

## Congress MLA K. Meghachandra continues to drill Minister Th. Biswajit

*Still stands with his allegation of Rs. 800 crore scams in PWD*

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 15:

Congress MLA K. Meghachandra continues to drill Minister Th. Biswajit by stating that he still stands with his allegation of fund misappropriation of Rs. 800 crore in the PWD department during the 2021-22 financial years. The Congress MLA who is also the working president of the MPCC also accused the Minister who is also in charge of Commerce and Industries department for making false promises to the people of the state. The Congress MLA also dig the N. Biren Singh government over failure to enhance the Covid-19 vaccination drive saying that the state recorded the lowest vaccination drive among the 5 states where election is scheduled to hold on February 27 and March 3.

"Election commission of India had stated that only 57% of the total population of the state have been vaccinated first dose Covid-19 vaccine



and the number of people who got 2nd dose is only 43%", Meghachandra said and added that where are the measures taken up by the government for enhancement of Covid-19 vaccination drive, what had happened to the door to door vaccination program and also the mobile vaccination drive gone? Why is the vaccination rate so low when compared to other states?, the Congress MLA who is also the working president of MPCC told a media person during press conference held today at Congress Bhavan.

Taking a dig to the Commerce and Industries department, MLA Meghachandra said that in July 20, 2017, the Minister of the Commerce and Industries department had promised to provide job to 1.5 lakhs people each year, that means in 5 years the number of employment provided should be nearly 7 lakhs. Meghachandra said that the present BJP ruled government is befuddling the people with false promises and there are no jobs as promised by them has not been provided.

The MPCC working presi-

dent K. Meghachandra also attacked the former Rajya Saha MP K. Bhavananda for misleading the people saying that 7 IRB battalion will be open in the state.

"Those are words to fool the people as there are no IRB or MR Battalions opened till date. Besides, the recruitment of the IRB constable and the Jamadar has not yet been declared till date and as the code of conduct has been in effect since January 8, there is no way that this government will declare the result", Meghachandra said.

In connection with the clarification by PWD Minister Th. Biswajit in connection with the allegation leveled by him about misappropriation of Rs. 800/- crore at PWD during 2021-22, Meghachandra said that he has documents that have been collected from the top official of the PED department.

He said that he stands with his statement about the misappropriation of the fund and the PWD Minister is trying to mislead the people. He alleged that no work order has been issued for the implementation of the works.

In connection of the restriction of fund utilization to 40% and 60% due to covid-19, the Congress MLA demanded valid documents for the restriction of the fund. He said that he had documents to prove that there is no such fund restriction as there is no official record about using funds from the PWD department for use of Covid-19 emergency purposes.

## Home department sets new guidelines for gathering of any activities

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 15:

In continuation of the orders of even No. dated 29.12.2021, The State Home department, in view of the rapid increase in the "Test Positivity Ratio", absolute number of COVID-19 positive cases per day and detection of Covid-19 variant B.1.1529 (OMICRON) in the State, the Home department had restricted gathering of not more than 50 (fifty) persons or half of the capacity whichever is less in case of closed spaces.

Chairperson, of the State Executive Committee of the State Disaster Management Authority has orders restriction in gathering of people more than 50 people for any activities. Maximum of 200 (Two hun-

dred) persons in case of open spaces has been however permitted. The order also stated that wearing of face masks in public places, gatherings and crowded areas is a critical Covid Appropriate Behaviour should be strictly enforced and violators shall be penalised promptly under relevant rules.

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Chief Secretary & Chairman, State Executive Committee, Government of Manipur has directed all District Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police to strictly enforce the above restrictions by invoking relevant provisions of law.

This order shall remain in force till fresh guidelines relating to public gathering are received from the Election Commission of India.

## Assembly Elections 2022: EC likely to extend ban on physical rallies for 8 more days

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 15:

In a major development ahead of the Assembly elections in five states and rapidly rising COVID-19 cases, sources have informed Republic Media Network that the Election Commission of India (ECI) is likely to extend the ban on physical rallies for eight more days. This comes after the Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan held a meeting with the team of Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra.

The Union Health Secretary apprised the ECI team about the COVID-19 situation and stated that cases are in-

creasing rapidly. Moreover, sources also added that a meeting was also being held with the top officials of the five election states. The Health Secretary told the ECI that though Omicron is not as dangerous as the previous variant Delta, it is still spreading rapidly. Therefore, the Secretary also agreed to the previous ban that was imposed by the ECI on the physical rallies.

Moreover, the Ministry of Health has also recommended to the Commission to take tough decisions amid the current circumstances. In addition, sources also added that the ECI has directed the Chief Secretaries of the five electoral states to strictly imple-

ment the COVID-19 protocol. Sources further added that the meeting with the Chief Electoral Officers of the five states will be completed shortly.

On January 8, the Election Commission of India had announced the schedule of assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur. The minister had also taken the unprecedented step of banning public rallies, roadshows and corner meetings till January 15 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, the Commission had also listed 16-point guidelines for campaigning as it banned 'nukkad sabhas' (corner meetings) on public roads and roundabouts, limit-

ing the number of persons allowed for the door-to-door campaign to five, including the candidate, and prohibited victory processions after the counting of votes.

In a press release on Friday, the EC said that considering the ongoing pandemic and enhanced relevance of non-contact-based campaign, it has, in consultation with Prasar Bharti Corporation, decided to double the broadcast/teletext time allotted to each national party and recognised state party of the five states. Assembly polls in the five states will be held in seven phases between February 10 and March 7 and the counting of votes will be on March 10.

## No cadres of the PREPAK killed or injured in gun battle with Indian Para Commandos - Source

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 15:

A news report published in this newspaper on yesterday issue under the heading "PLA camp attacked at Indo Myanmar border, 3 cadres killed, 4 PREPAK killed" had mentioned the death of 4 PREPAK cadres in an encounter with the Indian Para Commandos who were re-

treating after attacking PLA camp at Indo Myanmar border.

The well equipped red army of the PREPAK did encounter with the India Para Commandos but there were no casualties to the side of the PREPAK red army, a reliable source told Imphal Times. The source added that after the Red Army had a fierce gun battle with the

Indian Para Commando while they were trying to escape after attacking the PLA camp. During the gunfight some of the Para Commandos and their mercenaries sustain injury, a source told Imphal Times. However, no cadres of the PREPAK's Red army were injured during the gun battle of January 13 at Indo Myanmar border.

## DBC, Maram, Department of Social Work organized a week-long rural camp at Emefithumai Village

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 15:

The Department of Social Work, BSW 3rd Semester, Don Bosco College (Autonomous), Maram held a weeklong rural camp at Emefithumai village from the 8th to the 14th of January, 2022 under the theme "Discover, Disseminate, and Develop." Vanilla Veronica and Evergreen Wanglar, Assistant Professors at the Department of Social Work at DBC, Maram, accompanied the 43 campers. Hriini Athikho, the former village chief, hoisted the flag to officially open the rural camp on January 8, 2022.

The primary goals of the rural camp are to provide Social Work students with a better understanding of rural life and assist them in developing their personal and professional abilities, as well as to encourage self-growth in pro-

cesses such as decision-making and planning. During the week-long camp, the campers organized a cleanliness drive and installed 22 dustbins across the community. The campers were exposed to the waterfall Phre Phapha, located at the outskirts of the village. The campers also conducted Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) using tools such as seasonal calendar, resource mapping, social mapping, pie chart, scoring, and ranking. Besides, the campers hosted a soft skill lesson from where 122 students from Emefithumai Village and Mao Pungdung Village (adjacent village) attended. Time management, career guidance, personality development, study tips, and goal setting were some subjects covered in the soft skill class. The campers also received fieldwork experience by going to the field and carrying out activities as-

sisted by the villagers. In addition to the daytime activities, the campers planned night-time activities such as Dance night, Musical night, Talent hunt night, and Cultural night.

Abel, the village chairman, de-hoisted the flag on January 14, 2022, assuring his prayer support and encouraging the campers to continue going forward with high spirits and excitement to serve society. The camp was a prodigious and vital experience for the students since they were able to experience rural life, including rural living, socio-economic-political-cultural life, analysis, and rural dynamics. It also assists students in planning and designing action activities for themselves and rural people and building practical skills to carry out interventions, assess, and finally document the once-in-a-lifetime experience.

## PM interacts with Startups

*January 16 to be celebrated as 'National Start-up Day': PM*

PIB  
New Delhi, Jan 15:

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi interacted with Startups today via video conferencing. The Startups gave presentations to the Prime Minister on six themes viz. Growing from Roots; Nudging the DNA; From Local to Global; Technology of Future; Building Champions in Manufacturing; and Sustainable Development. More than 150 startups were divided into six working groups for the purpose of these presentations. For each theme, there were presentations by two Startup representatives, who spoke on behalf of all the startups selected for that particular theme.

During their presenta-

tion, the startup representatives thanked the Prime Minister for the opportunity to provide such a platform to share their ideas, and praised his vision and support to the startup ecosystem. They shared ideas and inputs on a variety of sectors and areas including robust data collection mechanism in agriculture; making India preferred agri business hub; boosting healthcare through use of technology; tackling issue of mental health; promoting travel and tourism through innovations like virtual tours; ed-tech and job identification; space sector; connecting offline retail market with digital commerce; increasing manufacturing efficiency; defence exports; promoting green sustainable products and sustainable

means of transport, among others.

Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Ashwini Vaisnav, Sarbananda Sonowal, Parshottam Rupala, G. Kishan Reddy, Pashupati Kumar Paras, Dr Jitendra Singh, Som Parkash were among those present on the occasion.

Speaking after the presentations, the Prime Minister said that organization of this Start Up India Innovation week is all the more important in this year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav as the role of the Start Ups will be critical when Indian freedom reaches its centenary year. "I congratulate all the start-ups of the country, all the innovative youth, who are raising the flag of India in the world of start-ups. For this

culture of start-ups to reach the far-flung parts of the country, it has been decided to celebrate January 16 as National Start-up Day", the Prime Minister announced.

Recalling the concept of the current decade as the 'techade' of India, the Prime Minister listed three important aspects of the massive changes that the government is making in this decade to strengthen the innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem. First, to liberate entrepreneurship and innovation from the web of government processes, bureaucratic silos. Second, creating an institutional mechanism to promote innovation. And third, handholding of young innovators and young enterprises.

contd. on page 4

# Protection of innocent animals is a social responsibility

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Chhutki, the neighbourhood street dog, has been sitting since morning at the same spot where Lohri was celebrated in the night. Even after the bonfire is gone, the place re-

mains warm for several hours afterwards. In winter and during the rain, most building owners and the residential societies do not leave any covered area open for community dogs to sit or keep themselves warm. Demons (*raakshas*) have been there in every age. They used to exist in the period of Rama, Krishna, Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh, and they exist even today. Demons may be found in your neighbourhood, town, city, kinship, everywhere. It is generally believed that demons are illiterate, uncivilized and stupid, but seeing the videos and photos on social media, it is proved that demons can be well-educated and knowledgeable too. They may be IAS officers, retired military officers, professors, traders, senior citizens and all kinds of educated people. These can be both women and men. A female IAS officer from a district in western UP brutally threw a female dog along with her innocent pups out of her bungalow in the harsh winter. Bhopal Municipal Corporation ruthlessly threw sterilised innocent dogs in the forest. An ASI of Delhi Police almost killed a dog with a stick. Shame on such people.

Demons have no mercy. These demons may one day kill their family members, or do not hesitate to commit crimes outside. Keep an eye on the demons. Stop them, warn them, and if needed take action. Let us take a pledge that "we will not allow cruelty on the helpless, innocent and homeless animals". Humans are increasing their population. They have occupied forests, rivers, grasslands, means every place on the earth, destroying the habitats of the animals created by God. Human species has ruined nature in the name of development. The basic difference between animals and humans is that humans know how to use their brain, learn new things, and create new things. Demons simply do not know the law of *karma*. Fortunate are those who understand the power of *karma*. Every *karma* has a result, good *karma* good result, bad *karma* bad result, in this life and even after death.

Heaven and hell are here only, not beyond the clouds. To explain this, Lord Krishna incarnated. *Karma* never fails means you get reward or punishment according to your actions. No one can escape from the punishment of *karma*, whether it is a politician, a police officer, or a VVIP. Everyone is responsible for his/her actions. Dogs are said to be human's best friends. Centuries ago, humans domesticated dogs and used to take them along on hunting. The main job of a dog is to provide security, which they do today also. It is another matter that in modern times even their free services are not required. In that sense, dogs are jobless. It is not in their control to limit their population. Sterilisation is the only solution, towards which no governments pay any attention. Society itself has to take the initiative. Children should be taught to be kind and compassionate towards dogs. We have to create a favourable environment for the animals around us. They need protection and kindness. Be the voice for the voiceless.

# Effective Methods for Facial Hair Removal

All women have light coloured body and facial hair, but some of it is thicker and grows faster than others.

Generally, around 10% of women battle the problem of extensive, coarse and dark facial hair growth.

The unwanted hair growth in females is mainly caused due to hormonal or genetic disorder, stress, prescription drugs, higher than normal levels of male hormones in the body or a combination of various such factors.

Every woman wants to look beautiful, soft and smooth without any dark hair on face or other parts of body skin. The various products available in the market to get rid of thick facial hair can be expensive and irritate skin due to harsh chemicals.

There are many easy and safe methods to remove facial hairs though it may take some time to show results. Natural treatments are best remedies in removing unwanted facial hairs. Coarse and thick growth of hair, especially on the face, presents quite a problem, where beauty is concerned. All women are troubled by it, because it detracts from femininity.

Where removal of facial hair is concerned, it falls into two categories – temporary and permanent. The method should be chosen according to the quantity or thickness of hair, its location and rate of growth. It is also essential to get information about the advantages and disadvantages of the various methods. Temporary hair removal, as the term suggests, requires repeat treatments, as and when there is regrowth. Methods such as depilation, shaving, tweezing, threading, waxing, epilation, come under the temporary category. Several hair removal creams are available, which contain chemical ingredients to dissolve hair. However, chemical hair removal creams can sometimes cause skin discolouration (dark

patches) and should preferably be avoided on the face, especially on the "upperlip" area, which is particularly sensitive. Needless to say, a hair removing cream should be patch-tested before use. This is done by applying it on the inner arm. If there is a reaction within 10 to 15 minutes, it should not be used.

Home remedies do not remove hair, but may lessen growth over a period of time. Make a thick paste of sugar, lemon juice and water and apply it in the direction of hair growth. Wash off when it dries. Apply it once or twice a week. Or, 3 teaspoons of powdered barley can be mixed with one teaspoon cold milk and 2 to 3 teaspoons lemon juice. Apply and leave on for 20 minutes and then rinse off with water. Do this two to three times a week. It is said to discourage hair growth over a period of time.

Mix a tablespoon of honey, lemon juice each with five tablespoons of potato juice. Meanwhile,



By: Shahnaz Husain

grind the lentils (soaked overnight) to a smooth paste. Add all the ingredients and apply the mixture for about 20 minutes on the affected area. Wash it off once it is completely dry. This paste makes a thin crust that helps in hair removal. Plus,

potatoes help in bleaching the hair, making them less visible.

An effective and common facial hair removal method is threading. It is useful for shaping the eyebrows and also for removal of facial hair on areas like the upper lip and chin. There may be slight redness after threading, which reduces in a day. It is a popular method of hair removal. Tweezing is another method, where one hair is removed at a time. It is a suitable method for shaping the eyebrows, or to remove solitary hairs from the chin area, or eyebrows. However, a word of caution – hair from a mole must not be removed without consulting a doctor.

Waxing can also be used for facial hair removal. Soft, strip waxing



is useful. Roll on waxing kits are also available. It is said to be a breakthrough technology that may be used for facial hair. It is becoming popular as it is easy to use and also more hygienic. The results are also said to be longer lasting. This relatively new method has a roll-on applicator, which is placed in a device that heats the product, but at a low temperature. It is then rolled on the area and removed with a strip. It is said to be useful in removal of short facial hair.

Hair removal by laser is becoming increasingly popular as a permanent method. Laser produces an intense beam of light, which is absorbed by the hair follicles. The laser disables the hair follicle's ability to produce hair. The heat produced by the laser light is controlled by the operator. A strong laser light leads to more heat. That is why cooling devices are used to prevent damage to the rest of the skin. The advantage of a laser is that the laser light can scan broader areas. Therefore, fewer sessions may be required. It should be done under supervision of a doctor. The temporary known side effects are redness, swelling and itching. The main risk in laser treatment is the possibility of skin burns, due to excessive heat of the laser light. Regrowth occurs in some cases, but is slower and scantier. It is very important to find a good laser clinic. So, before choosing the clinic, it is essential to find out its reputation, by making enquiries and talking to people who have been through the treatment. It is an expensive procedure and one should also discuss the approximate number of sessions that may be needed.

Laser can be used to remove hair from the entire face, or from particular areas, like upper lips, chin or cheeks. The time taken for the actual treatment is not much. As regrowth may occur, one may have to repeat the treatment after four or five months.

# Art of Body language

There are basically three elements in communication: words, the tone of voice, and non-verbal behaviour including facial expressions, gestures, and posture. These are also known as the 3 "V's": Verbal, Vocal, and Visual. Hence a communication can be divided into two parts:

## Verbal

### Non-verbal

For example, if a person says that he is honest, then the verbal part is "I am honest", however, if he tries to avoid eye contact, feels sweating, fumbles or look anxious then this part is counted as the body language. Hence body language is an important part of human interaction. This includes all aspects of communication like moving of your hands while you try to explain something or the nervousness that you show at the time of interview are all different parts of body language.

Body language is different from the sign language; a body language is a form of mental and physical ability of human non-verbal communication, consisting of body posture, gestures, facial expressions, and eye movements. Humans send and interpret such signals almost entirely subconsciously. These signs and signals are something that is really taken care of at the time of interview and determine the selection of the right candidate. Physical expressions like waving, pointing, touching and slouching are all forms of nonverbal communication and are part of body language. The study of body movement and expression is known as kinesics. Various researches prove that the movement

of body parts during communication tends to ease the mental tension of human beings.

Physical Expression: Body language is present in our lives all the time. Every time we talk to some other individual in real life, body language will be used. Hand gestures, smiling, use of eyebrows etc. are all part of body language. Sometimes we really don't realize how much impact these things have on our daily lives or something special in our life like an interview or a competition. Some people look really confident; while some tend to feel shy to begin to lose their confidence in some particular situation. This is all related to the body language. Some basic physical expressions are:

Eye Contact: Eye contact is a very strong body language reading technique. Consistent eye contact indicates that a person is thinking positively of what the other person is talking about and is quite in the command of instructions that are being given to him by the other person. It can convey many other messages like taking off the eyes gives a strong message that the other person doesn't trust the speaker enough. If a person is avoiding an eye-contact, it can also indicate that a person is lying. Lack of eye contact can indicate negativity. On the other hand, some people have anxiety disorders and often unable to make eye contact out of discomfort. Eye contact can also be a secondary and misleading gesture because cultural norms about it vary widely from place to place and religion to religion. If someone is looking at

you but is making the arms-across-chest signal, the eye contact could be indicative that something is bothering the person, and that he wants to talk about it. Or if while making direct eye contact, a person is fiddling with something, even while directly looking at you; it could indicate that the attention is elsewhere. If the person looks from one eye to the other, then to the forehead, then it is an indication of the authoritative position of the person. During an interview, a person talking with an eye contact gives an indication of his confidence level and is often preferred over the others who fail to do so.

Hands and Arms: One of the most basic and powerful body-language signals is when a person crosses his or her arms across the chest which could be indicative of the fact that a person is trying to put up a barrier between themselves and others and is not really interested in closeness. However, some hand related gestures like the rubbing of hands indicate that person is feeling cold. When the overall situation is amicable, it can give an indication that a person is thinking deeply about whatever is being discussed, but in a serious or confrontational situation, it can mean that a person is expressing opposition to the particular thing being discussed which may also be evident from another sign if the person is leaning away from the speaker. A harsh or blank facial expression often indicates outright hostility of the listener.



By: Vijay Garg

Handshake: A handshake is a simple act when two people extend their hands towards each other when they meet. A lot can be interpreted from the way of the handshake. A strong handshake is a clear indication of an intellectual personality. A loose handshake is an indication of the lethargic behaviour of the person and also indicates the non-seriousness of a particular person towards the other person. We never think about these things but this matters a lot once you enter into professional life. A loose handshake at the time of interview would ruin your first impression and would lead to interviewer losing his interest in you.

Posture and Composure: A lot about you can be figured out from your posture. While a straight smart posture is an indication of energy, confidence and intellectual personality of a person, and always gives a clear indication of the positive attitude of that particular person. A person with correct posture always impresses others. On the other hand, a person with really loose posture with his hands resting on the table during the interview will never be able to impress his interviewers. Hence one needs to be really careful about these small things in order to make a big impact. An improper posture may give a sign of boredom.

## Tips to Improve your Body Language

Actions speak louder than the word. A good body language impresses everybody, as the first impression that you give others is by

the way of our body language. The most important thing to keep in mind is to feel relaxed and great inside as this gives you a feeling of confidence and also tends to ease your tension. In the meantime, it is advised to practice good body language in general until it becomes a natural habit for you. However, there can be few useful tips:

Boost your Confidence with Knowledge: You can really take control of your body language when you have proper knowledge. If you are going to deliver a speech you won't feel confident if you don't have proper knowledge, even though if you have your written material with you, you would be tensed about the fact that what will happen if someone asks you a question. Hence, to overcome this it is better to have proper knowledge about various facts and to research about the facts in advance that you may require. The main source of extra knowledge can be books, magazines or the internet. The best source of knowledge, however, remains newspaper. The newspaper is a whole collection of many facts that are well explored by the readers who have a daily habit of reading.

Smile to make Things Easier: Smile to make things easy, sounds funny? But this is actually true. If you are in some difficult situation try smiling to reduce your stress, smiling certainly boosts your confidence and makes things easy. No matter what the task is when you grimace or frown while doing it, you are sending your brain a strong message that this particular task is really difficult and I should stop, the brain then responds by sending stress chemicals into your bloodstream. And this creates a vicious circle, the more stressed you tend to become; the more difficult it gets

for you to do the task. On the other hand, when you smile, your brain tends to get a feeling that this is a regular task and you won't have any difficulty doing this. Hence you are able to perform the job well.

Socialize More: Socialization is yet another way of improving your body language. When you tend to go out meet your friends and sometimes also friends of your friends, you tend to communicate more and begin to gain a command over your speech and also tend to lose your shyness of talking to new people. Going out with friends or to relatives also leads to some discussion and if you are a part of some healthy discussion, you also tend to learn some useful facts that may prove to be of great importance for you at one point or the other. Also at new places, you tend to learn different behaviours and etiquettes.

Curb your Enthusiasm: Your enthusiasm can sometimes take over you and begin to make you overwhelmed and you tend to get puzzled or too excited and make mistakes. If you are an extrovert, you are most likely to make a favourable first impression because everyone is drawn towards passionate people whose emotions are easily read. But when your communication style lacks nuance and subtlety, your over-exuberance can overwhelm (or exhaust) an audience. In situations where you want to maximize your authority try to minimize your movements to have a good impact. To curb your enthusiasm take a deep breath, bring your gestures down to waist level, and pause before to bring your mind in a stable position before you begin with anything important. When you appear calm and contained, you look more confident and also your mind is in a stable state to think well.

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# Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane warns Pakistan over Cross-border Terrorism on Army Day

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 15:

Indian Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane delivered an address on the occasion of 74th Army Day on Saturday. During his address, General MM Naravane hit out at Pakistan for aiding terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and stated that attempts to smuggle weapons into the Union Territory are also being made. However, he remarked that the Indian Army has repeatedly foiled Pakistan's attempts.

In addition, General Naravane averred that due to pro-active operations in the northern part of India, the security situation has improved. The army chief revealed that due to these operations by the Indian Army, the terrorist organisations are following the cease-fire. He added that the Assam Rifles are following the country's 'Act East' policy. Moreover, he assured that due to emergency procurements, there has been a lot of improvement.

The army chief during his address added that with joint efforts of the Indian educational institutions, including



the IIT, many new technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, Quantum computing, Unmanned Systems, Directed energy weapons and Swam drones are being developed. Apart from this, infrastructure work has also picked up the pace, informed General Naravane.

The Army chief further revealed that many countries come forward to train along with the Indian Army due to its professionalism and experience. During his address, the Army chief also delivered a strong message to China amid the ongoing border standoff continues. General Naravane informed that both countries held the 14th round of military-level talks. He added that joint efforts at various levels led

to disengagement in many areas which was a constructive step. The Army Chief has averred that the Indian Army will not allow any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo along the country's borders.

He asserted that the morale of the soldiers deployed on snow-capped mountains for the country's security was sky-high.

"Our patience is a sign of our self-confidence, but no one should make the mistake of testing it," Gen Naravane said.

"Our message is clear, the Indian Army won't let any attempt to unilaterally change status quo along country's borders to succeed." The armies of India and China are

locked in a military standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 5, 2020, after a violent clash erupted in the Pangong lake area. Both countries have conducted 14 rounds of military-level talks to resolve the standoff.

After the violent clash on May 5, 2020, both the Indian and Chinese militaries gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

Gen Naravane said that the situation on the LoC is better than the previous year but Pakistan still harbouring terrorists.

Nearly 300-400 terrorists in training camps across the border are waiting to intrude into India, he said, adding a total of 194 terrorists were killed in counter-operations in the last one year.

## Assam Rifles apprehends UGs



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 15:

In two separate joint operations with Manipur Police, Phundrei Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) apprehended insurgents of proscribed groups PLA and UNLF in Kakching and Thoubal districts on January 13 & 14.

Based on specific input from reliable sources, troops of

Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched operations leading to these apprehensions.

The apprehended insurgents were handed over to Kakching and Khongjom Police Station for further investigation.

Meanwhile, Mantripukhri Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police apprehended

four cadres of proscribed insurgent group KCP in Heingang, Imphal West district on January 12.

Based on specific input, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to the apprehension of insurgents along with extortion demand letters.

The apprehended insurgents were handed over to Heingang Police Station for further investigation.

## AR foils cross border smuggling

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 15:

Tengnoupal Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) foiled cross border smuggling near Kwatha village in Tengnoupal

district yesterday.

During a border domination patrol, troops of Assam Rifles uncovered a large number of packages concealed in thick foliage in the forest. On thorough search of the packages, illegal goods including

electronics, footwear and toys items were recovered.

The smuggled items are assessed to be of worth Rs 60.7 Lakh. The recovered contraband items were handed over to Customs Department, Moreh.

## Netaji birth anniversary on Jan 23 to be part of Republic Day celebrations: Official

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 15:

The Republic Day celebrations from this year will start from January 23 instead of January 24 to include the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's "focus to commemorate important aspects of our history and culture," a government official said on Saturday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, however, did not clarify what the decision will translate into. One possibility is that the government will count events to commemorate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary held every year to be part of the R-Day celebrations.

Last year, the Centre announced that January 23 will be celebrated as Parakram Diwas or the day of valour.

Other such days, obser-



vance of which has become a yearly affair, are August 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, October 31 as National Unity Day (birth anniversary of Sardar Patel), November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Birsu Munda's birth anniversary), November 26 as

Constitution Day and December 26 as Veer Baal Divas (a tribute to the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh), the official cited above added.

Reacting to the decision, Chandra Bose, kin of Subhas Chandra Bose, said even though it is a good decision

but to really honour the freedom fighter, the government needs to understand and implement his ideology.

"Subhas Chandra Bose is extremely relevant in 21st century India. We see all across the country, I don't suggest any specific political party, all parties are engaged in divisive politics. This must stop, Netaji envisioned a united India. If Netaji had returned to India, there would not have been a Partition of India or Partition of Bengal. India will again get divided, unless you bring Netaji's ideology into the national mainstream of politics," he added.

Ahead of the 125th birth anniversary this year, Chandra Bose, who is also a member of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to have the freedom fighter's image on currency notes. He also suggested declaring January 23 as a national holiday.

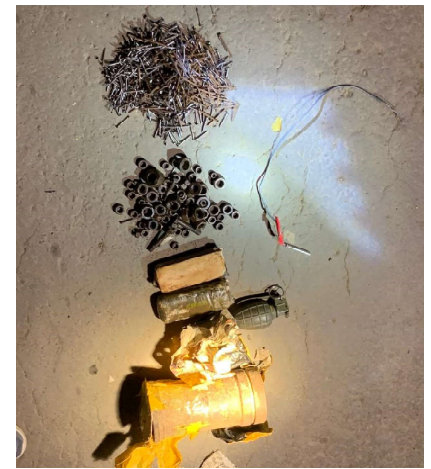
## Assam Rifles foils terror attack

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 15:

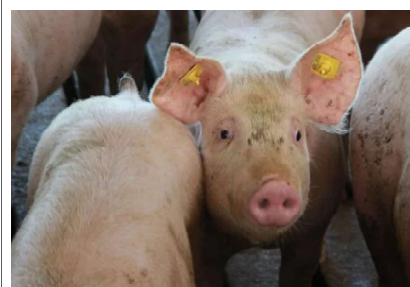
Phundrei Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur police foiled a terrorist strike by recovering an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) & a grenade in general area called JNV, Umathel village, Kakching district yesterday.

Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur police launched a joint operation which led to the recovery of IED and a grenade. The IED and grenades were meant to be planted against Security Forces.

Later, recovered items were disposed off by Manipur Police.



## Nagaland: Veterinary department confirms African Swine Fever outbreak



Agency  
Kohima, Jan 15:

An outbreak of the African Swine Fever (ASF) has been confirmed by the State Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH&VS) in some parts of the state of

Nagaland.

The confirmation came through the RTPCR (Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction) Test by the North Eastern Regional Disease Diagnostics Laboratory, Khanapara, Guwahati from the samples submitted from

Longjiongkong and Satier villages of Mokokchung District and Kuzatu Village, Wazeho Block under Phek district.

The veterinary department following this appealed to everyone dealing with pigs and pork to remain cautious and vigilant about the situation.

People have been asked to report any unusual mortality of domestic pigs and feral pigs to the "nearest veterinary institute and assist the veterinary and forest departments for sero-surveillance, control, containment & eradication as per the National Action Plan."

One-kilometre radius from the epicentre of the disease outbreak (affected villages) has been declared Infected Zone (IZ) and a radius of 10 Kms as Surveillance Zone.

## Peak of third wave has arrived in Delhi, says Health Minister amid rapid decline in fresh Covid cases

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 15:

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Saturday asserted that the peak of the third wave of coronavirus or Covid-19 has arrived in the national capital as the number of daily fresh cases has declined.

He also confirmed that a large majority of hospital beds reserved for Covid patients remain empty in Delhi, thanks

to a rapid reduction in cases.

While speaking to media, Jain said, "Cases' peak has arrived, let's see when the decline begins... seems like cases have begun to slow down."

He further said that the total number of cases in the national capital is expected to be reduced by 4,000 while positivity will remain around 30 per cent.

"Hospital admission rate hasn't risen in past 5-6 days.

This indicates that cases are going to be fewer in the coming days. Over 85 per cent of hospital beds are vacant in Delhi," added the Health Minister.

Earlier on Friday, Delhi reported as many as 24,383 Covid-19 cases. As per the bulletin provided by the health department, the positivity rate for the day was 30.64 per cent.

The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has imposed a curfew in Delhi on Saturdays and

Sundays to curb the spread of infection.

All shops dealing in non-essential items in markets and malls will be shut until Sunday, January 16.

The movement of people will remain restricted during the weekend curfew. However, people coming from or going to airports, railway stations, and inter-state bus terminuses will be allowed to travel on the production of valid tickets.

# India logs 2,68,833 new Covid cases; Omicron tally reaches 6,041

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 15:

India registered 2,68,833 new Covid infections in a day taking the tally to 3,68,50,962, which includes 6,041 Omicron variant cases, according to the Union Health Ministry data on Saturday.

With 402 more deaths, the number of people who have succumbed to the viral disease has risen to 4,85,752. The case fatality rate was 1.32 per cent.

A total of 6,041 Omicron cases has been detected so far, an increase of 5.01 per cent since Friday, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The daily positivity rate was 16.66 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 12.84 per cent.

Active cases have increased to 14,17,820, the highest in around 223 days, and comprise 3.85 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate has decreased to 94.83 per cent, the Health Ministry said.

In a day, the active caseload in the country has increased by 1,45,747. The total number of people who have recuperated from the disease so far has risen to 3,49,47,390.

The cumulative Covid vaccine doses administered in the

country has exceeded 156.02 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 country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 last year and three crore on June 23, 2021.

The 402 new fatalities include 199 from Kerala and 34 from Delhi.

Of the total deaths reported so far in the country, 1,41,756 are from Maharashtra, 50,568 from Kerala, 38,411 from Karnataka, 36,956 from Tamil Nadu, 25,305 from Delhi, 22,949 from Uttar Pradesh and 20,013 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.

## Contd. from Page 1 PM interacts with ....

He listed programmes like Startup India and Standup India as part of the efforts. Measures like removing problems of 'angel tax', simplification of tax procedure, arranging for government funding, allowing self certification of 9 labour and 3 environment laws and removal of more than 25 thousand compliances have taken the process further. Startup runway on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) platform is facilitating the provision of startup services to the government.

The Prime Minister said the Government's effort is to institutionalize innovation in the country by creating attraction for innovation among students since childhood. More than 9000 Atal Tinkering Labs are giving children a chance to innovate in schools and work on new ideas. He added that whether it is new drone rules, or new space policy, the priority of the government is to provide opportunities for innovation to as many youth as possible. Our government has simplified the rules related to IPR registration too, he added.

The Prime Minister noted the exponential rise in the indicators of innovation. He said that in the year 2013-14, 4000 patents were approved, last year, more than 28 thousand patents were granted. In the year 2013-14, where about 70000 trademarks were registered, in 2020-21 more than 2.5 lakh trademarks have been registered. In the year 2013-14, where only 4000 copyrights were granted, last year their number has crossed 16000. The Prime Minister pointed out that India's campaign for innovation has resulted in improvement of India's ranking in Global innovation index where India stood at 81 rank but now India stands at 46 rank

in the index.

Modi informed that startups of India are working with 55 separate industries and the number of startups has increased from less than 500 five years ago to more than 60 thousand today. The Prime Minister said "Our Start-ups are changing the rules of the game. That's why I believe Start-ups are going to be the backbone of new India." The Prime Minister noted that last year, 42 unicorns came up in the country. These companies worth thousands of crores of rupees are the hallmark of self-reliant and self-confident India. "Today India is rapidly moving towards hitting the century of the unicorns. I believe the golden era of India's start-ups is starting now", he added.

The Prime Minister underlined the role of empowerment by entrepreneurship in addressing the problems of development and regional-gender disparities. He mentioned that today, there is at least one startup in each of the 625 districts of the country and more than half of the startups are from tier 2 and tier 3 cities. These are converting ideas from ordinary poor families into businesses and lakhs of young Indians are getting employment.

Narendra Modi singled out India's diversity as a key strength and keystone of India's global identity. He said that Indian unicorns and startups are the messenger of this diversity. The Prime Minister said startups from India can easily reach other countries of the world. So "don't just keep your dreams local, make them global. Remember this mantra-let's Innovate for India, innovate from India", he exhorted the innovators.

The Prime Minister suggested many areas where the

startup ecosystem can play a major role. He said that extra space on the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan can be used for EV charging infrastructure. Similarly, areas like defence manufacturing, chip manufacturing offer many possibilities. He dwelled on the drone sector and said that many investors have been investing in drone startups after the new drone policy. Army, Navy and Air Force have given 500 crore rupee worth orders to drone startups. In urban planning, the Prime Minister touched upon "walk to work concepts", integrated industrial estates and smart mobility potential areas.

The Prime Minister remarked that the millennials today are the cornerstone of both the prosperity of their families and the self-reliance of the nation. "From rural economy to Industry 4.0, both our needs and our potential are limitless. Investment on research and development related to future technology is the priority of the government today", he said.

Referring to the future prospects, the Prime Minister said that as of now only half of our population is online, therefore future possibilities are immense and he appealed to the start-ups to move towards villages also. "Whether it is mobile internet, broadband connectivity or physical connectivity, aspirations of villages are rising and rural and semi-urban areas are waiting for a new wave of expansion", he said.

The Prime Minister told the startups that this is a new era of innovation i.e. ideas, industry and investment and their labor, enterprise, wealth creation and job creation should be for India. "I am standing with you, the government is with you and the entire country is standing with you", he concluded.

## BJP releases first list of candidates for UP polls, Yogi Adityanath to fight from Gorakhpur

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 15:

The BJP on Saturday announced its first list of candidates for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly election. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will contest the polls from Gorakhpur seat.

Addressing a press conference, BJP's in-charge for Uttar Pradesh Dharmendra Pradhan said for phase one, the party has listed candidates for 57 out of 58 seats while for the second phase, candidates for 48 out of 55 seats have been named.

Besides Yogi Adityanath, Pradhan said that Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya will contest from Sirathu.

There was speculation that CM Yogi Adityanath could



fight the Assembly election from Ayodhya. However, the party chose to field him from Gorakhpur, a seat from where he has won five terms in the Lok Sabha elections.

In its first list of candidates, the BJP has not given tickets to 20 sitting MLAs. Of the seven Assembly seats in Bulandshahr, the party has not given tickets to four sitting

MLAs.

Besides, the BJP has also given more than 68 per cent tickets to candidates from backward classes and women. In the first list, 44 OBC candidates, 19 from Scheduled Castes and 10 women have been named by the BJP.

Dharmendra Pradhan said that CM Yogi Adityanath has delivered on the promise of

making the state riot-free during his five-year tenure.

"Before 2017, the situation in UP was worrisome. We fought the election on goonda raj vs development. Today, the state has seen most development for the poor," Pradhan said.

Pradhan said while shelter, housing and water schemes are being delivered to the poor, money is also reaching directly into their bank accounts.

"Crime and corruption have come down in UP, all courtesy to the BJP government. Women can walk freely on the streets of UP today," he said. "Yogi ji has made UP a riot-free state," he added.

Uttar Pradesh will vote in seven phases to elect 403 MLAs between February 10 and March 7. The counting of votes will take place on March 10.

## Sports

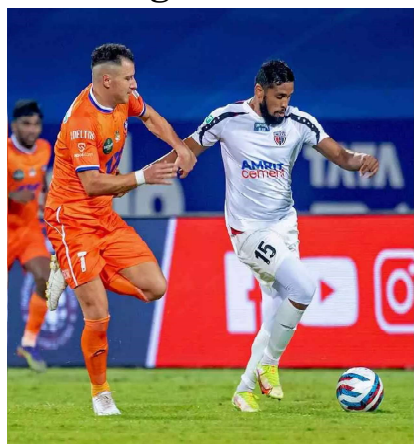
## ISL: Goa, Northeast cancel each other out in a tight contest

Agency  
Bambolim, Jan 15:

Hernan Santana's delightful free-kick failed to hand NorthEast United FC a win as they were held to a 1-1 draw by FC Goa in the Indian Super League here on Friday. Santana curled in a superb free-kick in just the second minute of the game but Airan Cabrera's goal in the 39th minute helped Goa draw level.

There were no goals in the second half, meaning Goa moved up a rung to eighth place having 13 points from 11 games while NorthEast United remained 10th with nine points from 11 games. NorthEast United were off to a flying start courtesy of Santana's individual brilliance. The 31-year-old Spaniard curled in a delectable free-kick at the near post leaving Dheeraj Moirangthem with no chance as the ball pinged in off the crossbar.

It was a frantic start to the game and just the early push NorthEast United needed. Goa tried to settle down by playing more passes in midfield but NorthEast were not ready to rest on the slender lead as Deshorn Brown missed the target after beating two de-



fenders. Goa relied on the excellent Jorge Ortiz to deliver the goods and the Spaniard got past Provat Lakra to send a teasing ball inside the box but Mirshad Michu was alert to avert the danger at the right time.

NorthEast looked in fine touch when Brown and Suhair Vadakkepedika combined for the latter to see his effort deflect off a few Goa shirts for a corner. Goa slowly started growing into the game and got the equaliser moments before

the half time whistle when Cabrera nodded in an Alberto Noguera corner with no one marking him.

In the second period, Goa looked the more threatening side with Ortiz and Cabrera combining brilliantly to keep NorthEast United defence on tenterhooks. There were chances few and far between for the Highlanders and Goa could not make the most of their attacking display as they had to share the spoils in the end with their rivals.

## Hockey India announces core probable group for women's team

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 15:

Hockey India on Friday announced a new-look core probable group for the senior women's team which will play in many major international tournaments this year.

The group was selected following selection trials held in Sports Authority of India, Bengaluru for a group of 60 who were called in on the basis of their performances in various national level events.

"It is time for us to start

afresh and plan for the future. We have grown over the past year with our experiences in Tokyo and we must continue to develop, and grow in the coming years, ahead of Paris 2024," India women's team chief coach Janneke Schopman said in a release issued by Hockey India.

While an 18-member Indian team, led by Savita, will be travelling to Muscat for the upcoming women's hockey Asia Cup, the remaining players from the core group will stay on at the camp and continue

to train for the FIH Hockey Pro League matches to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, next month.

"The upcoming camp is important for us to recognise the players who are ready to showcase their skills on the biggest stages, and also to work on the areas where we need to improve upon," Schopman said.

List of players: Savita, Rajani Etimaray, Bichu Devi Kharbam, Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary,

Suman Devi Thoudam, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Mahima Chaudhary, Rashmita Minz, Nisha, Salima Tete, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Namita Toppo, Mariana Kujur, Sonika, Neha, Baljeet Kaur, Upasana Singh, Lalremisiami, Navneet Kaur, Rajwinder Kaur, Vandana Kataria, Sharmila Devi, Deepika, Sangita Kumari, Preeti Dubey, Aishwarya Rajesh Chavan

In Rehabilitation Camp: Rani, Reena Khokhar, Manpreet Kaur.

## PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen enter semi-final of India Open 2022

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 15:

Two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu and world championship bronze medalist Lakshya Sen registered contrasting wins to advance to the women's and men's singles semifinals, respectively, at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament here on Friday.

Top seed Sindhu, a former world champion, got the better of compatriot Ashmita Chaliha 21-7 21-18 in 36 minutes, while Sen rallied his way to a hard-fought 14-21 21-9 21-14 victory over H S Prannoy in another all-

Indian quarterfinal.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad set up a women's singles last-four clash with Thailand's sixth seed Supanida Katethong, who entered the semifinals after the third seeded Yeo Jia Min of Singapore pulled out of the tournament due to "high fever".

Sen, seeded third, will square off against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong in the semifinals.

In the other women's semifinal, Aakrushi Kashyap will face second seeded Thai Busanan Ongbamrungphan after the Indian notched up a 21-12 21-15 win over compatriot Malvika Bansod

on Friday. Busanan trounced USA's Lauren Lam 21-12 21-8 in another last-eight clash. Second seeded men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also entered the semifinals with a 21-18 21-18 win over Singapore's Hee Yong Kai Terry and Loh Kean Hean.

Haritha Manazhiyil Harinarayan and Ashna Roy also made it to the last four in women's doubles after beating Rudrani Jaiswal and Jamaludeen Anees Kowsar 21-16 21-16 in the quarterfinals. The last time Sindhu was up against Chaliha, at the 83rd Yonex-Sunrise Senior National Championship in 2019,

the youngster from Assam had produced a spirited performance.

On Friday, Chaliha took time to get into the groove and put up a good fight in the second game but couldn't stop Sindhu from walking away with the match.

Sindhu came out all guns blazing in the opening game, jumping to a 11-5 lead at the interval and then reeled off the last 10 points to earn the bragging rights. Chaliha gave a better account of herself in the second game as she tied 9-9 before Sindhu managed a slender one-point advantage at the break.