

In Manipur No families of Covid Victims dare to challenge complicity for applying ex-gratia

In Bihar and AP, SC summons the CSs

IT News
Imphal, Jan 19:

Various sources with the Imphal Times has informed that many kiths and kin of Covid-19 victims were facing problems in filling form to get ex-gratia or compensation announced by the government of India as a series of procedures have to be followed – like submitting of documents to prove that the cause of death is Covid-19. Rs. 50,000/- each has been announced to the next kin of the Covid-19 victim however, some of

them have to run here and there to collect the documents and some who failed to collect the Covid-19 test report and the death certificate mentioning the cause of death Covid-19 due some reason are not in the position to apply for the compensation. The total Covid-19 casualty as per the government report on January 18 is 2015. Though the state authorities (health department/ IDSP) have reported about the death as caused by Covid-19, the victim's family are asked to submit all documents (to

prove the cause of death due to Covid-19).

The issue has been reported on Imphal Times on January 17 issue. Non dare to challenge the lengthy and complicated nature of filling form for the compensation for reason best known to them.

However, the good news is that the Supreme Court of India today issued summons to the Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar and sought their personal presence over the alleged non-payment of compensation to the Kith and kin of

those who succumbed to Covid-19.

As per a news agency report, a bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice M.R. Shah said that the state authorities are not above the law.

"They are to remain present at 2 pm", the apex court directed.

The court issued the order after hearing a plea filed by a lawyer, Gaurav Bansal, relating to the non-payment of ex-gratia of Rs. 4 lakhs to the families of those who succumbed to Covid-19 and post-Covid complicity.

Bomb thrown into house at Arapti, no one injured

IT News
Imphal, Jan 19:

In the continuing pre-poll violence in Manipur, a bomb was hurled into the house of one K. Loken at Arapti village in the Keirao Assembly constituency in Imphal east district around 2.30 a.m. on Wednesday, police reports said.

The bomb fell inside the bedroom of Loken's boy who escaped unhurt but the explosion caused damage to some household items.

Police have registered a case and investigation is under way. No arrest has been made so far.

Meanwhile, women in the Heirok constituency in the Thoubal district are protesting against the "police inaction" relating to the shooting to death of a college student in front of his parents. They have been staging sit-in protest and taking demonstrations to enter the police station. Under pressure from the public six persons had surrendered to the police. One of the surrendered youth is a younger brother of the sitting BJP MLA of the constituency. The women activists said that the police had not recovered even the murder weapon. They are also demanding the closure of the police station saying that the villagers would do the work of the police.

Thongam Sajou Memorial Charitable Trust honours eminent cultural activists

IT News
Imphal, Jan 19:

Thongam Sajou Memorial Charitable Trust today honours various eminent cultural activists in recognition of their contribution to society at a function held at Ningomthongjao, Imphal East. The Thongam Sajou memorial Charitable Trust, a Trust established in memory of the grandfather of Works Minister Thongam Biswajit has been rendering charitable service to the people since 2012 and under the trust various children have been given financial support for getting proper education. Priority were given to the persons with disabilities and those widows who had find difficulties in giving financial support to their children in getting education. From time to time the Trust has been extending support to eminent sports persons as well. This time considering the importance of the eminent national awardees and cultural activists in the state of Manipur, the Trust have decided to give some support as a mark of respect to them.

Works minister Biswajit who was present their while speaking on the occasion mention nothing about election but his speech focus more on the



life and aspiration of the eminent personalities in various field particularly those in the field of arts and culture.

"As my father is weak and could not present the award to the eminent personalities I have to present it", Biswajit said. He recounted on the life of his grandfather late Thongam Sajou.

"My grandfather was a "Pangkot", he spent a religious life and I always help him preparing his food. During those days my grandfather dream of a peaceful and harmonious developed society and with mission to fulfill his dream we the children and relatives established the trust in his name to contrib-

ute something to the society as per his desire.

As many as 200 eminent persons in various field of arts and culture including national awardees from various part of the state have been honoured with a citation and a sum of Rs. 5000/- by the trust. The award will be given every year and the money may increase from time to time.

"The Trustee had already plan this earlier but due to the Covid-19 pandemic we could not launched, however as there is a little relieved with the surge in the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trustee decided to honour the awardees and eminent activists today.

Namesake constructions irk locals (Part-1)

Water reservoir tank constructed at Lamshang Assembly constituency remain unused even after completion of 2 years



Water reservoir tank at Laikangbam Leirak Ward No. 2

IT News
Imphal, Jan 19:

A water reservoir tank constructed two years ago at Laikangbam Leirak near Lamshang Thong Maning of Lamshang Assembly constituency remains unused till today. Locals said they don't understand why and who has constructed it and for what reason.

On investigation by the Imphal Times representatives, it has been found that the water reservoir was constructed at the cost of Rs. 1,74,598/- as a part of the development programme by the then

Lamshang Nagar Panchayat during 1st February 2016 to October 31, 2020.

As per information received from the Caretaker Chairperson of the Lamshang Municipal Council, as many as 12 various developmental works were taken up during the said period and all amounts has been already released.

The so called water reservoir constructed at Laikangbam Leirak near Lamshang Thong Maning (Ward No. 2) is 7 feet 3 inches wide and 7 feet 7 inches bread and 4.5 depth and cover by GI sheet. A local said that the res-

ervoir was completed in 2018 and is still not providing water to the villagers as it has no water. There is no source of water for the water tank neither the authority has arranged and thus it remains useless to the villagers. They also expressed skepticism on the cost of Rs. 1,74,598/- for the construction.

On physical verification Imphal Times representatives along with subject experts, it was found that construction of the water tank may not cost more than Rs. 35,000/- (as per market price of bricks, cement, and sands in addition with the labour charges).

Two UKLA cadres nabbed in Kangpokpi

IT News
Imphal, Jan 19:

Manipur police arrested two active cadres of United Kuki Liberation Army (UKLA) while trying to flee after seeing the police in Kangpokpi district on Tuesday.

"Based on specific inputs about the presence of Underground cadres intending to extort money from trucks plying along National Highway 2 (Imphal-Dimapur highway) and the shops around the area, the Kangpokpi police team rushed to the area near

Changoumbung village," says SP Amrita Sinha of Kangpokpi district said today.

"The two individuals were seen running away from the spot seeing the police teams, they were chased and apprehended."

The arrested persons have been identified as Seithang Kilong (46) of Kangchup Makhom and Satgoulen Haokip (29) of Kotlen village.

During questioning after the arrest, the duo revealed that they are active members of UKLA and have

extorted money from three trucks on the same day under the command of one Davidson Haokip of Moreh, SP Amrita said.

The Kangpokpi police team recovered a Transport receipt book, three mobile phones, one black Dio Scooty bearing registration number MN01U-4664, Rs 7,100 in cash and one black airbag from their possession.

An FIR has been registered in connection with the incident and further investigation is on, Kangpokpi SP added.

PREPAK warns people from observing 50 years of statehood day (1)

IT News
Imphal, Jan 19:

Proscribed group PREPAK has warned the people of Kangleipak from attending the 50 years of statehood day observation of Manipur stating that such observance is nothing but to trap the people of Kangleipak in the Indianization process.

A statement of the PREPAK issued by Leibaak Ngaakpa Luwang, Charge de' Affairs, Publicity and propaganda, said that Kangleipak was never a part

of India but was forcibly annexed by keeping the nominal King of the Kangleipak Maharaj Bodhachandra at Shillong.

Kangleipak became a centrally administered area by abolishing Kangleipak National Assembly and Kangleipak Popular Government via an order dated October 15, 1949, after the signing of the Merger Agreement on September 21, 1949.

Kangleipak was treated as a Part C State as per The Union Territories (Laws) Act, 1950 and Indian laws were en-

forced upon the State, the outfit maintained adding that the State was again given a status of a Union Territory after the setting up of Kangleipak Territorial Council in 1956.

Kangleipak was declared as the 19th State by the Indian Union on January 21, 1972.

After amending the first schedule of the Indian Constitution, Kangleipak was treated as an entity which existed as a province of a Chief Commissioner appointed by the Centre before the adop-

tion of the Indian Constitution, Leibaak Ngaakpa Luwang continued and asserted that India failed to recognise that Kangleipak was a sovereign kingdom before the signing of the Merger Agreement.

Kangleipak was given Statehood to exterminate the indigenous people, alleged the outfit further.

Maintaining that annexing a State or a country is against International laws, Leibaak Ngaakpa Luwang asserted that Kangleipak is not a State of this country but a territory occupied by India.

Conrad Sagma re-elected president of National Peoples' Party

Agency
Shillong, Jan 19:

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma was on Tuesday elected unopposed as national president of National Peoples' Party, which also re-elected Thomas A. Sangma as its general secretary, the party said.

"There was no contestant for both posts. Votes are not cast. The returning officer declared the candidates as elected unopposed," party election returning officer Abhaya Kashyap said.

Quizzed on the party's position on the re-election of a



rape accused MLA as its general secretary, Kashyap said, "A person is not guilty till the court finds him so. I will not comment. That is not the mandate of this forum."

Thomas, a former Rajya Sabha MP, was accused of raping a woman here on different occasions in June last year and an FIR was lodged in this regard.

Stress, uncertainty force youths to switch jobs

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



The world is changing, so are the ways of working, thinking and behaviour of the workforce. There is a change in the pattern that has been going on for years. Be it the growing trend of work from

home (WFH) or the problem of maintaining a proper balance between home and work life, people are getting confused in working in the traditional style. In search of a better future, relatively new age employees with less experience are more likely to consider switching jobs frequently this year. Such a trend has come to the fore in a recent job survey conducted by LinkedIn India. The recently released report predicts that in the year 2022, around 82 per cent of the workforce is considering changing their present job. Most of them are employees who have hardly one or two years of working experience. Let me tell you that LinkedIn is a work oriented social media site that mainly focus on employment and career related issues and both job providers and job seekers are active on this website. Recently LinkedIn India has also launched its Hindi service, so that more and more Indian professionals can connect on this site.

This job change trend has come to the fore at a time when the country is once again in the grip of the third wave of Covid 19 pandemic. Not only this, recently the unemployment rate has also shown the growing trend. According to the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate in the country stood at 7.9 per cent in December 2021, compared to 7 per cent in November. The organisation also says that the unemployment rate in urban areas reached 9.3 per cent in December. LinkedIn's survey is based on the views of more than a thousand people in India. Social media is proving to be a good option for the youth to search for new jobs. It is estimated that more than 80 per cent of employers search for employees on social media. According to a report by Jobcast, 93 per cent of employers use LinkedIn for recruitments. Similarly, 66 per cent of employers use Facebook, and 54 per cent use Twitter.

When it comes to job seekers, only 36 per cent of people are on LinkedIn, 40 per cent are on Twitter, and 83 per cent are on Facebook. Through social media, such people easily get jobs, whose social profile looks good, as well as whose case has been referred to by many people. Job seekers should post their social media thoughtfully. The LinkedIn survey shows that 30 per cent of people are leaving their current jobs due to lack of balance between work and life, 28 per cent feel that they are not getting proper salary, while 23 per cent are looking for a better career. Actually employees are seeking more flexibility in working hours and days. Apart from this, the desire for a good salary is paramount. Another factor that is increasing stress among employees is distance from family, growing health concerns and uncertainty about the future. This has had a profound impact on the mental health of the people in recent times. Covid pandemic will change the world in many ways.

In 16th century, Venice formulae for solving equations were closely guarded intellectual property. Of particular interest to ballistics and fortifications, expert **Niccolo Tartaglia** pointed out quadratic and cubic equations which model the behavior of projectiles in flight amongst other things. These may well ring a bell with you to form the school math-quadratic equations having an x^2 term in them and Cubic's an x^3 term. Tartaglia and other mathematicians noticed that some solutions required the square root of negative numbers and herein lies a problem. Negative numbers do not have square roots- there is no number that when multiplied by itself gives a negative number. This is because negative numbers when multiplied together yield a positive result like $(-2) \times (-2) = 4$ not -4 . Tartaglia and his rival, **Girolamo Cardano**, observed that if they allowed negative square root in their calculations, they could still give valid numerical answers (real number as mathematicians call them). Tartaglia learned this the hard way when he was beaten by one of Cardano's student in a month-long equation-solving duel in 1530. Mathematicians use i to represent the square root of minus one. This is called imaginary unit- it is not a real number, does not exist in real life. We can use it to find the square root of negative numbers though. This means that the square root of -4 is the square root of 4 multiplied by the square root of -1 . In symbol $\sqrt{-4} = \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{-1}$. The square root of 4 is 2 and square root of -1 is i , giving square root of -4 as $2i$ and $-2i$. The arithmetic of i itself initially posed an obstacle for mathematicians. With the imaginary unit, this seems to break down, with two posi-

tives multiplying to give a negative number. i.e. $2i \times -2i = -1$. Equally, here two negatives multiply to give a negative i.e. $-4 \times -1 = -1$. This was a problem for some time and made some people feel that using them in formal mathematics was not rigorous. The work of mathematicians on imaginary numbers allowed the development of what is now called the fundamental Theorem of algebra. In basic terms, the number of solutions to an equation is always equal to the highest power of the unknown in the equation.

According to the University of Toronto, there are a variety of uses for imaginary numbers in the real world, most notably in the field of electrical engineering and measuring natural phenomena. An electromagnetic field, for example, requires imaginary numbers to measure because the strength of the field is determined by both electrical and magnetic components that must be combined into a single complex imaginary number to get an accurate measurement. According to Drexel University, imaginary numbers are further used when measuring phenomena that occurs in nature such as disruption created when water flows around an object. Imaginary numbers are quite useful in many situations where more than one force is acting simultaneously and the combined output of these forces needs to be measured. These forces can be measured using imaginary number makes getting an accurate measurement much easier.

Imaginary numbers have long been used in the most important equation of quantum mechanics. A field of physics that describes a very small world. When you add an imaginary number to a real number, the two

together form complex number allowing physics to write out quantum equations in simple terms. But whether quantum theory requires these mathematical chimeras or simply uses them as a convenient shortcut has long been controversial. In fact, even the founders of quantum mechanics thought the implications of including complex numbers in equations were disturbing. In a letter to his friend **Hendrik Lorentz**, physicist **Erwin Schrödinger** was the first person to introduce complex number into quantum theory using the quantum wave function Ψ (sigh). Schrödinger found a way to represent an equation with real numbers only, along with a set of additional rules about how to use equation. Later physicists did the same in other parts of quantum field theory. However the question remains if there is no solid experimental evidence governing the prediction of these "all real" equations. Is imaginary a simplification of option or does trying to work without imaginary losing the quantum theory of the ability to describe reality?

Another popular idea of imaginary number is the Fourier Transform, which states that any function can be made up of a lot of sine and cosine functions added up. This is particularly used in messy signals since they could be broken up into the frequencies that they are composed of, which can then be analyzed and manipulated. In the real world, this is helpful for audio processing, speech recognition, radar etc. The equation for Fourier Transform involved calculus but it is based on imaginary numbers. Imaginary numbers have prevalence in other areas as well. One of the ideas is in quantum mechanics

as discussed above. When studying this alongside, other ideas you can see the prevalence of imaginary number in math. Additionally when dealing with control theory in engineering, graphs are used to portray the stability of system and how certain parameters change with respect to individual components of the control system. These types of systems are found in rockets, fighter jets, robots, autonomous vehicle and more. It is important to understand that you can not necessarily respect imaginary number in the real world. For instance you cannot just have $5i$ pounds of cheese or $3i$ grams of sugar. Overall imaginary number helps simply the math for dealing with real world and has a variety of useful applications.

The result of study by researchers on imaginary number suggest that the possible ways we can explain the universe in mathematics are actually much more controversial than we thought. By just observing what comes out of some experiments, we can rule out many potential explanations without making any assumptions on the reliability of the physical device used in the experiment. In the future, physicists may need a small number of experiments built from first principles to reach complete quantum theory. In addition to this, researchers also said that their experimental set up, a rudimentary quantum network, may help outline the principles at which future quantum internet may work. Thank goodness that mathematicians from 500 years ago to the present day, decided that imaginary numbers were worth investigating after all.

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How women cadets benefit the army

By: Sunanda Mehta

The first batch of women officers was inducted into the Indian Army in non-medical roles via the Short Service Commission in 1992. It has taken 30 years for that tentative step to translate into a firm foothold and give the women of this country their rightful place in the defence services of India.

Last year, the Supreme Court threw open the hallowed portals of the National Defence Academy for women to compete for the seats and subsequent permanent commission in the Indian army in any corps they desire, including the combat ones. Something to truly celebrate on January 15, Army Day, this year. The move promises to change the composition of this arm of the defence force not just quantitatively, but also qualitatively — both dire requirements of the force at present.

The number of women officers in the force has remained dismally low all these three decades. This is despite women being inducted as permanent commissioned officers in the legal and education corps since 2008 and as permanent commissioned officers in eight more non-combatative corps in 2020: As recent as 2020, women officers in the Indian army (excluding the medical corps) numbered just about three per cent. Compare this to 16 per cent in the US, 15 per cent in France and 10 per cent in both Russia and the UK. Hopefully, the SC order would turn out to be a game-changer.

For starters this may effectively address the long-standing shortage of officers in the Indian army in general. In response to a question in Rajya Sabha a month ago, the Minister of State for Defence said the Army has a shortage of 7,476 officers. One of the reasons for the shortage is a fall in the number of capable youngsters opting



for the career. Unlike before, when sons of defence officers tended to opt for the services, the last few decades have seen them gravitating towards careers in the corporate world.

But now with the daughters offered a permanent commission in the Army, especially in the combat corps, there is every possibility of them looking at this as a more challenging and fulfilling career. This could also bring back to the Army the legacy it always boasted of — families with generations enlisted into the armed forces. That it would be the daughters carrying forward this torch may also help confront the chauvinism, often misspelt as chivalry, that indisputably exists in the Army.

A few years ago, I interviewed a high-ranking officer who not just candidly displayed his misgivings about women joining the Army in combat roles. He also admitted he had once deliberately manoeuvred a situation whereby a male officer and a female officer did not have to spend a night at a base camp by themselves due to the breakdown of their vehicle. It did not matter to him that when the lady officer learnt of this later, she took strong objection to the manipulation as it reflected the senior's lack of trust

in her. He attributed it to the ethos he had been used to in the Army.

When in February 2020, the Supreme Court decreed that women officers should get command positions on par with male officers, it also effectively dismissed the military's "operational, practical and cultural problems". The SC went on to say that denying women commands based on the above argument was discriminatory and reinforced stereotypes.

Nevertheless, the reality is that as women get ready to stride into the combat corps, they may need to combat attitudinal hurdles.

A ray of light here though comes from the words of the Army chief. General MM Naravane, on reviewing the army parade at NDA recently, hailed the decision as a major step towards gender equality in the army. He also quipped that he expected the girl candidates to outshine the boys. His final words at the parade: "At least 40 years down the line, they will be standing where I am standing."

While none of us are sure whether we would be around 40 years from now, I, as an inveterate army kid, am quite happy to see the NDA passing-out parade just four years down the line with a bunch of combat-ready lady cadets standing alongside the gentlemen cadets, with a sparkle in their eyes, spring in their steps and well-earned pips on their shoulders.

Employment protection with new technology

According to all global estimates, India has become the fastest growing economy in the world. Global advisory body Price WaterhouseCoopers has said that in the year 2050, India can become the world's No. 2 economy after China if economic reforms are implemented. Global institutions in general are under pressure to implement reforms such as GST, infrastructure, free movement of capital and free trade. It is worth noting that despite implementing these reforms, our economic growth rate has been falling continuously in the last six years. So it is true that we have to change the economic policies. But it is not right that with the help of these economic reforms we will be able to move forward. Here it should not be confused with the paradox of world's fastest growing economy and declining economic growth rate since our so-called fast growth rate is like a king in the blind.

The truth is that the decline in our economic growth rate cannot be controlled only on the strength of economic policies. The biggest challenge in the current global economy is to adjust to the new technologies. Professor Matthew Johnson of St Stephen's University Canada has said that by the year 2035, 50 percent of jobs will be lost because these tasks will be done by robots. This situation is particularly difficult for India as a large number of youth are entering our labor market. If they do not get proper opportunities to earn income, they will become frustrated and indulge in criminal activities. A professor from Aurangabad Maharashtra said that his MA degree students are indulging in criminal incidents like ATM breaking as they do not have employment. On the other hand, food is being served by a robot in a restaurant in Kerala and our own metro train is run without a driver. So we have two conflicting moves before us. On one hand employment is being lost due to the use of new technologies and on the other hand a large number of youth are entering the labor market.



By: Vijay Garg

This problem has been compounded by our policies, which have asked small entrepreneurs to stand in direct competition with large enterprises. The cost of production of large industries is low. For example, a large pharmaceutical company will import raw materials from China, bring containers from Brazil and import electronic equipment from Germany. They will have good quality engineers. Production on a large scale also costs less, as it costs more to extract oil from the ghani while the cost of expeller is less. Therefore, by promoting big industries, we are definitely producing cheap goods, but employment is being lost in it. The biggest challenge not only in front of us but in front of the world is to provide employment to the youth in this changing technological scenario.

International consulting firm Arthur de Little and Bank of America have said that local production should be encouraged and small industries should be supported. But the incentive will not be enough. The reason is that the cost of production of the small entrepreneur will be high. They have to buy raw materials in small quantities from local suppliers, install electronic equipment of inferior quality, and have to look after production, banks, accounts, workers, etc. Their efficiency in all these tasks is less than that of big companies. Efforts are being made by the Government of India to solve this problem by creating clusters of small industries. A committee during the Manmohan Singh government had

said that small industries should be clustered at special places like brassware in Moradabad and hosiery in Ludhiana so that they could be able to compete with big industries. Many of these tasks can be done collectively, such as testing the quality of raw materials or installing pollution control equipment collectively, etc. But despite this policy, small industries are getting beaten up in our country and the problem of employment is getting deeper. Therefore, instead of doing only air talk of support, we have to understand that if small industries have to survive then they will have to give financial support.

We have to accept that the cost of goods manufactured by small scale industries will be high. For example, a t-shirt made in a big industry can be available for Rs 200, then by a small industry for Rs 250. This higher price will have to be borne by the consumers. The t-shirt which we can get from a big company for Rs 200 will have to be bought by the consumer from small industries for Rs 250. The question is why to do this? I believe that we should consider this additional expenditure of Rs 50 as 'Employment Tax'.

There are two paths before us. If we get production from big industries, then unemployment will increase, crime will increase, unemployment allowance will have to be given and crime will also reduce economic development. If the value of these unemployment allowances and crime control is given in the form of financial assistance to small industries, then small industries will run, employment will be generated by them and the government will not need to spend these.

The question is also that if the cost of production of t-shirt in our country is Rs 250 then how will we export to the global market? The solution is to allow cheap production by big industries for a particular export, but for the domestic market, production should be made from small industries only. By doing this we can robotically produce for the global market and laboriously produce for the domestic market. We can achieve both objectives.

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Use of PM's photo, tricolour in PM-Cares as per law, says PMO

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 19:

There is no restriction on the use of the Prime Minister's photo as well as the image of the national flag and emblem for the PM CARES Fund, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) told the Bombay high court on Tuesday.

In an affidavit filed before a division bench of chief justice Dipankar Datta and justice MS Karnik, PMO under-secretary Pradeep Kumar Srivastava said the use of the national flag and national emblem in the PM CARES Fund is in conformity with the usage allowed by the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and Rules made under the enactment. The affidavit also said that the Prime Minister's photograph, name and national emblem were also used in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

The affidavit was filed in response to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Congress's councillor in Thane Municipal Corporation Vikrant

Chavan, seeking deletion of the prime minister's name and photograph from the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund. Claiming that PM CARES Fund was created as a non-government Trust and as amounts collected by it does not go to the Consolidated Fund of India, the petition sought directions for removal of the image of the national flag and emblem from the name of the Trust and its web portal.

The PIL further stated that as the Trust was a private entity the use of the name and picture of the prime minister, flag and emblem violate the laws and rules governing the said symbols.

The PMO affidavit said, "PM CARES fund and Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) are both chaired by the Prime Minister. As the name, photograph of the Prime Minister and National Emblem are being used for the PMNRF, they are also being used for the PM CARES Fund."

"Flag Code of India, 2002,

which brings together all laws, conventions, practices and instructions regarding display of National Flag provided that there cannot restriction on display of National Flag by members of general public, private organizations, educational institutions etc, except to extend provided in the Emblems and Names Act, 1950," the affidavit added.

Advocate Sagar Joshi, appearing for the petitioner, had informed the court that as per the Trust Deed, which was executed on March 27, 2020, the PM was the chairperson and all trustees, including Union ministers, were appointed in their personal capacity but the trust did not discharge any sovereign functions.

The bench was informed that the trust has collected over '3,000 crore for relief work using the name and photograph of the prime minister, national flag and emblem thus flouting the relevant laws and rules governing such national signs and symbols.

The bench had then directed additional solicitor gen-

eral Anil Singh for the Union government to file an affidavit in reply to the petition.

On Tuesday, the PMO in its affidavit denied the claims of the petitioner and challenged the correctness of the contentions.

The affidavit said the prime minister is chairperson (ex-officio) of the PM CARES Fund and various ministers are ex-officio trustees of the fund and all of them are in pro bono capacity. The composition of the Board of Trustees consisting of holders of public office ex officio is merely for administrative convenience and for smooth succession of trusteeship.

Srivastava has concluded the affidavit stating that the petitioner approached HC without exhausting the administrative remedies available under the concerned laws and rules and hence the petition deserves to be dismissed.

After perusing the affidavit, the bench granted 15-day time for the petitioner to file a rejoinder and posted further hearing after three weeks.

SF recover Arms and Ammunition in Churachandpur



IT News
Imphal, Jan 19:

Churachandpur Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) of Spear Corps in a joint operation with Manipur Police recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from Chinglangmei village,

Churachandpur district yesterday.

Based on specific inputs, security forces along with Manipur Police launched the search operation which led to the recovery of cache which included one 7.62 mm SLR Rifle, one 7.62 mm M-16 Rifle, one 7.62 mm Modified

Rifle, one Handheld ICOM radio set with charger, two 7.62 mm SLR magazine, one Chinese hand grenade and 15 live rounds of different calibres.

The recovered arms and ammunition were handed over to Kumbi Police Station for further legal action.

Assam Rifles foils Terrorist Strike

IT News
Imphal, Jan 19:

Joupi and Phundrei Battalions of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police foiled a major terrorist attack by recovering an Improvised explosive

device (IED) near Kuljang village in Chandel district on January 17.

Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to timely identification and disarming of the IED by the bomb disposal squad. The IED was

meant to target the movement of local populace as well as the Security Forces along the Sugnu - Joupi road.

After sanitisation of the area, the recovered IED was destroyed on the spot itself for ensuring security in the area and prevention of any loss to life or property.

Goa Elections 2022: Amit Palekar is Aam Aadmi Party's CM candidate, confirms AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal

Agency
Panaji, Jan 19:

Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday declared Amit Palekar as the party's chief ministerial candidate for the upcoming Goa Assembly elections.

"I am guaranteeing you a corruption-free Goa. We will get back Goa's lost glory, a Goa everyone dreamt of. I will keep every word that I have said and that is my guaranty," Palekar said on Wednesday.

Furthermore, the Aam Aadmi Party will contest on all 40 Assembly seats in Goa against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, the Congress, the Trinamool Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party-Shiv Sena alliance.

"There is a wave of change in Goa, Aam Aadmi Party has now settled in the hearts of the people of Goa. There is no place for corrupts and



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with Amit Palekar

'Jumlebaaz' in Goa. We will make Goa better for everyone," Palekar had said in a post on social media platform Twitter on January 1.

Kejriwal on Sunday conducted door-to-door campaigns in the poll-bound state's Cortalim village along with other AAP members, where he was seen interacting with voters and distributing pamphlets.

"People are very excited to vote for Aam Aadmi Party, as they require a change and are tired of the other two parties (Congress and BJP). They have also heard about the work our party has done in Delhi," Kejriwal had told news agency ANI.

Assembly elections in Goa will be conducted on February 14, while the counting of votes

will be done on March 10.

The Aam Aadmi Party has listed out a 13-point agenda for Goa if it comes to power, in the areas of education, health, trade and industry, livelihood, mining and infrastructure.

AAP has also proposed employment or 'unemployment allowances' of Rs 3,000 per month to people of Goa, along with the assurance of land rights to those families who have been left out.

"Employment will be provided to youth; those who do not get, they will get the aid of Rs 3,000 per month. Mining has huge vested interest, we will start mining within six months of coming into power... we will provide a corruption-free government in Goa. Just like Delhi, Mohalla Clinics and hospitals will be opened in every village and district of Goa, for better and free healthcare. Farming issues will be solved after discussing with the farmer community," Kejriwal had said.

44 Assam Rifles inaugurates Prerna Sthal at Tamenglong



IT News
Imphal, Jan 19:

To inspire and motivate the youth from Zeliad region to join Indian Army/ Assam Rifles as a profession an inspirational wall as Prerna Sthal was conceptualised at Tamenglong by 44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ 22 Sector AR/ IGAR (East) and constructed next to Helipad.

The structure is a rectangular shaped wall with conical green lawns. The outer flower beds depicting the confluence of three state boundary within the district are the edges of the lawn. The flowering plants

planted here were collected from various parts of the district. The central arena has a rectangular wall with the names and description of unit gallantry award winners with a flower bed in front of it. This rectangular flower bed as Shaurya Chakra with blooming flowers depicts the heroism, constructive energy, will, grit & courage of the youth of the area. The conical shaped green lawn as Sankalp Chakra depicts the limit of professional growth as you join the service. This lawn shall inspire and motivate the youth to join Indian Army as a profession.

The waiting area has basic facilities for passengers to wait

for boarding/ de-boarding the helicopter. This facility was inaugurated yesterday as a New Year gift to the locals of Tamenglong by IGAR (East). He dedicated this lawn to the grit, dedication and courage of the people from Tamenglong district. There is a provision of lighting up this waiting area in the evening. This facility shall not only ease the passengers waiting time but, shall enhance the safety of passengers and vehicles around the helipad. This is another step towards ensuring safety of helipad for safe journey by passengers from 44 Assam Rifles Helipad, Tamenglong.

3 Navy Sailors Killed in Explosion Onboard Destroyer at Mumbai Dockyard

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 19:

Three naval personnel died of injuries caused by an explosion on board Indian Navy's destroyer ship INS Ranvir. "In an unfortunate incident today at Naval Dockyard Mumbai, three naval personnel succumbed to injuries caused by an explosion in an internal compartment onboard INS Ranvir," a Defence Ministry release said. No major material damage has been reported, it added.

Sources say the explosion occurred around 4:30 pm and had nothing to do with weapons or ammunition explosion. A board of inquiry has been ordered to investigate the



AK SINGH MCPO II, KRISHAN KUMAR MCPO I, SURINDER KUMAR MCPO II

cause. "The ship's crew responded immediately and quickly brought the situation under control," the release said.

In a statement, the Indian Navy said it extends condolences to the families of Mas-

ter Chief Petty Officer I (MCPO) Krishan Kumar, Surinder Kumar MCPO II and AK Singh MCPO II, who died due to injuries caused by the unfortunate incident onboard INS Ranvir. "We fully stand by with the families in this difficult time."

INS Ranvir was on cross-coast operational deployment from the Eastern Naval Command since November 2021 and was due to return to base port shortly.

NS Ranvir, the first of the Ranvir class destroyers, was commissioned into the Indian navy on April 21, 1986. The ships were built in the former Soviet Union. The role of Ranvir class ships involves protection such as anti-aircraft and anti-submarine warfare for carrier task force defense against submarines, low-flying aircraft, and cruise missiles.

The current Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar has commanded the ship earlier in his career.

Tripura logs record 1,385 new COVID-19 cases, 4 fresh fatalities

Agency
Agartala, Jan 19:

Tripura registered its biggest single-day spike in COVID-19 cases as 1,385 more people tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said.

Four more patients have succumbed to the infection, taking the state's toll in the last four days to 12.

West district registered the

highest number of new cases at 610, followed by 145 in Unakoti, it said.

The positivity rate stood at 14.86 per cent as 9,321 samples were tested, it added.

A total of 492 patients recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours.

"We are sorry to note that COVID appropriate behaviour protocol is often ignored in public places. If people don't

respect the guidelines, the situation will turn worse by next month," COVID surveillance officer Deep Debbarma told reporters.

Meanwhile, due to the surge in coronavirus cases, the state government increased the night curfew duration by one hour to 8 PM to 5 AM from the previous 9 PM to 5 AM, state Information Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said.

India logs 2,82,970 new COVID-19 cases, active cases at 18,31,000

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 19:

With 2,82,970 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 3,79,01,241, which includes 8,961 cases of the Omicron variant, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The active cases have increased to 18,31,000, the highest in 232 days. The active cases stood at 18,95,520 on May 31 last year.

The death toll has climbed to 4,87,202 with 441 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

There has been an 0.79 per cent increase in Omicron cases since Tuesday, the ministry said.

Experts said it is not possible to undertake genome sequencing of each and every sample but stressed that the current wave is largely being driven by the Omicron variant.

The active cases comprise



4.83 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has decreased to 93.88 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of 44,952 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 15.13 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 15.53 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who

have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,55,83,039, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.29 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in India so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 158.88 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 Oc-

tober 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 and three crore on June 23.

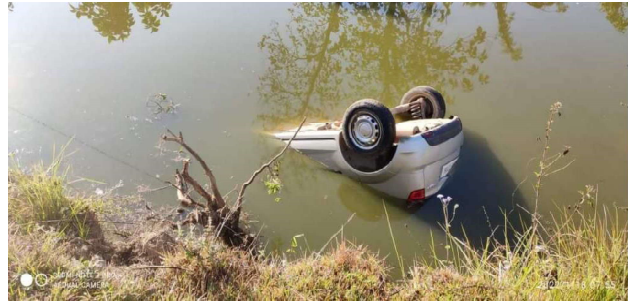
The 441 new coronavirus fatalities in India include 122 from Kerala, 53 from Maharashtra and 34 from West Bengal.

A total of 4,87,202 COVID-19 deaths in India have been reported so far in the country including 1,41,885 from Maharashtra, 51,026 from Kerala, 38,465 from Karnataka, 37,038 from Tamil Nadu, 25,425 from Delhi, 22,984 from Uttar Pradesh and 20,155 from West Bengal.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths in India 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.

3, including JCILPS convenor, die after car falls into pond



IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Jan 19:

Three people, including a JCILPS convenor, Jiribam branch as well as Ex AMSU President, Jiribam District committee drowned after the car they were travelling in fell into a pond at Kalingar, Jiribam on last night.

The victims have been identified as Yurembam Sanjiv Singh, (30), s/o Y. Romeo

Singh of Lamtaikhunou, Jakuradhor at present residing at Kalingar Part-3 ; Thongatabam Saratchandra Sharma @ Naoba (48), s/o Th. Joygopal Sharma of Kalingar Part-1 and Loutongbam Anil Singh (45), s/o (L) L. Irabot Singh of Kalingar Part-3.

As per report, the vehicle in which three of them travelling fell into a pond at the late night yesterday. People who were going on early

morning walk have seen the vehicle in the pond, after the vehicle had been pulled out from the pond, dead body of three persons were recovered from the vehicle and inquest proceedings have been completed.

Later, the bodies have been sent for post-mortem to the Jiribam Hospital.

All three were cremated after a post mortem at a government hospital.

Two days workshop held

IT News
Imphal, Jan 19:

Two days workshop under AHVY Scheme for Handicrafts Artisans at Imphal East on January 18 to 19, 2022.

The programme was organized Handicrafts Service Centre, Porompat, Imphal East District under the sponsorship of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India.

Ch. Mani Singh, Retd. Handicrafts Promotion Officer, NERO, Ministry of Textile, Govt. of India as chief guest,



Y. Jagayashwori Devi, Assistant Director (Handicrafts) as president and S. Birendra Singh, Functional Manager (KVI), O.

Brojendro Singh, State Awardee Hand Block Printing as guest of honours respectively.

Sports

ISL: Odisha FC keep playoffs hopes alive with win over NorthEast United

Agency
Fatorda, Jan 19:

Odisha FC rose to fifth place with a 2-0 victory over NorthEast United in the latest 2021-22 Indian Super League encounter at the P.J.N Stadium in Fatorda. The win takes OFC from ninth to fifth with only one point separating them from the fourth-placed Mumbai City FC. As for Khalid Jamil and Co, the winless streak extends to five games as they sit in 10th place in the standings.

Daniel Lalhlipui (17) gave the Kalinga Warriors an early lead with his first goal of the season. Aridai Suarez (22') extended the advantage five minutes later, being involved in both goals. Early exchanges saw both sides create half-chances to score. Suhair Vadakkepeedika provided Lalkhawpuimawia with a decent chance but the forward completely misused his shot from 12-yards out, to the anger of Khalid Jamil on the sideline.

NEUFC was punished moments later after the opening goal was scored by Daniel Lalhlipui with a simple tap-in. He was served the ball on a platter by Aridai Suarez who weaved past



Provata Lakra on the left flank and found the striker with a precise low cross. The provider then became the scorer after adding his team's second goal on the board. Aridai found space on the left flank, cut inside on his right foot, and hit a low shot that escaped Mirshad Michu's grip much to his dismay. OFC kept their noses ahead as both teams went into the half-time break.

The second half saw the

Highlanders push for a goal with Hernan Santana blasting his volley against the crossbar from long-range. Post the hour mark, Nandhakumar Sekar who came on from the bench had a great chance to score the third but had his shot saved in a one-on-one situation.

Laldanmawia Ralte looked to have reduced the deficit in the late stages of the match but his goal was ruled out for offside by the

officials. The fourth official added four minutes for stoppages following which OFC secured all three points and also recorded a morale-boosting clean sheet.

NorthEast United FC faces Chennaiyin FC in their next outing at the P.J.N Stadium on Saturday while Odisha FC must wait nine days before meeting Hyderabad FC at the Tilak Maidan Stadium on Thursday.

Asian Cup women's football: Cop-turned-coach Dennerby aiming to guide India past group stage

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 19:

Nothing about Thomas Dennerby suggests he is a former cop who takes no-nonsense.

The Swede laughs easily, speaks in a soft, comforting tone and says, with a smile, he is kind. "That's what a lot of people tell me," he grins. "That job gave me a different perspective on life..."

On night patrols, Dennerby the policeman had brushes with hardened criminals, intervened in ugly family fights and even prevented suicides. In the mornings, after dealing with the real-world issues, coach Dennerby wouldn't have the heart to yell at his players for merely missing a pass. "What is more important?" he asks, rhetorically. "That job changed me as a person."

For a fortnight, starting Thursday, the good cop will patrol the Indian women football team's dugout in the Asian Cup. The continental championship, which is also a 2023 World Cup qualifier, will kick off on Thursday with a clash between the competition's most success-



ful team, 8-time champions China, and Chinese Taipei in Mumbai. Later in the day, India will open their campaign against Iran in Navi Mumbai. Dennerby, the first foreign coach of India's women team, faces an unenviable task: to

take an inexperienced team, which is brimming with potential, past the group stage in its first appearance at the Asian Cup since 2003. "Our first target is to reach the quarterfinals," he tells The Indian Express.

Lost

I have lost my hand bag containing Certificate of Matric (Class-X) Examination, bearing Roll No. 5812 of of 1980, issued by the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur (BOSEM) on the way between Salam to Old Secretariat on January 9, 2021.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned. Sd/-

Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh
S/o, S. Yaimabi Singh
Salam Maning Leikai
Imphal West