

Candidates photo to be printed on Ballot papers

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

Office of the Chief Election Officer, Manipur has ordered all returning officers of the state of Manipur to make sure that photographs of the candidates contesting in the upcoming election be printed both at Postal Ballot Paper and Ballot papers for the EVMS. In order to print a clear picture the CEO officer ordered all returning officers to take photographs of candidates at the time of filing nomination papers.

The size of the photographs of candidates should be 2 cm x 2.5 cm, the photo should be chemical washed, and no white shirt should be used. The background should be white.

Section 144 was imposed in Senapati District

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

District Magistrate, Senapati has imposed prohibitory order u/s 144 Cr.P.C. in all the district for a period of 2 months.

In an order the DM, Mahesh Chaudhari said that the prohibition is being imposed on account of 12 general elections of 2022 Legislative Assembly that is scheduled on March 3, 2022 and to ensure free and fair conduct of the election without any breach of peace during the said election.

"In exercise of the power conferred under sub-section 2 of section 144 of Cr.P.C., 1973 do hereby prohibit, for a period of 2 (two) month with effect from 00:00 hours of 03.02.2022, the following activities in the area. The assembly of five or more persons is likely to turn unlawful. Carrying sticks, stones, firearms without a valid license, weapons, or object of any description which can be used as offensive weapons", the order read.

SF apprehend three active cadres of NSCN (IM) in Kangpokpi District

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

In a major breakthrough against insurgent groups in Manipur, Jwalamukhi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ 22 Sector, IGAR (East) busted a hideout and apprehended three active cadres of NSCN (IM) along with one Pistol, one Shotgun, 01 hunting rifle and other warlike stores in Kangpokpi District, Manipur on 02 February 2022. The apprehended cadres along with recoveries were handed over to Saparmaina Police station in Kangpokpi District for further investigation.

Governor visits Covid-19 Vaccination Centre at RIMS

Manipur can set the record of 100% vaccination amongst the states - Governor



IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan has visited the Covid-19 Vaccination Centre at Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, RIMS,

Lamphelpat, today.

During his visit, he inspected the Covid Vaccination Centre at RIMS. As part of the visit, he also distributed Covid Vaccination certificates, pens and badges to those fully jabbed with second vaccination

doses and immunity doses belonging to different age groups and professions.

Governor La. Ganesan also interacted with the doctors, nurses, frontline workers and other related officials of RIMS and Health Department,

Manipur. He also discussed matter relating to the vaccination status of the state with the Covid-19 Vaccination team of RIMS. Governor also presented gifts to those medical staffs who are being stationed at the Vaccination Centre of RIMS.

Speaking to media Governor La Ganesan said that Manipur can set the record of 100% vaccination amongst the states. Rate of vaccination in rural and hilly areas is still lagging behind. The state need to gear up vaccination works with more efforts particularly in hill and rural areas. It is also a good initiative that the number of vaccinated persons in younger age group is being increased, he added.

Director, RIMS Prof. A. Shanta Singh, MS RIMS, Dr. Nepram Sanjit, Director NHM, Manipur Dr. Shyamjai, doctors and other concerned officials were present during the visit.

Third phase lists of candidates for the NPP announced

Total candidates announced by NPP has reached 42

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

9 (Nine) more candidates of the National Peoples' Party (NPP) has been announced today. This is the third lists announced by the NPP so far and source said that the NPP may announce some more candidates.

On January 24, the NPP announced 20 names of the candidates contesting at various assembly constituencies. In the 2nd phase list announced on February 1, name of 13 candidates was announced and today announced

other 9 candidates are announced.

In the last list announced name of Yengkhom Erabot contesting from Wangkhei Assembly constituency, M. Rameshwar who is contesting from Kakching Assembly constituency were included both were BJP MLAs whose name has been left out by the BJP. Interestingly Sapamcha Kangleipal's name has also been listed in the third list of candidates. He will be contesting from Lamlai Assembly constituency.

Protest staged over negligence of road construction company



IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

Putting blame for negligence to the road construction company at NH-102 for the cause of the accident which led to the death of Chief Judicial Magistrate Imphal West, Yengkhom Somorjit Singh, large number of people today stage protest at Kakching Nahol Lai Lampak.

Late Yengkhom Somorjit Singh of Kakching Mayai Leikai passed away in a tragic road accident near Uningkhong in

Thoubal district on January 30, 2022.

According to the protestors, various organizations has complained about the negligence of the road construction company as it cause various road accident at the area. A person identified as Meocolin Sougrakpam wrote, "My father died on the area, 2 years back due to accident the government has been ignoring the negligence of the construction companies, if not taken appropriate actions, Many accidents would follow".

Mao area mountain ranges witness snowfall

IT Correspondent
Imphal, Feb 3:

The Mountain ranges in Manipur's Mao area in Senapati district has been witnessing snowfall since the last few days, according to locals.

A resident of Mao said that local youths have been visiting the base camps of Mt Isii, the highest peak of the state, to see the snow clad mountain ranges.

The Liyai Khullen, a border village located about 130km north of Imphal in Senapati also has a similar story of snowfall on Wednesday.

When contacted, Chairman DK Isaac Caasi of Liyai Khullen where the state's biggest Barak River originates, said that snowfall takes place every year in the village during this time (January-February). Generally, people grow seasonal crops

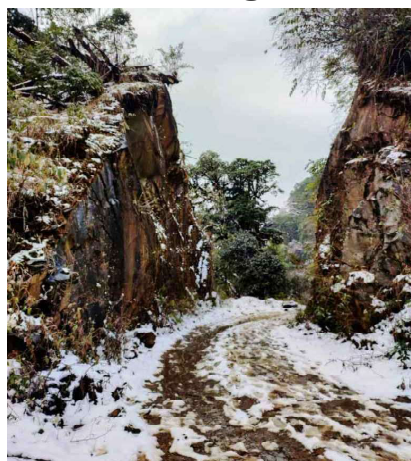


Photo Courtesy: Dr L Puni

after the snowfall, he said.

Earlier, a video clip showing the Liyai village youths playing in the snow went viral on social media.

Interestingly, the state Chief Minister N Biren Singh also shared a couple of photographs of snowfall at the state's (Dzukou) base camp and security barrack area in a Facebook post on Wednesday.

On January 16 afternoon, many villages under Senapati district namely Purul, Maiba, Koide and Liyai Khullen besides Somsal village in Ukhrul district had witnessed hailstorm.

The state which recorded the minimum temperature 2.93 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, as per the daily weather report of the Directorate of Environment & Climate Change of the state government, continues to reel under cold weather till Today.

CM Biren Singh rejects Rahul Gandhi's charge that Amit Shah 'insulted' Manipur leaders

N. Biren Singh
@NBirenSingh

It's an aged old tradition in Manipuri culture to remove our shoes while we enter somebody's house. Those lapdogs spreading it to be some form of insult are oblivious to Manipuri culture.

Mr Rahul Gandhi may kindly take note of some Manipuri culture before speaking about Manipur



Imphal, Feb 3:

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh today slammed Congress MP Rahul Gandhi over the latter's statement in the Lok Sabha yesterday where he claimed that a delegation of leaders from Manipur was asked to take off their shoes at Amit Shah's residence while the Home minister was himself wearing footwear. CM Biren Singh said that it's an age-old tradition in Manipur to remove shoes outside while entering other's houses.

"It's an age old tradition in Manipuri culture to remove our shoes while we enter somebody's house. Those lapdogs spreading it to be some form of insult are

oblivious to Manipuri culture. Mr Rahul Gandhi may kindly take note of some Manipuri culture before speaking about Manipur," he said.

Manipur minister Th. Biswajit Singh also criticised Rahul Gandhi over lack of understanding of Indian tradition and asked him to stop misleading the nation. "For a person who admires #ITALY will never understand India's Culture! Dear #RahulGandhi STOP Misleading the Nation! Spare Manipur & try your techniques somewhere else! With every such steps you are inching closer to #CongressMukhtManipur. (sic)," he tweeted.

contd. on page 4

Manipur maps craft zones for stronger focus on art forms



Agency
Guwahati, Feb 3:

naturally in the shallow lakes, canals and marshy lands.

Longpi, a village in Manipur's Ukhrul district has lent its name to black earthenware crafted by the Tangkhul community without using a potter's wheel. The GI-tagged and usually diaphanous Manipuri half sari called 'moirang phae' is similarly named after Moirang village from where it originated.

On the other hand, Thangjam Leikai in the Imphal East district derived its name from 'thang', meaning knife, making it the State's go-to locality for kitchen knives, garden implements and other agricultural tools.

The USP of Thoubal district is a range of products made from 'kauna', a firm-stemmed grass that grows

These and other art forms have been mapped by the Mission for Economic Empowerment of Traditional Artisans and Craftsman (MEETAC), Manipur, and the National Institute of Design.

"The craft map of Manipur, based on a field survey by a team of experts in 2018-19, is probably the first of its kind. The idea behind it was to provide equal, concentrated attention to all art forms," MEETAC chairman and senior Minister, Thangjam Biswajit Singh, told The Hindu.

He is one of the heavy-weight candidates of the Bharatiya Janata Party, seeking re-election from the Thongju Assembly constituency.

contd. on page 4

Celebrating Tiger Year to inspire Bravery and Willpower

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



About a quarter of the world's population, specially from East Asia, celebrated the Lunar New Year on 1 February, 2022. This year it is being celebrated as Tiger Year, which symbolizes the bravery, confidence and strong will of the tiger. The last tiger years were observed in the years of 2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962, 1950 and 1938. Google celebrated the occasion by running a colorful animated doodle on its homepage. In India's neighboring Asian countries, Lunar New Year celebrations will continue for almost the entire month. This year's celebration is special as the world is slowly trying to get out of the clutches of Corona virus and lockdowns. During the ensuing days and weeks of celebration, the Lunar New Year is welcomed with feasts, fireworks and joyful activities. Ancestors and deities will be worshipped throughout the month and the focus of those celebrating the Lunar New Year will be more on good luck, happiness and prosperity for themselves and for rest of the world.

Switzerland's world famous lighting artist and filmmaker, Gerry Hofstetter, who specializes in creating a variety of special effect artworks with the help of light, illuminated the Eiger North Face mountain in Grindelwald in such a unique way that the world was stunned. The event took place on the eve of the start of the Winter Olympic Games, so it is also being linked to the diverse cultures and Swiss commitment to the environment. Incidentally, the tiger is the pride of many nations and this magnificent creature is on the verge of extinction. This artist from Switzerland beautifully reminded the world to protect tigers and the environment. A 5.3 km long and 2 km high tiger projection was done with the help of lighting on the Eiger North Face mountain, making it a unique event in the world. Gerry thus created the world's largest artwork, which was larger than 1,060 football fields.

The idea of depicting a tiger on the mountain came to Gerry's mind when he saw a tiger-like figure in the Eiger mountain. He feels that this depiction of a tiger will inspire athletes from other countries besides Swiss athletes to show tiger-like agility to win the Winter Olympics. The Winter Olympics are starting on 4 February, 2022. It took Gerry Hofstetter and his team more than a year of preparation to get the perfect projection. They noted that the elements like weather, wind, clouds, the size of the moon, the position of the moon, snow, cold and stars align and fit exactly into the 15-minute time frame. A well-known photographer from Gerry's team, Frank Schwarzbach managed to capture the images of the tiger at the exact moment. The event was supported by Grindelwald Tourism, Grindelwald Municipality and art lovers from Switzerland and other countries. Tigers are found in 13 countries of Asia. They are in danger of extinction, so they have been protected. Gerry Hofstetter is a light artist and film producer of international repute. He is also committed to climate and a prosperous future for humans, animals and nature on our planet. In March 2020, he sent a message of solidarity to the world in lockdown by lighting icebergs in the Arctic, Antarctic and Zermatt's Matterhorn.

(Eomen in the workforce)

The status of women's education in India has improved in the last two decades. Fertility rates have declined. Due to these reasons women's participation in remunerative work is increasing all over the world, but this is not happening in India. More women are coming out of the workforce than they are adding to the workforce.

Earlier this year news broke that for the first time in the history of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, a public sector giant, a woman has taken over as the chairman and managing director. Prior to this, women have also held the highest positions in some banks of the country. There are sporadic other such examples as well. All this may seem like the place that women deserve in India's workforce, but the examples cited here are more the exception than the rule. Just as India lags behind many developing countries in many other respects, the position of the country is also not encouraging in terms of participation of women in the workforce.

Unemployment is definitely one of the major problems the country is facing. A large number of people are unemployed in the country, but the proportion of women among these unemployed people is high. Moreover, the share of women in all employed people is decreasing instead of increasing. Whether viewed from the perspective of social equality or from the perspective of human rights, the lack of proper representation of women in the country's workforce is a matter of serious concern. The India that was envisioned with the country's independence, even after seventy-five years the situation does not match it. We are still lagging behind in terms of gender equality. We need not go far in search of the reasons for this disparity. The male dominated nature of the society remains and somewhere there is also a view that women are being favored by giving

them their rights.

However, some situations have definitely changed. In many homes, there is no distinction between boys and girls in the matter of studies. Just like boys have the freedom to choose the career of their choice, so are the girls. Now girls are also going away from home for studies and jobs. People are also giving up thinking that girls cannot work in every field. This change in attitude has given millions of young women today an opportunity to establish their feet in the field of information technology. Otherwise it was also assumed that the field of technology and technology is not for women. There are many families in the country who have not sheared the wings of daughters, they have not stopped them from moving forward and today girls from these houses are in civil service and other prestigious roles.

Psychologists and behavioral scientists have repeatedly reiterated that talent does not differentiate between men and women. It has not been proven in any experiment that women are less intelligent than men, but many roles have been reported in which women have been found to perform better. There is no dearth of examples in which women have been entrusted with important responsibilities by believing in their ability and they have fulfilled it well. Considering women as weak or incompetent without any basis indicates immature thinking somewhere. This thinking is changing, but not at the pace it should be. There will be a vast improvement in the condition of women only when this thinking is also completely improved.

If the participation of women in the workforce is not commensurate



By: Vijay Garg

with their proportion in the population, it is mainly due to social reasons. It has been told in many researches and studies that for the prosperity of any country and its economy to flourish, there should be full participation of women in it. The United Nations also says that gender equality is essential for sustainable development and peaceful coexistence.

All progressive organizations have implemented policies of diversification and inclusion for human resources. Its purpose is to provide proper representation of all sections in the manpower and also to give opportunities to the weaker ones. It has yielded good results and opportunities are increasing for women in the corporate world, but only a limited number of people can get employment in big companies and firms from the available workforce in the country, because there is not a large number of jobs.

The status of women's education in India has improved in the last two decades. Fertility rates have declined. For these reasons, women's participation in remunerative work has been seen to increase all over the world, but this is not happening in India. More women are coming out of the workforce than they are adding to the workforce. By the way, a decent number of women will be seen working in banks, they have a small presence at railway counters in metros and big cities, some are also flying airplanes, but women are bus conductors, taxi and auto rickshaw drivers. Rarely seen in such roles. E-business has expanded a lot in India in the past.

Men as well as women are among those who order goods sitting at home, including ready-made food. But it is never seen that there is a

woman delivering the goods at home. Even in factories, whether vehicles are made there or any other material like fertilizer, the number of women is negligible. Yes, such pictures are definitely seen in which women are working in watch or mobile phone factory. But overall the number of women employed in the manufacturing sector is very less.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had issued an important order a few years back, making it mandatory for listed companies with annual sales of Rs 300 crore to have an independent woman director on the board. Apart from this, it was also mandatory to appoint a woman member, who is also an independent director, on the board of directors of the top 1000 listed companies in the country by market capitalization. But companies faced a lot of difficulties in meeting these expectations.

Many companies were not ready for this and they followed this order to make ends meet, then the promoters of some companies got a leave by making a woman a director from their close relatives. This order of SEBI was to bring gender diversity in the management segment of companies, but the process of implementation of the order proved at many levels how indifferent many companies are to the participation of women in leadership as well as that such a huge In a populated country, it was not easy to find enough women to be appointed directors.

Whether it is a person or a country, its success is considered in that the possibilities inherent in it emerge and these possibilities are fully utilized. If new doors are opened for women in the workforce, it will pave the way for realizing the potential inherent in all women and we will be able to take advantage of the potential in our nation's population. For this both the government and the private sector will have to come forward afresh.

Modi Government's Ninth Budget proposals to widen inequality further

Planning for a new India in 2047 without taking care of present distress

By: Nitya Chakraborty

How does one characterize the budget 2022-23 of the Narendra Modi government presented by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 in Parliament? The budget was presented when the third wave of the pandemic is not yet over, but certainly the intensity is on decline throughout the country. The distress of the pandemic affected people continues and all studies so far have indicated that inequality in the Indian society has widened as the income level of the poor and the middle class has drastically gone down.

At political level, the assembly elections are being held in five states in the country between February 10 and March 7, the results will be declared on March 10. It is natural that the voters in these five states have taken into account the impact of the budget on their livelihood which is certainly not positive. There is nothing concrete for the people at the vulnerable end of the Indian population. The budget certainly can not be termed populist which is generally the trend offering some sops in the election year.

Then how is it that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his impeccable political instinct, allowed a budget to be presented which is not going to have any direct impact on the millions of poor people in the five poll bound states. It seems that the Prime Minister and

his advisers are overconfident in remaining in power and they can plan for the future spanning the Amrita Kaal of 25 years ignoring the distress of the present. It is like building a swanky multi-storeyed apartment on the base of a ground floor which has many leaks. Our Prime Minister is looking at the top floor with hope that India is joining the big league.

Prime Minister has every right to be futuristic but he could act as a visionary if he would have taken care of some of the basics including the ways to pep up public consumption in the immediate future to boost the economy on a short and medium term basis. Suggestions were given by leading economists for introducing a minimum basic income for the poor and simultaneously imposing a sort of inequality tax on the super rich. Instead, the MGNREGA, the pivot of livelihood for rural poor and the public distribution system which ensures food security to the vulnerable, has been treated in a step motherly manner as if expansion of programmes for the poor is anti growth. Instead, the corporate taxes have been cut.

The Oxfam inequality report on India released a week before the 2022-23 budget has exposed in a candid manner how the two year pandemic has widened the inequality in the Globe including India. Spec-



cifically for India, the situation is grimmer as the present Government lacks the social security system to protect the poor and the distressed resulting in further deterioration in the livelihood of the poor. Still, the budget has effectively brought down the allocation for MGNREGA to only Rs. 73,000 crore in 2022-23 budget which is much less than the revised estimate of Rs. 98,000 crore in the current fiscal. But the fact is that all recent studies have shown how this MGNREGA programme which was the brainchild of the Congress president Sonia Gandhi, has been of big relief to the distressed in the rural areas during the last two years of pandemic. The Modi government knew it but then taking care of poor is not the priority in Modi's list.

The PDS which is a bulwark against hunger and malnutrition in rural India, has also been given lower allocation from the revised allocation of Rs. 2,10,929 crore in 2021-22 to Rs. 1,45,920 crore in 2022-23. The big hike in the investments for infrastructure is certainly wel-

come but the bigger half in India have to maintain their livelihood and their improvement in living conditions will lead to hike in public consumption leading to the economic growth. The Modi Government, is thus aspiring for a new economy of global dimension without taking care of the minimum essentials of the livelihood of the vulnerable.

In the last eight years, the NDA government led by Narendra Modi pursued the growth path that has only widened the inequalities and every economic crisis was taken advantage by the rich to make gains at the cost of the poor and the lower segments of the Indian society. This process intensified in the last two years of pandemic despite continuous government announcements on the so called sops to the distressed by the Modi Government.

Starting with the sudden declaration of lock down on March 24, 2020 in the first wave to the present third wave, the wage earners, the employees of the SMEs, the migrant labour and lakhs of employees of the

private sector small companies have been languishing in abject poverty with job losses, layoffs and reduction of income. These were the people who also suffered under the slowdown which gripped the Indian economy from 2017 onwards. But what has happened to the Indian rich during this period? They have increased their wealth to a record level while the country's economy as a whole suffered.

Oxfam's annual report on inequality in India has focused on the Modi Government's governance structures that promote the accumulation of wealth by a few, while failing to provide safety nets to the rest of the population. The report also highlighted the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the rich and the poor in India. The same approach continues in the latest budget despite so much critical mentions made by different think tanks.

The report said that by taxing just these super-rich families only 1% of their wealth, India could fund its entire vaccination programme cost of Rs 50,000 crore (\$6.8 billion). "Instead, the burden of taxation in India currently rests on the shoulders of India's middle class and the poor, and not addressing the proposal for a one-time tax on the wealthy, for COVID-19 recovery, has resulted in the government using the only other available option i.e., raising funds through indirect tax revenue which penalises the poor," the report said.

In September 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Narendra

Modi government had slashed corporate tax rates for domestic manufacturers from 30% to 22%, and for new manufacturing companies, the rate was reduced from 25% to 15%, provided they do not claim any exemptions. The government took 36 hours to implement this decision, with the help of Rule 12 that empowers the prime minister to take a decision and get the cabinet's ratification later. US-based credit ratings agency S&P Global had termed the move "credit negative". This corporate tax cut resulted in a loss of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore contributing to the rise in India's fiscal deficit. Thus the corporates continue to extract higher benefits from pandemic while the labour become jobless and many of these affected people commit suicide.

The Modi Government has no inhibition now in pursuing the growth path of Indian economy in the interests of the big corporates and the crony capitalists. The BJP is taking full advantage of the division in the opposition and the weakness of the main national rival Congress to expand and consolidate its base in all parts of the country. The Party has the backing of RSS, Sangh Parivar's hate outfits and the financial muscle power. The Opposition through its joint action, unity of purpose and pro-people programme, can only combat the challenge of the ruling party. The BJP has shown which side it has chosen, the combined opposition can only fight the BJP and Narendra Modi by choosing the side of the common people. (IPA Service)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

UP Elections: Around 50,000 Central Troops to be deployed for Phase 1 with focus on sensitive areas

Agency
Lucknow, Feb 3:

As many as 50,000 troops in close to 400 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will be deployed for Phase 1 of Uttar Pradesh elections 2022 on February 10.

The first phase of Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections will be spread over 58 constituencies spanning 11 districts. The state will hold elections in seven phases, ending March 7 and the counting of votes will be held on March 10.

Sources said 105 companies would be from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), around 95 from the Border Security Force (BSF), 60 from the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), 50 from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and 30 companies would be from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). These will be deployed in Uttar Pradesh by February 5. Almost a dozen companies will be taken from Railway Protection Force (RPF) and others are from state armed police.

According to officials, Aligarh, Baghpat, Bulandshahar, Mathura, Agra, Muzaffarnagar and Shamli will see deployment of these com-



panies in large scale. Area police officials and administration have been asked to make arrangements for the accommodation of these forces.

According to a senior official, compared to the last Uttar Pradesh elections in 2017, the state will see more deployment of forces in communally sensitive areas.

"This time more CAPFs will be deployed in sensitive areas, which includes Aligarh, Agra, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Meerut etc. Teams of CAPFs will have accommodation close to their

deployment so that they can reach quickly whenever required," a senior official told News18.com.

Other poll-bound states — Punjab, Manipur, Goa and Uttarakhand — will also have CAPF deployment, but key focus area in view of law and order would be Punjab. The Centre is likely to send troops to Punjab this week.

In January this year, the Ministry of Home Affairs had given a green signal for the movement of CAPFs to election-bound states. A total of

225 companies from different CAPFs had moved to Uttar Pradesh in January for area domination. Almost half a dozen anti-riots Rapid Action Force (RAF) companies have already been deployed in two phases.

"All CAPFs have to maintain Covid protocols while travelling. Accommodation and other necessary steps will be taken to safely deploy the troops. The deployment of the companies will be as per the requirement of local police," a senior official said.

UN calls for halt to Myanmar violence, return to democracy

Agency
United Nations, Feb 3:

The UN Security Council called Thursday for an immediate cessation of violence throughout Myanmar as the country's military coup entered a second year, and it reaffirmed support for the country's democratic transition and democratic institutions.

The UN's most powerful body also reiterated its call for the release of all those who remain arbitrarily detained, including Aung San Suu Kyi, whose elected government was ousted by the military on Feb 1, 2021.

In a statement approved by all 15 members, the council expressed deep concern at the continuing state of emergency imposed by Myanmar's military rulers a year ago and the dramatic increase in humanitarian need, particularly among women, children and vulnerable groups, against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The first anniversary of the coup on Wednesday was marked by a nationwide strike, protests and sporadic violence across the country. Several pro-military demonstrations,

widely believed to have been organized by the authorities, were also held.

Widespread nonviolent demonstrations followed the army's seizure of power and ouster of Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party was about to begin a second term in office after winning a landslide election victory. After the protests were put down with lethal force by the military, armed resistance arose.

About 1,500 civilians have been killed, but the government has been unable to suppress the opposition, which has spread across the country.

Noeleen Heyzer, the new UN special envoy for Myanmar, said Monday that violence and brutality have intensified since the military took power, sparking the resistance movement, and all sides have hardened their positions on using violence as a solution.

She said in a virtual news conference that Myanmar's situation is increasingly unstable and military operations, including artillery attacks and airstrikes, have raised concerns about the protection of civilians.

Since the end of December,

Heyzer said, the number of internally displaced people rose from more than 320,000 to over 400,000. This is in addition to the 340,000 people already displaced before Feb 1, 2021, she said.

The Security Council expressed deep concern at further recent violence in the country and expressed alarm at the large number of internally displaced persons.

Members condemned attacks on infrastructure, including health and education facilities.

They called for an immediate cessation of all forms of violence throughout the country and to ensure the safety of civilians, the statement said.

The Security Council underlined the need to urgently step-up humanitarian aid and facilitate the unhindered delivery of COVID-19 vaccines.

Council members also reiterated their full support for the role of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations in facilitating a peaceful solution and reiterated their calls for swift implementation of ASEAN's five-point consensus adopted last April that includes an immediate halt to violence, starting a dialogue among all parties.

Budget proposes scheme for Northeast

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 3:

The Centre on Tuesday announced a new development initiative for the Northeast in the 2022-23 Union budget with an initial allocation of Rs 1,500 crore of which Mizoram has bagged the lion's share of around Rs 600 crore.

The new scheme, Prime Minister's Development Initiative for NorthEast (PM-DevINE), announced by Union minister for finance and corporate affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, will not be a "substitute" for existing central or state schemes but "priority" will be accorded to projects proposed by the states.

To be implemented through the North Eastern Council (NEC), the nodal agency under the ministry of the Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for the economic and social development of the region.

The scheme will fund in-

frastructure "in the spirit of PM GatiShakti" and social development projects based on needs of the Northeast, enabling livelihood activities for youth and women and bridging the gaps in various sectors. PM GatiShakti is a 100 lakh crore "holistic" infrastructure development project.

The initial list of seven projects includes multi-state dedicated cancer management service (Rs 129cr), livelihood improvement (Rs 67cr) and promotion of organic agriculture (Rs 45cr). Projects worth Rs 537 crore are yet to be identified.

State-specific projects included the Rs 500 crore Aizawl bypass and bamboo link road (Rs 100 crore) in Mizoram which has received the highest allocation among the eight states followed by Sikkim which has received gap funding for two ropeway projects amounting to Rs 122 crore.

Mizoram officials said the Aizawl bypass will help decongest traffic in the capital

city while the bamboo link road will help in the transportation of bamboo and bamboo products from remote areas, a project which was pushed by Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga.

Industry captains said the new scheme was welcome but the Centre should ensure time-bound implementation.

R.S. Joshi, former chairman of Federation of Industry and Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER), the leading and oldest apex business association of the region with over 400 members, said the initial allocation is not much for eight states but it is still welcome, especially the move to route it through the NEC.

"We hope the Centre will closely monitor the implementation of the projects by the NEC. Effective and timely delivery is required. Overall the budget is reasonable given the pandemic situation," Joshi said.

Confederation of Indian Industry's Northeast chair-

man Abhijit Barooah too hailed the new initiative and hoped the NEC will show result.

"Only timely and effective implementation by the NEC could see enhancement in the budgetary allocation. The allocation for the bamboo link road shows Mizoram CM's perseverance has paid off. He (CM) used to raise this issue at almost every business/development meetings. Link road will help provide connectivity to bamboo growers in remote inaccessible area. It will speed up development in the interiors," he said.

An NEC official said the scheme reflected the "concerted" effort of the Centre for the speedy development of the Northeast so that it becomes the engine of India's growth.

"This is an additional scheme. We will have to follow it to its logical end with tangible outcome. It will be monitored by the PMO," the official said.

44 AR distribute Ayushman CAPF cards



IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

The Ayushman CAPF Scheme was launched by GoI on 23 Jan 2021. It is being implemented across the country in a phased manner. This joint initiative by the MHA and the National Health Authority will provide cashless healthcare services to the serving CAPF personnel and their dependents through Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY IT platform.

This initiative will help in moving away from paper based manual process of availing healthcare benefits by CAPF personnel and their families to a paperless service at NHA's IT platform. In addition, a 24x7 call centre, online grievance management system, fraud and abuse control system and real time monitoring dashboards are other key features of the scheme.

The Ayushman CAPF cards are being distributed to all eligible beneficiaries. 44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of 22 Sector AR/IGAR (East) on 02 Feb started distribution of these cards to all beneficiaries. In a ceremony the commandant, 44 AR handed over the card to first beneficiary. Speaking on this occasion he said that this e-card

will help in availing all entitled medical benefits under Ayushman CAPF scheme. For the first use, the card has to be verified at the empanelled hospital. However, services under the scheme can be availed even without the card. Now all eligible personnel and their dependents

will have access to OPD and IPD treatment in CGHS and PM-JAY empanelled private hospital as per existing norms & through referral. Reimbursement will be applicable for OPD/IPD care availed in public hospitals and in non-empanelled private hospitals in case of emergency.

PASSBOOK LOST

I have lost my Bank Passbook, bearing A/c No. 36379404869, SBI Chanchipur Branch today, the 3rd February 2022 on the way to Thangal Bazar from my residence in between 9 am and 11:30 am.

Finders may please hand over the same to the Office of the Imphal Times. Gratitude reserved.

Sd/-
Ningthoujam Nungsi Devi
Phojing Chingning Nambol,
PO & PS: Nambol
#9862555153

PASSBOOK LOST

I have lost my Bank Passbook, bearing A/c No. 36379404712, SBI Chanchipur Branch today, the 3rd February 2022 on the way to Thangal Bazar from my residence in between 9 am and 11:30 am.

Finders may please hand over the same to the Office of the Imphal Times. Gratitude reserved.

Sd/-
Ningthoujam Inaocha Devi
Phojing Chingning Nambol,
PO & PS: Nambol
#8974221279

First Sortie of Fifth Scorpene Submarine "Vagir"

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, Feb 3:

The fifth submarine of Project 75, of the Indian Navy, which was launched on November 20, 2021, from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) commenced her sea trials on Tuesday. The submarine would be named Vagir, after commissioning.

The submarine belongs to the Kalvari class and was built at MDL located in South Mumbai.

Despite the COVID pandemic, MDL has 'Delivered' two submarines of the Project

- 75 in the year 2021, and the commencement of sea trials of the fifth submarine is a significant milestone, a Defence spokesman said.

The submarine will now undergo intense trials of all its systems at sea, including propulsion systems, weapons, and sensors. The submarine is scheduled for delivery to the Indian Navy in the year 2022 after the completion of these trials.

The Kalvari class is a class of diesel-electric attack submarines based on the Scorpene-class submarine being built for the Indian Navy. The class and submarines take their names

from the first submarines inducted into the Indian Navy. The submarines are designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and are being manufactured by MDL.

In 1997, the Indian Defence Ministry approved a plan to acquire 24 submarines under Project 75. In 1998, India began negotiating with DCN for four Scorpene submarines with two to be built in MDL from knocked-down kits.

After the Kargil War in 1999, Cabinet Committee on Security approved a 30-year submarine building plan that called for two parallel produc-

tion lines, each constructing six submarines. The older Project 75 was brought under the new plan, with the two production lines to be built under Project 75 and Project 75 I using transfer of technology from different foreign manufacturers. The negotiations were subsequently expanded to include Armaris, a joint venture of DCN and Thales, for six submarines to be built in MDL.

Kalvari, Khandari, Karanj, and Vela are the other four submarines commissioned earlier. The sixth submarine will be named Vaghsheer when commissioned.

Protest staged against threatening NPP workers at Singjamei

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

National People's Party (NPP) Candidate Oinam Romen Singh from Singjamei Assembly constituency in the forthcoming State General Assembly Elections 2022 has categorically stated that threatening his supporters by the rival workers cannot slow down the pace of his winning, he will gain more public support instead.

Briefing Media Persons at the sidelines of the Sit-in-Protest held this afternoon at Singjamei Mayengbam Leikai, Imphal West District Manipur against the threatening act by the unscrupulous political workers of the sitting MLA to his supporters by showing gun yesterday night at the vicinity of his residence, Romen Singh said that such kind of barbaric act is very unfortunate.

"These is the right time for the electors of Singjamei Assembly Constituency to give a befitting reply against the



muscle power and the gun culture in Elections as the fate of the Constituency and the State will be the outcome of the public mandate given in the Elections. So choosing the right candidate after determining all the Candidates is a must", Romen Singh contended.

Romen Singh said that using muscle power and the gun culture cannot win the vote. The public knows everything who is right or wrong. They will cast their franchise very wisely.

Romen Singh noted that the Candidate and his supporters who commit crimes in the time of Elections are really deceitful and they fear that they will be defeated in the Elections. So they use forceful manners. Such kind of anti-public people will be kicked off by the public automatically, he stressed.

Romen Singh further said that the Singjamei people are very familiar with him as they have been in direct touch with

him for the last seven years or so. If the people of Singjamei even ask him to quit the forthcoming Elections thinking that he is not fit for becoming a Representative of the Constituency, he will definitely resign from the Party, NPP and quiet politics forever for the sake of Singjamei people, Romen Singh assured.

He further stated that he is contesting the Election only to serve the people of Singjamei and the people of the State as well, not for power and money. If the public does not agree with him, he will keep aside all these things, he assured. Contesting the Election for him is not his own choice, it is the choice of the different intellectual populace of Singjamei as they are all aware that he has been serving the underprivileged section of the people of Singjamei. He asked the People of Singjamei to choose only the right Candidate taking the opportunity of the ensuing State General Elections 2022.

JD-U workers gives a grand reception to Ashab Uddin

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Feb 3:

Janata Dal (United) workers and supporters accorded warm reception to Ashab Uddin today on his arrival at Jiribam helipad for the first time after joining the JD(U) party in Imphal one week ago.

Thousands of party workers and supporters of Ashab Uddin enthusiastically gathered at Ningsingkhul helipad and gave a grand reception to him.

Replying to the query of media persons about his joining to JD(U), Ashab Uddin said that JD(U) will take major



part in the formation of government in Manipur. He said that the development which was brought by leader of JD(U) Nitish Kumar, he would like to bring such development at Jiribam District.

He added that his aim and

objective for contesting the upcoming election is to solve the unemployment problem of Jiribam.

Later he was taken to Sonapur at his home in a big procession by his followers and supporters.

Contd. from Page 1

CM Biren Singh rejects Rahul Gandhi's...

Yesterday, while speaking in the Lok Sabha during the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address, Rahul Gandhi had demanded an apology from Shah over the incident. He said that the incident represents the idea of a Union of states versus the idea of a king. "A few days ago, some political

leader, I am not going to name, came to me from Manipur. He was very agitated. I said 'why are you agitated my brother' and he said 'Rahul Ji I have never felt as insulted as I have been a few days ago', said Rahul Gandhi.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal hit back at Gandhi, accusing him of bringing a "very

ridiculous" charge against the Home minister. "You have touched the religious sensibilities of all our people. Can he make such comments about our religious traditions in this House? He is attacking religious traditions. It is an attack on the religious traditions of all of us," Goyal said.

India logs 1.72 lakh new COVID cases

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 3:

With 1,72,433 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,18,03,318, while the active cases decreased to 15,33,921, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 4,98,983 with 1,008 fresh fatalities, including 500 from Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 3.67 per cent of the total infection,

while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has decreased to 95.14 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 87,682 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 10.99 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 12.98 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,97,70,414, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far

under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 167.87 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

The 1,008 new fatalities include 81 from Karnataka.

Of the 500 deaths in Kerala, 29 were reported in the last 24

hours, 136 were those which occurred in the last few days but were not recorded due to late receipt of documents and 335 were designated as COVID-19 deaths after receiving appeals based on the new guidelines of the Centre and the directions of the Supreme Court, the state government said.

A total of 4,98,983 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,42,784 from Maharashtra, 56,100 from Kerala, 39,137 from Karnataka, 37,636 from Tamil Nadu, 25,919 from Delhi, 23,254 from Uttar Pradesh and 20,687 from West Bengal.

Sports

ICC U19 World Cup 2022:

India crush Australia by 96 runs to set-up final clash against England

Agency
Antigua, Feb 3:

Skipper Yash Dhull's well-paced hundred was aided by some fine bowling performance by his bowlers as India stormed into their fourth consecutive U-19 World Cup final on the back of an emphatic 96-run win over Australia in Antigua on Wednesday.

Record four-time champions India face England in the final on Saturday and will be aiming to extend their dominance in the competition.

Dhull struck a sublime 110 in as many balls and shared a game-changing 204-run stand with his deputy Shaik Rasheed (94 off 108 balls) to fire India to a formidable 290 for five after opting to bat. The Indian bowlers then performed their roles to perfection to bowl Australia out for 194 in 41.5 overs. Lachlan Shaw's fine 51 came too late in the day for Australia.

Pacers Rajvardhan Hangargekar (0/26) and Ravi Kumar (2/37) were impressive in the first powerplay before spinners Nishant Sindhu (2/25), Vicky Ostwal (3/42) and Kaushal Tambe (1/32) dominated the opposition in the middle overs.

The professional bowling performance came after re-



markably mature knocks from Dhull and Rasheed who was unfortunate to miss out on a hundred. Dhull became the third Indian captain to hit a hundred in the tournament history after the illustrious Virat Kohli (2008) and the prodigious Unmukt Chand (2012), who also hail from Delhi.

India, the most successful team in tournament history, were hit by COVID-19 at the start of the competition, losing the likes of Dhull and Rasheed for two games, but the depth in the squad ensured that they sailed to the knock-outs.

Chasing a record target, Australia lost their in-form opener Teague Wyllie cheaply with Ravi Kumar trapping him in front of his first legitimate ball with a late inswinger into the right-hander.

Campbell Kellaway (30) and Corey Miller (38) forged a fluent 68-run stand before perishing in a space of six balls, leaving Australia at 73 for three.

Left-arm spinner Ostwal took a return catch for his second wicket to make it 119 for six in 30 overs, shutting the door on the opposition.

Dhull was not just im-

pressed with the bat but also with his captaincy. He introduced part-time off-spinner Raghuvanshi ahead of left-arm spinners. Raghuvanshi delivered the breakthrough by trapping Miller.

Earlier, India opted to put runs on the board after winning the toss, knowing it wasn't the easiest of pitches to bat on.

The Australian pacers bowled well in the opening powerplay and the fact that Indian openers Angkrish Raghuvanshi (6 off 30) and Hamoor Singh (16 off 30) were also overtly cautious, helped them build pressure.

ISL : SC East Bengal hold Chennaiyin FC to a draw

Agency
Vasco da Gama (Goa), Feb 1:

SC East Bengal played out a 2-2 draw with Chennaiyin FC in the 2021-22 Hero Indian Super League (ISL) at the Tilak Maidan Stadium, here on Wednesday.

Chennaiyin FC raced into a two-goal lead through goals from Hira Mondal (2 OG) and Ninthoi (15') in the early stages of the match. Darren Sidoel (61') pulled one back with a well-hit free-kick and the equaliser finally came through Lalrinliana Hnamte (90+1') which ended the game in a draw.

Chennaiyin FC went into the lead in the second minute of the match after Suhail Pasha's header took a deflection from Hira Mondal and went inside the net for an own goal. The left-back's night became worse at the stroke of the 15th minute after his individual error led to the second goal. Ninthoinanba Meetei made the interception on the right flank, made room for himself and smashed the ball in the top-left corner to extend the lead to two.

At the half-hour mark, Antonio Perosevic had a chance to reduce the deficit after beating his marker but the forward sent his shot wide. A minute before the halftime whistle,



Marcelo Ribeiro's diving header went off-target from close range. The Red & Gold Brigade pushed with more intensity in order to score in the first half but the CFC defence gave them no room to enjoy.

The restart saw SC East Bengal continue their push for the first goal with the first shot on target coming through Mahesh Naorem Singh. At the hour mark, the goal finally came through Darren Sidoel who scored from a direct free-kick which was hit with a lot of power. The last ten minutes of the game saw both teams majorly cancelling each other out without creating scoring opportunities.

The relentless pressure from SC East Bengal finally paid dividends with Lalrinliana Hnamte scoring the equaliser with a header. The forward was left unmarked inside the box and punished Chennaiyin FC with an accurate headed goal. There wasn't enough time for either team to find the winner, leading to the points being shared between them.

Chennaiyin FC will next face defending champions Mumbai City FC at the PJN Stadium on Sunday whereas SC East Bengal will lock horns with Odisha FC at the Tilak Maidan Stadium on Monday.