

## Minister Th. Biswajit is confident of returning BJP government with 40+ seats but says BJP always follow Coalition Dharma



IT News  
Imphal, Feb 7:

Minister Th. Biswajit, who is also a member of the National Executive Committee of the BJP today filed his nomination paper to the returning officer of the Thongju Assembly constituency and expressed confidence of BJP winning in over 40 seats in the upcoming Manipur Legislative Assembly election scheduled to hold in two phases while talking to media persons, but said that the BJP always follow the coalition Dharma indicating the continuation of the coalition government in the next state Legislative Assembly.

"I am not the authority to tell on how the next government will be formed by the BJP but I believe that the BJP will not break the coalition dharma which has been following under the guidance of the senior

leadership of the party", the state BJP leader who is contesting from the Thongju Assembly constituency once more told media persons after filing his nomination paper.

What makes him so confident of BJP coming back to power in the state once more is the trust the party gain from the people. He said people of the state are happy with the BJP government services for the state of Manipur other than taking up various developmental projects.

"You see the BJP government is delivering good services to the people. Manipur has been brought to the nation's attention by the BJP government by renaming Mount Harriet as Mount Manipur. Manipur has been given priority by the BJP government to promote its culture and traditions", the state BJP leader said.

He said that people of the

state believe that the BJP will form the next government and because of that many attempted to contest as BJP candidates at their respective assembly constituencies. At some assembly constituencies, there are over 5/6 candidates and after the announcement of the ticket, many intending candidates remain with the BJP.

"Some of them have left the party because they were denied ticket but see the works carried out by them for the welfare of the people in the name of the BJP and under the supervision of the BJP leadership", Biswajit said and added that from those many who had been helped by the intending candidates of the BJP maximum will certainly felt the commitment of the party and will remain with the party", the dynamic BJP leader told the media persons at the office complex of the RO Thongju at Porompat in Imphal East.

In connection with the Chief Ministerial candidate, Th. Biswajit said that there are no differences in any decision made by the elders and senior leaders of the BJP. Whatever decision that is taken in a consensus manner by seniors and elders of the BJP will be followed the all the BJP workers including those elected members.

In connection with the recent crisis among the BJP's intending candidates and most importantly the statement of the Chief Spokesperson Chongtham Bijoy to the media recently, Biswajit said that Chongtham Bijoy was a person who had been and still is associating with the various activities of BJP.

"I believe in Chongtham Bijoy and I am sure he will not have any bad intention to BJP as it is his party too", Biswajit said adding that every person has the right to feel angry over some matters which he or she may feel humiliated. And whatever the Chief Spokesperson of the BJP had stated in media was because of his anger, it will be settled soon, Biswajit said.

When asked about his condition at Thongju Assembly constituency, Th. Biswajit said that last time he won the election by getting over 62% of the total voters and this time he is sure to get more than 70% of the total votes. When asked who will be his nearest rival, Biswajit said that when he is expecting to get more than 70% of the total voters, who is expected to be his rival candidate.

## Many including former speaker Th. Lokeshwar, Y. Erabot, L. Rameshwar, Th. Shyamkumar file nomination today



IT News  
Imphal, Feb 7:

With just a day left for filing of the nomination papers for the upcoming 12th Lok Sabha Election for the first phase election 30 other candidates including the former speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Th. Lokeshwar, former Minister Y. Erabot, former Minister but disqualified on the midway of the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Th. Shyamkumar among others filed nomination papers to their respective Returning officers today.

Former speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Th. Lokeshwar is the INC candidate contesting at Khundrakpam constituency, Y. Erabot, the person who received the title "hero of Manipur", while he was the Minister in the 9th State legislative Assembly and former BJP MLA in the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly is contesting as NPP can-

didate from Wangkhei Assembly Constituency. Th. Shyamkumar who had won the election last time as congress candidate but sided with BJP and later disqualified under the 10th scheduled of the Indian Constitution is contesting from Andro Assembly Constituency as BJP candidate.

Lourembam Rameshwar, the BJP MLA from Keirao Assembly constituency, N. Indrajit, the BJP MLA from Kshetrigao AC also filed nomination today to their respective returning officers at Imphal East district.

Others who filed nomination today are Niken of INC and Preshoj of JDU who is contesting at Thongju Assembly constituency, Shaik Noorul Hassan, the NPP candidate contesting at Kshetrigao Assembly Constituency, L. Sanjoy of NPP contesting at Andro AC, Poonam Rani, the NCP candidate contesting from Kshetrigao AC, MD Nasiruddin Khan, the NPP

candidate contesting at Keirao AC, Ratan Kumar, the NCP candidate contesting at Khurai AC, L. Jyannada, Thangiam Arunkumar of JD (U) contesting at Khurai AC, the NPP candidate contesting at Khurai AC, RK Amusana, the CPI candidate at Khurai AC, Subash the LJP candidate at Khurai AC and Th. Brinda Devi of the JDU, Ningombam Helendro Singh of INC and Rajkumar Suraj Singh of Shiv Sena contesting at Yaiskul Assembly constituency, Mongiam Poreihenba of the Republican Party of India (Athawale) contesting at Lamlai AC and Rajkumar Priyobarta Singh of INC contesting at Khurai AC. At Imphal East district.

Four other candidates who had filed nomination papers for contesting the upcoming election at Saikul Assembly Constituency are Ch. Ajang of JD(U), J. Lunkim of RPI (Athawale), Seikholan Haokip, NPP, and Lhingkhim Haokip of INC.

## ECI grants further relaxation for Physical public meetings in indoor Halls and Outdoor meetings

*Covid appropriate behaviour and Precautions to be observed strictly*

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 7:

Election Commission vide Press Note No. ECI/PN/3/2022 dated 8th January, 2022 had announced General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Punjab, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, 2022. On the same day, Commission had also issued "Revised Broad Guidelines, 2022" to conduct General Elections/Bye-Elections during COVID after wide consultations and after assessing the prevailing situation of COVID.

In the revised guidelines, Commission had prescribed restrictions and precautions to be taken during the conduct of elections. Commission had also stated that it will review the pandemic situation periodically and take a further view on tightening or relaxing the guidelines based on ground level situation.

Considering the improving situation of pandemic, Commission has periodically reviewed the situation and had relaxed some restrictions on

physical meetings and door-to-door campaigning on 15th January, 22nd January and 31st January, 2022.

In the last review done on 31st January, Commission issued more relaxation and allowed Political parties or contesting candidates to hold outdoor meetings in designated open spaces with a maximum of 1000 persons (instead of existing 500 persons) or 50% of the capacity of the ground and for indoor meetings, a maximum of 500 persons (instead of existing 300 persons) or 50% of the capacity of the hall or the prescribed limit set by SDMA, whichever number is lesser, from 1st February, 2022, for all phases. The Commission has also enhanced the limit for door to door campaigns from 10 persons to 20 persons, excluding security personnel.

Chief Secretaries of poll going States have written to the Commission and have apprised that there has been significant improvement in the prevailing Covid situation, a considerable

decrease in the number of positive cases of COVID and also decrease in cases of hospitalization. Most of them have recommended to the Commission to consider for relaxation and allow increased number of persons in the indoor/outdoor campaign meetings.

Commission has appointed Special Observers for poll going States to oversee free and fair conduct of poll. After receiving references from Chief Secretaries, Commission took inputs and views from the Special Observers also. Many Special Observers have sent their reports and have stated that the Covid situation has improved substantially and positivity rate has come down significantly. They have also stated that coverage of vaccination in the state is very satisfactory for the 1st Dose, 2nd Dose and Precaution Dose to frontline workers and Poll duty officials. In this light, they have recommended that the Commission may consider revisiting the existing campaign guidelines and permit further

relaxation in the Campaign norm to ensure greater participation in the ongoing election process. Most of them recommended to increase limit the number of people attending the rallies in open/indoor space to about 50% and not limiting it to a number.

Taking into account these recommendations/inputs, the Commission held a meeting with the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India on 5th February, 2022 to assess the prevailing ground situation and to take inputs and suggestions in this regard.

Union Health Secretary briefed Commission about the ground situation of COVID. He brought to the notice of the Commission that Covid cases are fast receding in the country and even in the reported cases maximum cases are reported from non-poll going States. The poll going states are contributing a very small proportion of the total reported cases in the country.

*contd. on page 4*

## Special Craft Awareness Programme held



IT News  
Imphal, Feb 7:

One Day Craft Awareness Programme was held today under Ameddkar Hastashilpa Vikash Yojna Scheme for Handicrafts Artisan at Salam, Imphal West. The programme was or-

ganized by Handicrafts Service Centre, Porompat Imphal East and also sponsored by Office of the Development Commissioner Handicrafts Ministry of Textile Govt of India, New Delhi.

Sorokhaibam Jiban Meitei, Secretary, Salam youth Career Club, Surkumar Haobam, De-

signer Handicrafts Service Centre and T. Sanahal, State Awardee for Cane and Bamboo along with S. Shantibala (State Awardee) handloom Textile attended as dignitaries.

Around 50 Artisans participated in the Awareness programme.

# Wisdom says humans are born to be happy

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Whenever I visit Ladakh, I find one thing very common there, and that is the magnetic smile on the faces of the residents of Ladakh. Their simple life, in the heights

of the Himalayas and infinite smiles on their faces make Ladakh unique not only in India, but in the world. The Dalai Lama, the religious leader of Tibet, says that humans are born to be happy. He emphasises happiness and compassion. The first and last aim of life is to be happy, to be contented and to be kind toward all the living beings around. The people of Bhutan are the richest in terms of happiness. The government of this tiny nation in the lap of Himalayas, gives utmost importance to the per capita happiness index rather than the per capita income index. But this is a funny world, and strange things keep happening here. Some people do strange things, some are extremely talented and some are unique in their acts or performance. There are also some countries which come in the limelight due to strange rules and regulations. North Korea is one such country, which is in the headlines for a strange reason. The reason is the strange order of the dictator ruler there.

In North Korea, it is strictly forbidden for any citizen to laugh, cry, dance, sing, drink, celebrate birthdays or cheer from December 17 to 27. The reason is that 11 days of national mourning is being followed there. Actually this country is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the death of its former leader Kim Jong-il. He ruled North Korea from 1994 to 2011. He died of a heart attack on 17 December 2011 at the age of 69. After this his youngest son Kim Jong-un took power. All kinds of activities have been banned there for 11 days. If anyone breaks the rules, he will go to jail. This is the problem of dictatorship. Nothing can be said when a sad order comes into force in North Korea. 149 countries are included in the list of Happiness, in which India ranks on number 144. There are very few people in the world who know how to be happy or keep smiling. There is a startup called The Happy Tribe in Jamshepur, Jharkhand, which teaches people to be happy. Its founder says that about one thousand people and institutions have benefited from this project.

A dating website 'Match' conducts a survey on romantic relationships. The latest survey report revealed that bachelor youths in the US are now more likely to seek emotional qualities in their spouses than physical ones. There has been a change in thinking after Covid that people are now looking forward to long lasting relationships. In the survey, questions were asked about relationships with people between the ages of 18 and 98. 83% admitted that they are looking for an open-minded and accommodating partner. They also want that the spouse should be able to communicate well, that is, be proficient in communication skills. Last year, 90% of respondents preferred physical attractiveness in a partner. Post-Covid pandemic, people's focus is increasingly on good health, perhaps because of which emotional maturity and the durability of relationships is beginning to outweigh physical beauty.

# A big arrangement was made by the government for the students who want to become Doctors (MBBS/MD/MS)

50 percent seats in private medical college will have fees equal to government medical college, new order issued

A big arrangement has been made by the government for the students who want to become doctors. Now it has become easier to study in private institutes without getting admission in government medical colleges. Because the government has made arrangements to equalize the fee structure of both the institutions. For which order has also been issued.

Let us tell you that there are 80 thousand MBBS seats in the country. Of these, 40 thousand seats are in private medical colleges and deemed universities. Of these, 50% i.e., 20 thousand seats will now attract the same fees as government colleges.

**Uniform fee on 50% seats**  
Actually, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued a new order for private medical colleges and deemed universities of the country. Under this, the fees for 50% seats of MBBS and PG courses in private institutions will no longer be more than the government medical colleges of the respective states. Nor will you be able to charge arbitrary capitation fees.

**Those who took admission from the first government quota will get a chance**

According to the order of the NMC, in the colleges where 50% seats are fixed under the government quota,



By: Vijay Garg

the benefit of the new fee structure will first go to those students who will take admission from the government quota. At the same time, in colleges where government quota seats are less than 50%, the benefit of government fees will be given to the students on the basis of merit in the seats of difference between the fixed government quota and 50% seats.

**Students will get relief**  
New colleges will also not be able to arbitrarily in the name of teachers' salary and other expenses. Since there is no audit of expenditure in the first year, the new colleges will fix the fees according to the fees of colleges opened a few years back in the state. Till now medical colleges fix the fees on the basis of the expenses incurred in the hospital, but now it will not be possible to do so. This will give great financial relief to the students.

**30 thousand students of the country benefit**

The average annual fee in most government colleges of the country is Rs 50,000. While the average annual fee in private colleges is Rs 10 lakh, is more than. Accordingly, the average fee of these 20 thousand students will be reduced by 20 times. On the other hand, Post Graduation (PG) has 40 thousand seats across the country. Out of this, 20 thousand seats are in private colleges. The same rule would apply to them as well.

In such a situation, the fees of 50%, that is, 10 thousand PG students, will also be reduced manifold. In many private medical institutions, the fee for the entire PG course is Rs 1 crore. Which is more than 5 to 10 lakhs now. Will remain the same. Fee will be equal to that of the government medical college of that state.

Private medical institutions will have to adopt Indian Accounting Standards for maintaining accounts. The fee will not be fixed on the basis of operating cost of the hospital. Fees of medical colleges of the same state will be the basis for deciding the fees of 50% seats.

**Fees of top 50% students will be reduced**

According to the order of the NMC, those 50% students taking admission in any private college will have to give the benefit of the new rules, whose marks will be more than the remaining 50% students. For example, if there are 200 seats in a private medical college of a state, then the fees for 100 seats will have to be kept equal to the fees of the government medical college of that state. If you charge more than this, then action will be taken.

# Right to get timely salary is our fundamental right- Let us claim it

Dr. Aniruddha Babar, Dept. of Political Science, Tetsu College

of "DEFERRED/DELAYED SALARY".

The right of employees to get salaries is a fundamental right. In Collins dictionary, "salary" is the money that someone is paid each month by their employer. According to Cambridge dictionary, "salary" is defined as the total amount of money that an employee is paid every year to do their job, or one of the payments they receive each month as part of the job. Thus, in view of the definitions referred, salary is an amount payable by an employer to an employee for the service rendered by him under a tacit contract of employment. In case of the Government Employees, there is a contract for payment of salary between the State and its employees on their reporting to duty consequent upon their appointment to service. When, there is a contact between the employee and employer for payment of salary either monthly or annually, duty of the State or institution to pay salary as agreed.

The right to get salaries and pension is a part of the right to life and liberty under the Constitution. Salary to the employees in service falls within the definition of property under in Article 300-A of the Constitution of India. Also, the concept of Salary is consequent to the principle of Right to livelihood which has reflected in the Constitution of India. In Olga Tellis Vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation the Hon'ble Supreme Court held as follows, "If there is an obligation upon the State to secure to the citizens an adequate means of livelihood and the right to work, it would be sheer pedantry to exclude the right to livelihood from the content of the right to life. The State may not, by affirmative action, be compellable to provide adequate means of livelihood or work to the citizens. But, any person, who is deprived of his right to livelihood except according to just and fair procedure established by law, can challenge the deprivation as offending the right to life conferred by Article 21." Also, in "Delhi Transport Corporation Vs. D.T.C. Mazdoor Congress", the Supreme Court while reiterating the principle observed that "the right to life includes right to livelihood. The right to livelihood therefore cannot hang on to the fancies of individuals in authority. Income is the foundation of many fundamental rights. Fundamental rights can ill-afford to be consigned to the limbo of undefined premises and uncertain applications. That will be a mockery of them."

Though the Constitution of India permits the State to deprive any person's right in property by authority of law, there is no provision which authorized the State to defer payment of arrears of salary to the employees (except, otherwise in case of Financial Emergency as and when declared by the President of India). In the absence of any statute governing deferment of arrears salary or pension, there should be no doubt in the mind of a sane person as to the fact that the deprivation of right to property of employees in service or retired employees would amount to violation of constitutional right guaranteed under Article 300-A of the Constitution of India. Dr.Smt. Manmohan Kaur Vs. The State of M.P. The Gwalior Bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court had an occasion to deal with non-payment of salary and pensionary benefits, held that deferment or non-payment of salary or part of it is illegal. Also, In Madhav Rao Scindia Vs. State of M.P., AIR 1961 SC 298 and State of M.P. Vs. Ranojirao, AIR 1968 SC 1053, the Hon'ble Supreme Court opined that property in the context of Article 300-A includes 'money', salary which has accrued pension, and

cash grants annually payable by the Government.

Therefore, deferring payment of arrears of salary to employees in service is deprivation of a citizen in right to property. Such deprivation is violative of fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21 and Constitutional Right to property under Article 300-A of the Constitution of India and Human Rights of livelihood as per Article 25(1) of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, since the aggrieved employees would be deprived of their livelihood, though they are under obligation to meet different expenses, including maintaining their health condition for the rest of their life. Similarly, the employees are bound to face certain difficulties about the arrears of salary is deferred either in full or part, for the reason that sometimes most of the employees would be under obligation to repay housing loans and would be having other financial commitments in personal and social life. If salary is not disbursed in time it would temporarily deprive right to property, though not authorized by law, certainly violates the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21 and Constitutional Right to property under Article 300-A of the Constitution of India and Human Rights of livelihood as per Article 25(1) of Universal Declaration of Human Rights and such deprivation is illegal and impermissible in a democratic country like India where Government derive its authority from public.

Payment of salary is a part of expenditure being incurred by the State. In such case, the state is bound to pay salary to the employees and lack of funds with the state cannot be a ground to deny payment of salary depriving the employees from enjoying the property. Therefore, the financial constraints of state (if any) cannot be a ground to deny payment of salary to the employees. When once the services of the employees are engaged on payment of salary, as agreed state is under legal obligation to pay salary to the employee and it is a right of every employee to claim the eligible salary. Undoubtedly, there could possibly be valid financial difficulties from the side of the state, however, such difficulty itself is not a ground to deny payment of gross salary to the employees.

Thus, in view of the our discussion here on law laid down by the Apex Court in various judgments as quoted supra and also widening the meaning of word 'right to life' includes 'right to livelihood', 'right to livelihood is a fundamental right, and it is an integral part of right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Therefore, non-payment of part of eligible salary or deferring/delaying the disbursement of the salary to the employees in service is violative of Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Moreover, the Hon'ble Supreme Court bench comprising of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah, observed in the case titled The State of Andhra Pradesh Vs. Dinavahi Lakshmi Kameswari (Civil Appeal No 399 of 2021 (Arising out of SLP (C) No 12553 of 2020), that salaries and pensions are rightful entitlements of Government employees. The Supreme Court bench stated that the Government which has delayed the payment of salaries and pensions should be directed to pay interest at an appropriate rate. It added, "There can be no gainsaying the fact that the Government which has delayed the payment of salaries and pensions should be directed to pay interest at an appropriated rate."

Finally, the discussion in this Article is not intended to be kept only for employees in the govern-

ment sector. There is no reason for employees working in the private sector to consider themselves legally orphan and constitutionally forsaken. As we know that the whole point of providing service for an employee is fair and appropriate remuneration. Article 39(d) of the Constitution of India provides for equal pay for equal work. The laws under The Equal Remuneration Act, The Payment of Wages Act, mandates timely and fair remuneration of an employee. If an employee is not receiving his/her remuneration as per the employment agreement, can approach the Labour Commissioner or file a civil suit for arrears in salary. Also, an employee cannot be given wages less than the legal minimum wages, as per law.

Now; let us discuss about the rights of "Academics and Teaching Community" in private sector. A fact needs to be recognized that, since private schools, colleges and universities (aided as well as unaided or autonomous), even though set up and run by the private management performs Public Function i.e. "providing education to children in their institutions throughout India", their employees, Teachers and Professors have right to invoke Writ Jurisdiction under Art. 226 of the Constitution of India in case of the violation of their fundamental rights as observed by the Hon'ble Supreme court in the case of Marwari Balika Vidyalaya Vs. Asha Srivastava & Ors. (CIVIL APPEAL NO.9166 OF 2013). Also, in Anandi Mukta Sadguru Shree Mukta Jeevandaswami Sivama Jaya Vs VR. Rudani & Ors on 21 April, 1989 (1989 AIR 1607, 1989 SCR (2) 697) it has been observed by the Hon'ble Supreme court that: "term 'authority' used in Article 226, in the context, must receive a liberal meaning unlike the term in Article 12. Article 12 is relevant only for the purpose of enforcement of fundamental rights under Article 32. Article 226 confers power on the High Courts to issue writs for enforcement of the fundamental rights as well as non-fundamental rights. The words 'any person or authority' used in Article 226 are, therefore, not to be confined only to statutory authorities and instrumentalities of the State. They may cover any other person or body performing public duty. The form of the body concerned is not very much relevant. What is relevant is the nature of the duty imposed on the body. The duty must be judged in the light of positive obligation owed by the person or authority to the affected party."

Which means, if the private school, college or University Management is not paying you the salary on time (since our topic of discussion in this article is Delayed/Deferred Salary), your salary as their employee has been delayed you can very well approach to the High Court for the restoration of your lost & compromised Fundamental Rights.

To conclude, as a Former Advocate, a Legal Consultant and an Academician who is extensively involve in Policy Research, Teaching and Social Advocacy in Nagaland, I 'affirm' that the Constitution of India has proven again and again as a defender and protector of Human Rights of the citizens of India which has been recognized from Article 12 to Article 35 of the Constitution. What is necessary is to educate people as to their individual relationship with the Law. Timely Salary is your FUNDAMENTAL Right. Never Forget. If you are not getting your Salary in time, invoke Writ Jurisdiction- your prayer will be heard- rights will be restored and you will not be FORCED to take up loans to meet your expenses. Let us learn Law, Let us empower ourselves!!

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# COVID-19: Aadhaar card not mandatory on CoWIN portal for vaccination, Centre tells Supreme Court

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 7:

The Centre on February 7 told the Supreme Court that Aadhaar card is not mandatory for registration on CoWIN portal for COVID-19 vaccination.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Surya Kant was informed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that one of the nine identity documents including passport, Driving Licence, PAN card, Voter's ID Card, Ration card can be produced for vaccination.

The apex court took note of the submission and disposed of a plea filed by Siddharthshankar Sharma who claimed that Aadhaar card was being mandatorily

insisted upon for administering COVID-19 vaccination on the CoWIN portal.

The apex court had on October 1, 2021 issued notice to the Centre on the PIL.

"Pursuant to this court's order dated October 1, 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has filed an affidavit which records that Aadhaar card is not mandatory for registration on CoWIN portal and one of the nine identity documents can be produced... It is also recorded in the affidavit that a provision has been made for other category of persons who may not have identity cards in their possession like prison inmates, inmates at mental health institutions etc.," the Bench said.

"Counsel for Union submits that about 87 lakh people without ID cards have been vaccinated. The grievance of the petitioner that he was denied vaccination for non-production of Aadhaar card has also been dealt in the affidavit. The Health Ministry addressed a letter to Principal Secretary, Health in Maharashtra to take action against the concerned private vaccination centre which denied vaccination to the petitioner despite production of valid passport ID. The grievance of the petitioner is duly met. All concerned authorities to act in accordance with the policy of the Government," it said.

The plea had sought effective and non-discriminative enforcement of the al-

ready notified rules/ policies in the entire country in a uniform manner, for the protection of the right to vaccination granted to citizen of India which is dangerously endangered on account of denial of vaccination due to non-submission of Aadhaar details to the concerned authority.

"Such actions are in blatant violation of right to life under Article 21 read with right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution and hence, the petitioner urges sympathetic indulgence of this court by way of issuing appropriate directions to direct the concerned authority to set aside the mandatory pre-condition of production of Aadhaar details from enabling administration of vaccination...," the plea said.

# Rajya Sabha pays glowing tributes to Lata Mangeshkar, proceedings adjourned for one hour



Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 7:

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu on February 7 said India is struck silent in the passing away of iconic singer Lata Mangeshkar in the 75th year of Independence and adjourned the proceedings of the House for an hour as a mark of respect to her.

When the House met for the day, Mr. Naidu mentioned that the singer passed away on February 6 at the age of 92.

**Lata Mangeshkar: A voice for every emotion**

"A recipient of many awards including the Bharat Ratna and Dadasaheb Phalke Award, 'the Nightingale' and 'the Melody Queen' recorded over 25,000 songs in 36 Indian languages and a few foreign ones too in her career spanning more than seven decades," he said reading out an obituary reference.

"Lataji had a special quality and intricate ability to connect herself with the songs she sang at a deeper level which led to creation of masterpieces that left one and all mesmerised across the globe,"

he said.

"Her distinguished and long career ran parallel to that of free India over the last 75 years, capturing the trials and tribulations of the times. India is struck silent with her passing away in the 75th year of Independence." The legendary singer knitted the nation, capturing every mood, moment and journey of the country nation for over seven decades.

"A philanthropist, Lataji was the founder of the Lata Mangeshkar Medical Foundation, a public charitable trust which contributes towards medical expenses of needy patients irrespective of caste, creed and religion. She also started the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratishthan which provides assistance to students and contributes to the welfare of senior citizens," he said.

Centre announces two-day national mourning

She also served as a Nominated Member of the Rajya Sabha from November 1999 to November 2005.

"Lataji's success in the field of music exemplifies her tenacity and sheer will power to carve her own niche and

excel in it. Her rise to fame elucidates her grit, determination, hard work and passion that will serve as a benchmark for others, especially women to emulate and commemorate," he said.

In her death, "the country has lost a legendary playback singer, a compassionate human being, a towering personality in the world of Indian music and film industry. Her passing away indeed marks the end of an era and has created an irreplaceable void in the world of music," he said deeply mourn the passing away of Mangeshkar.

MPs then stood in their places and observed silence as a mark of respect to the departed.

Mr. Naidu thereafter adjourned the proceedings of the House for an hour "as a mark of respect to the memory of Lata Mangeshkar, the iconic singer".

Before adjourning, he said the Question Hour will be dispensed with and discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his address to the joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget Session, will resume.

# UP election 2022: 'Dynastic policies of fake Samajwadis stopped river of development' in UP, says PM Narendra Modi

Agency  
Bijnor, Feb 7:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Monday highlighted the development works implemented by the 'double-engine' government of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and said that UP will be ready with a success story of development when the country completes 100 years of independence. "We have huge aspirations for Uttar Pradesh," PM said.

"The water in the river of development in UP was stagnant. It was stagnating among the fake 'Samajwadis' and their close ones. These people never had anything to do with the thirst of the development of common man, the thirst of progress, the thirst of freedom from poverty," PM Modi said in his virtual address.

PM said that the SP-BSP kept quenching their own thirst and that of their close ones.

"Earlier, molestation of women was very common. The situation was so bad that after incidents of chain snatching, people were thankful that they were still alive. CM Yogi's govt freed women from that fear. We gave women their true honor," PM Modi said.

Reiterating his confidence in the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, PM said that the BJP government in UP is developing all regions of the state equally without any discrimination. While slamming the SP-BSP regime for supporting the mafia raj, PM said that during Adityanath's tenure, criminals themselves ran to jails and demanded that they be locked up.

"They have been waiting for these elections for years. They have just one hope, that the elections come soon and there is a change of govt so that they can come out of jail," he said.

PM was slated to physically address party workers from 21 constituencies of three districts that go to the polls in the second phase of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections 2022. PM Modi's physical rally was, however, called off due to bad weather. His virtual address was broadcast live by the BJP state unit which put up massive LED screens at 109 divisions.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, said that the vaccine made in India under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi is 'the best vaccine' in the world. Addressing a rally in Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh, Adityanath said that it was time that voters snubbed those who criticized the COVID-19 vaccine as 'BJP vaccine'.

"PM could not come for the program due to bad weather. But PM will be addressing us virtually," Adityanath said as he

urged voters to vote for the 'double-engine' government of the BJP.

About one lakh people watched the PM's Bijnor rally across BJP's divisional centers. The BJP functionaries said that Election Commission norms were being strictly adhered to during PM's address.

"PM Narendra Modi will address voters from Bijnor, Moradabad, and Amroha as a part of Jan Choupal program on February 7," the BJP4UP Twitter handle had said earlier.

Uttar Pradesh goes to the polls in seven phases starting February 10. The BJP, which is in power in the state, is confident of returning to power in UP elections 2022. PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, UP CM Yogi Adityanath are among star campaigners for UP elections 2022. The results for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections 2022 will be announced on March 10.

# Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launches Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 "India implementing the largest Immunization programme in the world"

PIB  
New Delhi, Feb 7:

"India is implementing the largest immunisation programme globally where we annually cover more than 3 crore pregnant women and 2.6 crore children through the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)". Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare stated while launching Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 virtually today in presence of health officials of States and Union Territories. Shri Keshab Mahanta, Health Minister of Assam and Shri Rushikesh Patel, Health Minister of Gujarat virtually participated.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 will have three rounds and will be conducted in 416 districts (including 75 districts identified for Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav)

across 33 States/UTs in the country. In the first round (Feb-April 2022), 11 states will conduct IMI 4.0. These are Assam, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura and Chhattisgarh. The others (22 states) will conduct the rounds from April to May 2022. These states/UTs include Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, Puducherry, Delhi, Punjab, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Telangana, Jharkhand, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, A & N Islands.

On the occasion, the Union Health Minister saluted the commitment and dedication of the frontline vaccinators who brave difficult terrain and weather to ensure that the

farthest village and household are covered with the protection of vaccines. "The health care workers are providing a great service to the nation. Their dedication is an inspiration to me and to others for contributing to nation building", he added.

Dr. Mandaviya expressed satisfaction that our efforts have been reflected in the latest National Family Health Survey which has indicated increased coverage. "Vaccines are one of the most effective, affordable and safe methods to protect infants, children and pregnant women from diseases and mortality. With the aim to increase the Full Immunisation Coverage, Hon. Prime Minister launched Mission Indradhanush in December 2014 to cover the partially and unvaccinated pregnant women and children in pockets of low immunization coverage, high-risk and hard-to-

reach areas and protect them from vaccine preventable diseases", he said. Under Mission Indradhanush, all vaccines under Universal Immunization Program (UIP) are provided as per National Immunization Schedule. Mission Indradhanush was also identified as one of the flagship schemes under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (16,850 villages across 541 districts) and Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (48,929 villages across 112 aspirational districts).

Dr. Mandaviya noted that while pace of routine immunization has slowed down due to COVID pandemic, IMI 4.0 will immensely contribute in filling the gaps and make lasting gains towards Universal Immunization. It will ensure that Routine Immunization (RI) services reach the unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children and pregnant women, he added.

# Night curfew in Assam likely to be lifted: CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Agency  
Guwahati, Feb 7:

Night curfew in Assam is likely to be lifted from February 15.

This was informed by Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

CM Sarma said that with improvement of COVID situation in the state, the Assam

government is mulling to lift night curfew provisions starting February 15.

He said that other anti-COVID protocols are also likely to be lifted in phased manner, provided the pandemic situation in the state remains manageable.

COVID-19 cases in Assam have witnessed a considerable decline in recent days with

positivity rate showing a dipping trend.

Assam, on Sunday, registered a total of 256 COVID cases at a positivity rate of 2.39%.

The new cases were detected after conducting tests of 10,691 samples.

Meanwhile, at least 12 more people across Assam have lost their lives to the virus.

# Big jump in Mizoram's COVID positivity rate, 658 new cases logged

Agency  
Aizawl, Feb 7:

Mizoram has witnessed a big jump in the COVID positivity rate.

The COVID positivity rate in Mizoram, on Monday, jumped to 30.50% from 26.45%, recorded the previous day.

However, Mizoram reported 658 new COVID-19 cases on Monday - 1096 less than the previous day.

The new cases took the state's overall COVID-19

tally up to 1,85,885, a health department official said.

However, the death toll remained at 623, as no new fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, he said.

The fresh cases were detected after conducting tests of 2157 samples, he said.

Aizawl district reported the highest number of fresh cases at 360, followed by Lunglei district (80) and Mamit district (70), he said.

Mizoram, now has 14,006 COVID-19 active cases, while 1,71,256 people have

recovered from the infection so far.

The recovery rate among COVID-19 patients is 92.13 per cent and the death rate is 0.33 per cent.

The northeastern state has so far tested more than 17.14 lakh samples for COVID-19.

According to state immunisation officer Dr Lalmanawma Jongte, over 7.97 lakh people have been inoculated till Saturday and 6.17 lakh of them have received the full dose.

# India logs 83,876 fresh COVID-19 cases, 895 more deaths

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 7:

India on Monday reported 83,876 fresh COVID-19 cases that took its total tally to 4,22,72,014, according to Union health ministry data. This is the first time in around 32 days that daily cases have dropped below one lakh. The death toll climbed to 5,02,874 with 895 more fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. The number of active cases in the country has declined further to 11,08,938, comprising 2.62 per cent of the total infections. The na-

tional COVID-19 recovery rate has improved to 96.19 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 1,16,073 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 7.25 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 9.18 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,06,60,202. The case fatality rate stands at 1.19 per cent, it said.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so

far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive have exceeded 169.63 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.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, 2021, and three crore on June 23.

The 895 new fatalities include 515 from Kerala and 66 from Maharashtra.

So far, 5,02,874 deaths have been reported in the country, including 1,43,074 from Maharashtra, 58,255 from Kerala, 39,347 from Karnataka, 37,759 from Tamil Nadu, 25,983 from Delhi, 23,318 from Uttar Pradesh and 20,823 from West Bengal.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

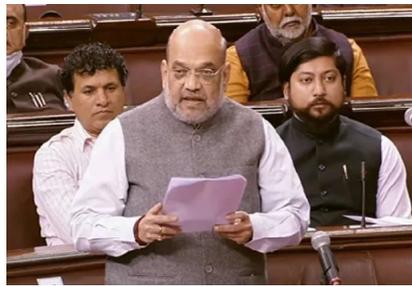
# Amit Shah in RS urges Owaisi to accept Z security cover, says convoy attack being probed

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 7:

Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday urged All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief Asaduddin Owaisi to accept Z category security offered by the Centre after a recent attack on his convoy.

In his statement in Rajya Sabha, Shah said a detailed investigation is underway and a report has been sought from the state government.

"Two persons have been arrested and police recovered a car and two pistols. The forensic team is probing the incident and the two men are being questioned by the Uttar Pradesh Police," he



Shah said.

Further, Shah said since Owaisi has refused to accept the security cover, he requests the AIMIM MP to accept the security given to him by the central government.

"He has been provided with Z category CRPF security cover on an all India basis along with a bullet proof car in Delhi," Shah said.

On February 3, when Owaisi was on his way back to

Delhi after a poll-related event in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut three-four rounds of bullets were fired at Owaisi's car at a toll plaza in Meerut. He escaped without injuries.

Two people were arrested for shooting at Owaisi's car at the toll plaza.

The police have arrested two people in connection with the case, Sachin and Shubham. According to the Additional Superintendent of Police in Hapur, main accused Sachin Pandit had fired the bullets. A 9 mm pistol was recovered from him.

During police interrogation, the accused, Sachin, said he had shot with the "intention of killing". He has claimed to be a member of the BJP.

# Contd. from Page 1 ECI grants further relaxation...

Union Health Secretary briefed the Commission that the peak of Covid had been reached on 21st/ 22nd January after that All India figures of the Covid cases are fast receding from around 2.93 Lakh to 1.72 Lakh. Specially in the Poll going states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa total number of cases which were more than 32 thousand at peak on 22nd January, 2022 have reduced to around 7 thousand on 5th February, 2022.

He appreciated the coverage of Vaccination of 1st, 2nd doses for eligible persons, Preventive doses for frontline workers and poll personnel in the poll going States. He said that coverage of even vaccination of 17 to 18 years old in the poll going states is very satisfactory.

Commission noticed that relaxation decisions are being taken various states like opening of schools/colleges and other institutions in the light of decreasing trends of Covid.

After taking into consideration all the inputs, facts and circumstances and ground reports from Special Observers, State Chief Secretaries and Union Health Secretary and in the wake of considerable decrease in the number of positive cases, progressive improvement in the prevailing COVID situation and considering the short period remaining for campaigning for elections and need for greater participation of Political parties and Candidates, the Commission has henceforth decided to revise guidelines as below:

1. **On road shows, Pad-Yatras, cycle/bike/vehicle rallies and processions** will remain as it before.

2. Maximum number of persons permissible for door to door campaigning fixed at 20 will also remain as before.

3. Ban on campaign between 8 PM and 8 AM will also continue as before.

4. Restrictions regarding outdoor meeting/indoor meetings/rallies will be further relaxed subject to condition that the number of persons attending the indoor/outdoor meetings/rallies will be limited to maximum of 50 percent of the capacity of Indoor halls and 30 percent of the open ground capacity or as fixed by DEO as per requirement of the social distancing norms and whichever is less.

5. If the SDMA has set the ceiling limits or percentage of the capacity for number of persons attending indoor hall or open ground and they are stricter, SDMA guidelines will prevail.

6. Open ground rallies can be held only in the grounds specifically designated by the district authorities and subject to compliance of all the conditions of SDMA. Allocation of these grounds will be given equitably by District Administration through e-Suvidha portal on first come first serve basis. Capacities of these grounds will be fixed by the District Administration well in advance and notify to all the parties.

7. There should be multiple entry and exit points so that there is no crowding as people are coming and leaving the venue. All entrances must have adequate hand hygiene and thermal screening provisions. Adequate number of hand sanitizers should be kept at entrance as well as within the rally area. Seating arrangement must ensure adequate physical dis-

tancing and use of masks at all times is mandatory.

8. Adequate manpower should be deployed/ arranged by the organizers to ensure observance to physical distancing norms, mask wearing and other preventive measures at all times.

9. In designated open ground meetings, people should be accommodated in adequate clusters and such clusters should be separated by separation arrangements. The organisers will ensure this arrangement and nodal officers will ensure compliance.

10. The organisers and concerned political parties shall abide by all the above instructions and SDMA related guidelines and ensure covid appropriate behaviour by persons participating in meetings/rallies. Organisers will be responsible for any breach of the Covid related protocols and guidelines.

11. District Magistrates will nominate nodal officers to oversee the arrangements done by organisers and ensure compliance of the guidelines. DMs and SPs of the districts will ensure compliance of the instructions and Covid appropriate behaviour and guidelines.

12. It shall be overall responsibility of the DEO concerned to identify, notify and allot the designated spaces in advance for the aforesaid purposes.

13. All remaining restrictions as contained in the Revised Broad Guidelines for Conduct of Elections, 2022 issued on 8 January 2022 shall continue to operate.

Commission will review the situation periodically and take necessary decision for amendment in its guidelines, if any based on ground level situation.

## Sports

# ISL: Vikram Singh strikes late against Chennaiyin as Mumbai City ends winless run



Agency  
Fatorda, Feb 7:

Defending champions Mumbai City FC finally ended their seven-game winless run in the Indian Super League (ISL) with a 1-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC here on Sunday. The match was decided by a late goal from Vikram Pratap Singh (85th minute) whose strike was enough to elevate Mumbai to fifth place, level on points with fourth-placed Jamshedpur FC.

Des Buckingham's men were dominant in possession during the first few minutes and created more scoring chances than their opponents. Igor Angulo tested the goalkeeper with a meek left-footed shot in

the 18th minute which was saved easily. The Marina Machans soaked more pressure as the first half progressed, trying to catch the opposition on the counter.

Nerijus Valckis came close to breaking the deadlock before the break but he was caught offside inside the box. Angulo then saw his header go narrowly wide but he too was adjudged to be in an offside position. There was nothing to separate the teams at the half time break as none could score a goal.

The second half saw more pressure from Mumbai as Apuina had his shot go past the right side of the goal within five minutes of the restart. At the hour mark, Lallianzuala

Chhangte placed the ball on a platter for Angulo from the right who could not find the connection to score the elusive goal.

The game headed into the last ten minutes without a goal on the board. However, the breakthrough finally came from Vikram Pratap Singh. The winger was fed by Bradden Inman on the far post, found himself unmarked and placed the ball in the back of the net from close-range.

Lukasz Gikiewicz had a late chance to score the equaliser but managed to send his shot above the crossbar. The five minutes for stoppages were not enough for Chennaiyin to find an equaliser as the Islanders took all three points.

# La Liga: Xavi's Barcelona go fourth after beating Atletico; Real Madrid sneak past Granada

Agency  
Madrid, Feb 7:

Jordi Alba scored an extraordinary volley and Dani Alves was sent off as Barcelona delivered a major boost to their hopes of finishing in La Liga's top four on Sunday by winning a six-goal thriller against Atletico Madrid 4-2.

Real Madrid then capitalised on Sevilla's goalless draw with Osasuna on Saturday by edging past Granada 1-0 to extend their lead at the top of the table to a daunting six points.

In the absence of the injured Karim Benzema, Marco Asensio finally broke Granada's resistance in the 74th minute at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Barcelona were more emphatic as they scored four in 40 minutes at Camp Nou before surviving a late fightback from Atletico after Luis Suarez headed in and Alves saw red with 20 minutes left.

A statement victory returns Xavi Hernandez's side into the top four for the first time since September, with Atletico now two points behind in fifth.

"The team, the fans and the club in general needed a win like this," said Xavi. "It could be a turning point, we can't hold back now."

Atletico coach Diego Simeone said: "If we took advantage of our opportunities everyone would be saying how good our counter-attack was. Their effectiveness has pre-



vailed today."

Atletico took an early lead through Yannick Carrasco but Barcelona came storming back, Alba equalising with surely one of the goals of the season before Gavi, Ronald Araujo and Alves all struck to leave Simeone's side facing an annihilation.

Instead, Suarez headed in and Alves was sent off as tempers flared. But Barcelona held on, with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, signed from Arsenal, coming on off the bench to make his debut in the second half.

With Barcelona in containment mode, Aubameyang's influence was limited and it was another January signing, Adama Traore, who made the biggest impact with an electric first-half performance. Barca were ninth in the league, six points behind Atletico in fourth, when Xavi

was appointed coach.

Aubameyang was only deemed fit enough for the bench, where he sat along with Ousmane Dembele, who Xavi welcomed back into the fold despite his ongoing stand-off with the club over a new contract.

Dembele was whistled before kick-off and not brought on in the second half.

"I was going to bring him on but the situation changed after the red card," Xavi said.

Traore in full flow - Atletico were ahead on eight minutes but the rest of the first half belonged to Barca.

Traore was at the heart of it, making the game his own for a whirlwind half an hour.

He was involved in Alba's equaliser, his cross kicked out to Alves, who floated the ball to the opposite side, where Alba had time to adjust his feet and let fly with a stunning volley into

the top corner. Barcelona were on top and Traore in full flow. He stopped Mario Hermoso, then surged past him, lifting a cross off the line and into the area where Gavi headed in a second.

Araujo smashed in before half-time and Alves added a fourth four minutes after, forcing posing with his arms outstretched towards the fans.

The party atmosphere fizzled slightly when Suarez reduced the gap to two by heading in from close range against his former club.

Aubameyang briefly broke the tension by coming on to rapturous applause for Traore but Alves was then sent off after scraping his studs down the back of Carrasco's leg.

Atletico had 20 minutes to score two and the game almost boiled over when Xavi's assistant Oscar Hernandez was shown a red card for his protests and Xavi took a yellow. Barcelona held on.

Granada looked like they might hold on against Real Madrid, who were without their deadly attacking duo, Viničius Junior suspended and Benzema still recovering from a thigh strain.

Inco and Rodrygo started up front instead and were replaced by Luka Jovic and Eden Hazard shortly before Asensio struck, a superb, swerving shot finding the comer after Eder Militao had won the ball back.