Crimea, humanitarian organizations like HIAS have helped vulnerable populations in Ukraine. According to estimates from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are currently at least 1.6 million refugees and asylum seekers living in Ukraine.

"There are lots and lots of Ukrainians that are already living in displacement. They have already been forced from

home, so those people are going to be at most immediate risk now because where do they have to go?" Yayboke said. "Not everybody is gonna be able to get out, and so there are going to be people coming across fire, and getting humanitarian assistance to those people I think is going to be exceedingly and increasingly difficult."

In the short term, Yayboke believes efforts by central European nations and the American troops in Poland to receive Ukrainian refugees will likely be enough. However, he says these are only temporary solutions, and that there will be many hurdles ahead.

"The challenge with these displacement scenarios is that you wish that it was only going to be a couple of weeks and that they could go home, but who knows how long this is going to go on," Yayboke said.

The Biden administration has yet to announce a plan to accommodate refugees fleeing from the current conflict to the United States, but Ukrainians have been

welcomed by America for decades. In fact, in 2019, during the Trump administration, the U.S. resettled more nationals from Ukraine than it did almost any other nationality, even though at the time Ukraine wasn't even one of UNHCR's places "of concern."

Most of the Ukrainian refugees to the U.S. in recent decades came under the Lautenberg Amendment, a law enacted by Congress in 1990 to provide a clear path to refuge for Christians and Jews fleeing religious persecution in the former Soviet Union.

Yayboke says it is not clear whether this new wave of Ukrainian refugees will have to go through a similar resettlement process or one that is streamlined. However, he believes that there will be increasing calls from the refugee advocacy community, the think tank community and academics to admit more Ukrainians. "Providing a place, a safe haven for these people to go in the United States should be and will likely be on the table," he said.

Legal Literacy cum Awareness Programme

IT News
Thoubal, Feb 25:

District Legal Services Authority, Thoubal under the aegis of Manipur State Legal Services Authority organised a Legal Literacy cum Awareness Programme at the New Public Higher Secondary School, Khangabok at 1:00 PM. The event was organised on the topics "Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012" and "Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, 2015".

Smt. Kshetrimayum Sarankumari Devi, Remand Lawyer, DLSA, Thoubal gave speech as resource person to the students of Class 9 & 10 of the School. In her speech, she explained what are the frequently used provisions relevant to our current society related to the above two acts, how the children under the age of 18 are to be handled by the police during their arrest, interrogation and how the perpetrators of crimes are reformed at different kinds of Observation Homes. She

further continued with the procedure on how to file complaints and apprehend the culprit on becoming a victim of sexual and related offence, how the culprits are punished and lastly how the POCSO act is exploited and abused by unwanted parents of Juveniles who had love relations/elope or married etc. and recounted various instances of how it played out in court.

The event was attended by the students of Class 9 & 10 of the school, its faculties etc

Contd. from Page 1

1ST round designated teams

The 6 designated polling teams for Absentee voters comprises of 2 (two) Polling Officials with videographer, micro-observer and security personnel each will 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.

A total of 147 nos. in 80+ (AVSC), 11 nos. in PwD

(AVPD) and 0 (zero) COVID 19 (AVCO) +suspect electors have been found eligible for issuance of Postal Ballot as Absentee Voters after all the forms have been verified and checked. The 1st Round visit will continue up to 27th February, 2022.

It may be mentioned that with a total of 29298 voters (14994 male and 14304 female), Jiribam District

having a single Assembly Segment 40-Jiribam AC will go to poll on 5th March 2022 in the second phase of Assembly Election.

Returning officer 40-Jiribam, Sagolsem Indrajit Singh and Assistant Returning Officer, 40-Jiribam Devananda Moirangthem and Kh. Ibomoti Singh were also present during the official flagging off ceremony.