

## NPP sets to announce first list of candidates and election manifesto

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 22:

The National People's Party (NPP) is set to announce the first list of the name of candidate to be contested in the upcoming Manipur Legislative Assembly Election by tomorrow. The Political Party is also releasing its election manifesto while announcing the name of the party candidates, a source told Imphal Times.

"We have already completed preparation of our party election manifesto and also finalised the name of the candidates for at least 10 Assembly constituencies", a high

profile leader of the NPP told Imphal Times. He also said that the NPP had earlier decided to announce the first lists of candidates today in the presence of Party's National President Conrad K. Sangma who was scheduled to arrive today. However, due to health problem (tested Covid+ve) he could not come today and the NPP have to release the manifesto as well as the name of the candidates for 10 Assembly constituencies without his presence as the date of notification is just round the corner, the source told Imphal Times.

Name of the constituencies where the name of the

candidates are likely to announce are Uripok, Keishamthong, Singamei, Yaikul, Wangoo, Heirok, Kshtrigao, Hiyanglam, Keirao and Chandel.

The NPP is preparing to field around 30 candidates in 30 Assembly constituencies including some at Hill districts constituencies.

When asked about the expected number of seat that the NPP may win in the upcoming election, the high profile leader of the NPP said that the number of NPP seats may cross 15. There are some Assembly constituencies that the NPP is expected to win but

could not finalized the name of the candidate at this hour so it will take 2 or 3 days to announce. The 2nd list of NPP candidate may be announced in the next couple of days.

Regarding alliance with other political party, the leader of the NPP rule out any pre poll alliances but said that they will be the major factor in forming any government in the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly.

"Who knows we get more than 15 seats and some other political party gave us the opportunity to led the government", he said without showing any seriousness.

## ECI approves postal ballots for militants in 'designated camps'

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 22:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has notified that the members of militant groups in Manipur which have signed Suspension of Operation (SoO) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the governments and currently stationed at the designated camps are entitled to vote by postal ballot (PB) in the upcoming assembly elections, scheduled to be held in two phases on February 27 and March 3.

"The decision was taken in exercise of powers conferred by clause (c) of Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and in consultation with the central government," said the office of the Chief Electoral Officer Manipur in a press release on Friday night.

The decision was made

considering that a number of persons belonging to the SoO and MoU groups living in the 14 designated camps in Manipur have been enrolled in the electoral rolls of various assembly constituencies of the state.

The ECI has directed that these electors shall be allowed to vote through postal ballot taking into account their right of franchise as they cannot move out of the said designated camps.

"The notification further mentioned that a survey shall be made for appropriate location of Postal Ballot Facilitation Centers (PBFC) for distribution, recording, collection of PB in different camps of SoO and MoU groups," the release said.

"Such proposed Postal Ballot Facilitation Centers will have facilities for the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO)'s of-

fice, place to record votes, party representatives to watch the proceedings from a distance and collection of recorded votes," it said.

Efforts will be made to see that voters are not required to travel more than prescribed limits to cast their vote. The ARO shall ensure that the marked PBs reach the Returning Officer well before the commencement of votes, it added.

More than 20 kuki militant groups under two umbrella bodies namely United People's Front and Kuki National Organisation have been under SoO in the north eastern state since August 2008.

Manipur has a total of 60 Assembly constituencies. In the first phase, elections will be held for as many as 38 constituencies and the remaining 22 constituencies will vote in the second phase.

## Election Commission ban on poll rallies, road shows to continue: Sources

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 22:

The ban on election rallies and road shows imposed by the Election Commission due to the Covid surge is likely to continue till next week, sources have said.

The Election Commission had banned all physical rallies, roadshows,

and padyatras owing to the surge in Covid-19 cases in parts of the country.

In a stern message, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said the poll body will take action against officials who fail to act against violations. The Chief Secretary or District Magistrate will be personally responsible for ensuring that all Covid-related protocols are followed, the

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) said.

The Election Commission also set out stringent COVID guidelines, restricting the number of persons allowed for door-to-door campaigns to five.

On January 15, the commission extended the ban until January 22.

It had, however, granted a relaxation for political

parties to hold indoor meetings with a maximum of 300 people or 50 per cent of the capacity of the hall.

The poll panel is holding the virtual meets to seek inputs from the Union Health Ministry, experts, the five poll-bound states and respective state chief electoral officers to arrive at a decision, official sources said.

## AMMSO demands replacement of present VC of MTU

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 22:

All Manipur Muslim Students Organisation (AMMSO) has submitted a memorandum to the Governor and Chief Minister of Manipur demanding removal of VC Tongbram Bhabeswar.

AMMSO stated that the present VC of Manipur Technical University has been appointed fictitiously and the VC is ineligible and unfit to take the position of this and only

degree college in Manipur as per the latest guidelines of UGC and AICTEL.

The AMMSO pointed that the latest UGC regulation of 18 July, 2018 section 7.3 for the qualification of vice-chancellor. In the memorandum, AMMSO demanded that the VC should be a distinguished academican with a minimum of 10 years of experience as a professor. And he should have a minimum of 8 research publications in UGC, AICTE, SCI approved

list of journals. The appointed VC Tongbram Bhabeswar has not met any criteria to be eligible for the position of VC of Manipur Technical university. He has been working in the government polytechnic institute at Takyel since 1991 as a Lecturer grade and further as an Associate professor of the said Diploma Institute. The AMMSO pointed that the engineering degree college has a huge difference with diploma institute and difference

in the service statuses. And he has never been in the rank of professor. Tongbram Bhabeswar got Ph.D. in non-engineering subject from the History department of Manipur university on the topic of Traditional housing and architecture of Manipur.

AMMSO further stated that it is a great surprise that a person who is even ineligible to be principal in charge of diploma institute is appointed as vice-chancellor of the degree college.

## Jiribam AMSU pays floral tribute to Y. Sanjiv Singh



IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, Jan 22:

The AMSU, District Committee, Jiribam paid floral tribute to the Yurembam Sanjiv Singh who had passed away in a tragic car accident on 18th January at the late night hour.

On the fifth day of his death, the AMSU District Committee, Jiribam and stu-

dents of Jiribam marches a rally holding palanquin with his photographs mourning on his untimely death.

A large number of students marched from AMSU office and marched through National Highway-37 upto Jiri Development Office where office bearers paid floral tribute and later ended the rally at his residence at Kalingar, Jiribam.

It might be recall here, Y. Sanjiv Singh was a student's leader who had served as AMSU District Committee, Jiribam President for long time and at present he was the Convenor of JCILPS, Jiribam Branch and Advisor of AMSU, Jiribam.

His untimely death is an irreparable loss to the people of Jiribam.

## ZUF welcome its ardent cadre

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 22:

The Zeliangrong United Front has extended a home coming welcome to one of its ardent cadres Lungpuibam Kamei @ Abung a former Military chief of ZUF. A statement of the outfit said that Abung has been misled and driven by Raitu Chawang & S.Kamson gang.

The statement added that Lungpuibam Kamei @ Abung is a well noted and trusted leader, committed to his work and faithful to the cause of Zeliangrong political aspiration. His decision to re-instate his earlier commitment to ZUF is highly commendable and appreciated. The Govt. of ZUF is well pleased to welcome him back to the fold with a red-

carpet reception.

The statement added that Abung has stated that he was driven with misleading notion that joining the Naga faction would be the right approach. However, after experiencing the actual reality, it was contradicting to what ZUF visualised and determined. He further asserted that, no concrete outcome could be achieved or attained by joining NSCN U or NNPG as no solution for the Nagas could be actualised by the said faction or group. Therefore, he had decided to serve the cause of asserting the distinct Zeliangrong Political movement. He realized that joining the Naga faction was an act of betrayal to his own Zeliangrong political cause.

contd. on page 4

## IEDUCO Foundation Day Observed

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 22:

The Imphal East District United Clubs' Organisation (IEDUCO) observed its 16th Foundation Day 22 January 2022 at the Khurai Ningthoubung Leikai TRYSCA Community Hall. The observance started with paying floral tributes and homage to all the deceased members of the Organisation and lending huge

respect to Noted Playwright Chana Lukhoo and Sumang Leela Artist Keirao Rajen by visiting their respective homes and presenting the family members with household essential items.

Speaking on the occasion, Pheiroijam Nando Luwang, President, AMUCO lamented the inactiveness of local clubs and Meira Paibis outlined the role they need to assimilate the pre-poll violence occurring in

different parts of Manipur.

Dwijo Takhellambam, President, IEDUCO stressed the importance of AMUCO in emancipating the tasks of various local clubs of Manipur towards building a scientific society. Many speakers and representatives of various civil society organizations deliberated upon the duties of youths in making Manipur a good nation.

## Two Days Seminar Cum Workshop programme initiated

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 22:

Two days Seminar cum Workshop under Ambedkar Hastashilpa Vikash Yojna Scheme for Handicrafts Artisan held on 22-01-2022 at Khurai Nandeibam Leikai, Imphal West, Manipur under the sponsorship of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textile, Govt of India, New Delhi which has been organised by Luwangpokpam Women Welfare Association, Khurai Sajor Leikai, Imphal East, Manipur. Chief of the function, Jocelyne Akoijam, Project Manager, District Handloom and Textile

Govt of Manipur stated that the product of Handicrafts and Handloom is unique compared to other places So we need to put the product of Handicrafts and Handloom in special level.

President of the function, Y. Jagyaehowri Devi, Asst. Director (Handicrafts) Ministry of Textile Govt of Manipur also Stated that every Artisans should be participated in similar or workshop because it can help to make a famous and good Artisan. And also Ch. Mani Singh, Retd, Handicrafts Promotion Officers, Guwahati NERO as a Guest of Honour.

# Indian economy will perform well this year

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



The graph of new recruitments in IT Jobs is rising continuously. In the first week of this month, few major companies of India like Dell, Oracle, IBM, Genpact and Salesforce offered more than 70,000 new openings for the young tech force. It is estimated that the number of new recruitments in India's top 10 IT companies like Infosys, Wipro, TCS, HCL, Tech Mahindra and MindTree will reach five lakh in the current financial year. On the other hand, in the month of December, there has been an increase of 12 per cent annually in new recruitments in various industries. According to [monster.com](http://monster.com), this progress is showing signs of improvement in the country's economy. Data from this employment oriented website shows that the demand for jobs in the field of office equipment and automation remained high in December 2021. One thing is clear from these statistics that the coming time is going to be good for new jobs.

There is good news about India's economy also. PwC's annual Global CEO Survey report has sparked hope for the economy this year. In October and November last year, the company released a report based on conversations with about 4.5 thousand CEOs from around 89 countries. Of these, 77 CEOs are from India itself. In the survey report, almost all CEOs of India believe that India's economy will perform well this year and in the next 12 months the economy will pick up momentum once again. According to another report by PwC India, more than Rs 74,000 crore has been invested in India's startup ecosystem, which is an important step to take the economy to a new level. There are some 50 such startups in the country whose value will exceed one billion dollars in the coming time. Startups worth more than one billion dollars are called unicorns. If this happens, then the number of unicorns in the country will be 118. The names that can be included in the emerging startups are Ecom Express, KhataBook, Pepperfly, Whatfix, Fracto etc.

There can be no better time to start your business or startup than when the Government of India stands ready to help the youth who want to become entrepreneurs. Recently, the Prime Minister had given a very encouraging statement about the startups and innovation that the government would provide all possible support to innovative projects. If you want to start a business of up to 10 lakh rupees or to expand your existing business, then the government's Mudra loan can be a better way for that. There is no need to give any guarantee to the banks and no processing fee is levied to avail the benefits of Mudra Yojana. Mudra (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) issues these loans. Being a citizen of India is the first condition for availing Mudra loan. There are three slabs of loans up to 50 thousand, five lakh and ten lakh, which are given to different categories of businessmen. Once the loan is sanctioned, a Mudra card similar to a debit card is provided, from which money can be withdrawn through ATMs. More information can be obtained from the website [mudra.org.in](http://mudra.org.in).

# Winter vegetable that will give you cold glow

The weather's getting colder, the air is getting dryer and the sweaters are getting thicker.

Cold, harsh winter not only impacts your immunity system, but also your hair and skin.

Sometimes you may buy a dozen creams, lotions or moisturizers but your skin always looks lifeless and dull. Your skin is susceptible to the frigid climate that causes inflammation, redness and dryness, among many other common symptoms during winters.

So, what can you do to protect your skin despite dropping temperatures?

You can moisturize and apply a few extra face masks each week, but instead of working from the outside in, consider working from the inside out.

*It's finally that time of the year again when markets are flooded with a variety of seasonal green vegetables like "Palak," "Methi," "Bathua," "Sarson ka Saag" and lettuce*

And these tasty delights are brimming with antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, that not only give you the right nutrition but can also do wonders for your skin

**Carrots:** Carrots are available in very good quality during winter season. Though you can find carrots round the year, the color of carrot that you can find during the other seasons would be orange whereas in winter season it is red in color

Carrots are rich in Vitamin C, an antioxidant that helps your body produce collagen.

Carrots are high in vitamin A, another antioxidant that attacks cell damaging free radicals.

It has a soothing effect on the skin, making it soft, smooth and supple further preventing wrinkles

and fine lines. In fact, it can be applied to soothe dry, sensitive skin. Carrots can be also used as a face mask. Boil them in a little water. Cool and mash. Apply the pulp on the face like a pack and wash off with plain water after half an hour.

It's recommended as a way to help clear up acne and allow your skin to become soft, supple and attractive

**Cabbage:** Cabbage is a wonderful ingredient among the list of vegetables which have good fiber contents.

It's nutritious, helps in weight loss and prevent cholesterol accumulation.

**Cabbage is rich in skin-nourishing vitamin K,** and also boast of possessing anti-inflammatory properties.

Cabbage contains valuable minerals and are also very nourishing for the skin. It is said to have many healing properties, due to high sulphur content. It also contains Vitamin V and thus is good for the skin.

Cabbage can be boiled in enough



By: Shahnaz Husain

water. Cool the water and use it to wash the skin. It is a nourishing and soothing skin treatment.

Mix cabbage juice with ripe banana pulp and honey. Apply this hair mask after oiling your hair. Keep it for about 20 minutes. Wash it off with a mild shampoo.

**Spinach:** Leafy green wonder veggie that originated in Persia is excellent for skin care. Spinach is a superfood, rich in Vitamins A, C, E and K as well as vital minerals which work together to help your skin enhance its radiance, heal from scars or sun damage, and fortify its natural barrier. It can be incorporated quite easily into any diet, as it is cheap and easy to prepare.

Thus it is quite beneficial when taken internally as food and also applied externally. Spinach helps to clear up acne. You can also use it as a beauty mask on your face by blending fresh baby spinach leaves with a little water and applying it on your face for 30 minutes. It is known



to reduce oiliness and also inflammation. It also helps to tone and refresh the skin. It will act as an effective remedy in getting rid of damaged skin cells.

**Lettuce:** Eat plenty of Lettuce, which is commonly available in winter. This lettuce also contains potassium which gives your skin a boost of oxygen and nutrients, helping to improve circulation and giving you a coveted glow.

It is said to stimulate hair growth, as it contains, Vitamins A, C and E, along with folic acid and zinc. It also prevents premature graying of hair and also has several skin benefits too. It improves blood circulation and also makes the skin radiant. It delays the visible signs of ageing. Lettuce leaves are best eaten raw. Cooking them can strip off all the nutrients in them. Shredded Lettuce leaves are used in Salads. Certain proteins in lettuce like lipoxigenase, help control inflammation.

**Tomatoes:** Tomato also has beauty benefits. Tomatoes are rich in selenium; an antioxidant that gives you added protection from skin cancer and sun damage.

It contains lycopene, an antioxidant and therefore, has anti ageing benefits when applied on the skin. It can also help prevent the formation of age spots, wrinkles, fine lines thus keeping your skin smoother, clearer and younger-looking for longer.

Tomato pulp or tomato juice also helps to reduce oiliness and lightens skin colour over a period of time. It is particularly useful for oily skin.

Keep these extremely nutritious veggies in mind next time you're grocery shopping!

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

# Children and Television

Contd. from yesterday

**Reduced Socialisation:** Watching Television with and without parents and siblings present also contributes towards less time interacting with family members. As per a research - watching more TV in childhood increased chances of dropping out of school and decreased chances of getting a college degree, even after controlling for confounding factors. Spending time watching TV takes time away from socializing activities like playing outside with friends, eating dinner together; participation in extracurricular activities like music, art or other activities that require practice to become skillful.

**Poor Academic Results:** Spending excessive time watching TV largely contributes to poor grades. The time spent on watching time cuts down the time to study. While some students may cope up with less time on study, most of the students are not able to. The tiredness accompanying excessive T.V. viewing also hampers quality study time. The span of attention also decreases as the mind is still engaged in thoughts of the show which has been just viewed. TV viewing may replace activities which are helpful in school performance, such as reading, doing homework, pursuing hobbies etc. As per one research study TV's effects on education are long term.

**Violence on Television:** A big issue that needs to be dealt with is children and TV violence. Media violence and Violent Behaviour is normal even in the mildest of shows even if they are shown in a lighter vein. Violence is also prevalent in music videos and news channel which makes violence glamorized. It is not difficult to assess that media violence can and has con-

tributed to aggressive behaviour, desensitization towards violence, the occurrence of nightmares and fear of being harmed. Watching violent shows is also linked with having less empathy toward others. Aggressive behaviour can be seen in the form of bullying amongst teens and ragging amongst collegiate. Children under age eight do not have the intellect to differentiate between reality and fantasy and they end up imitating the violence they see on TV.

**Wrong Notions:** There are certainly acceptable and unacceptable norms in the society, these norms keep us disciplined. Television becomes a disruptor of these norms when kids indulge in socially unacceptable behaviour. Television provides a narrow view of society; it shows what is popular and that which will generate more revenue. Because of the narrow outlook of TV, children establish some wrong notions. Every household has a different environment and it may not conform to similar environment portrayed on TV. This may result in a development of a notion amongst kids that either their household is inferior or demented. Certain communities like Islamic and Blacks are shown in poor light again and again; shows are filled with stereotypes. Thus a notion that all Islamic people are evil and blacks are thugs, develops. Certain communities or personalities are always mocked and this mockery gets implanted in the innocent minds as well. Sex is another major issue about which teenagers form opinions. Since education by adults is missing the television becomes their guide to love. Most of the programmes have a lot of sexual content and most of them tell nothing about sex education. Most of the advertisements, music videos, prime-time

shows, soap operas are not depicting real-life sexual behaviour, this leads to misconceptions about sexual activity. Teenagers are not fully aware of premature sex, safe sex, pregnancy, contraceptives, sexually transmitted diseases and host of related issues. Sex scenes in TV show promiscuity and infidelity and teenagers develop wrong ideas. What the kids see and how they perceive it is more important than what is being shown. Young minds are fragile and innocent, any misconception which develops in these years tend to linger on till adulthood or the rest of the life.

**Virtual World:** Most of the parents have hectic schedules and children are often given less attention or no attention at all. Such conditions are suitable for children to develop a virtual world where they see and perceive behaviour patterns. TV may become their foster parents, partners, friends or guide. They may develop a faux or parasocial relationship with characters from their favourite television shows and movies as a means to counter or fill the void of loneliness and social deprivation. Humans are social in nature and they need to have relationships to live and progress. Thus TV characters become their imaginary mates, lovers, fathers, mother etc. with whom they can share their feelings, opinions, and thoughts just like they would do in real life.

**Injurious Imitations:** Superheroes or even ordinary heroes perform extraordinary stunts which seem very reasonable even to the youth. In real life, stunts are coordinated and performed by professionals but the youth ignores or doesn't conform to injuries, for them it is all about the adrenaline rush. Famous among the

imitation of heroes has been witnessed in 'Shaktiman' case wherein the kids tried to perform the circular motion of the superhero Shaktiman and ended up getting seriously injured. Another example is that of 'Ninja Turtles' where the kids started to live in underground sewage. Certain reality-based shows show the performance of weird and dangerous acts performed by novices which stir the imagination of the kids. Teens and kids have been injured trying to repeat dangerous stunts they have seen on television shows and they continue to do so.

**Unimaginable Consequences:** While there are imaginable outcomes of the television mania, certain unimaginable consequences are still to be realized, the reason being lack of research and lack of possible evidence. When a child is in the womb of the mother who knows what type of effect does it have on the baby when a mother is watching her favourite programme. There are also videos and DVDs especially created for babies and toddlers and not to mention cable channel for babies. It is insufficient or no data available as to how will TV-viewing affect babies.

**What can and should be done?** It is easy to come to a conclusion from the above passage that the Negative Aspects overwhelm the Positive effects of Television. Different researchers and different people will have different opinions but one thing is certain that the issue is relevant and cannot be ignored. While some may say TV is good, some may say it is not and some may have a mixed opinion. However, whatever the reasons are for Pros and Cons, there is always a better approach or less harmful approach,

if not any at all.

**Moderation:** Moderation is the key just like it is in all facets of our lives. A total ban is no solution as it will instil more curiosity and rebellion. Considering today's technological gadgetry kids will find a way to see what they want. Instead, let them watch TV for a limited period of time, this way they will be able to watch TV and perform other tasks as well efficiently.

**Spend more Time with Children:** If parents were to provide a substantial amount of time on a regular basis, children shouldn't rely on TV for imaginative relations. Socialising with children decreases the dependence on TV for entertainment. Parents also remain in constant touch with their kid's activities and can guide them as well.

**Rules for Viewing:** Parents or Kins should know the type of shows kids are watching. Advise them not to watch certain channels and programs as they are not appropriate for their age. Post Rules for Viewing besides the TV where it is mentioned that they are not supposed to watch a certain TV program and Channel and prompt them that they should stick to their rules or face a mild punishment in a reformative manner.

**Discussion:** Often kids ask about some uneasy scenes appearing on TV and parents lie or pass the query for later on. This norm is not advisable as a kid's curiosity has not been fulfilled. One should accompany their children while watching TV and explain them as to what is happening and other areas of curiosity. This way the kids will always seek their parent's advice and will always be pre-informed about what's happening on TV.

**Watch and Observe:** One can install surveillance cameras to observe what types of shows are being watched by the teens; especially for those who are very busy. One can also observe from far or close, the reactions of their siblings while watching

certain shows. This observation can be used to decide what is needed to be done.

**Diffuse Peer Pressure:** Teenagers might be persuaded by their equivalents in the school or neighbour for watching certain shows. Watching certain shows makes teens be familiar with each other because there is a common ground for interaction. Not watching a show makes them a non-member in discussions etc. Here parent's intervention is required, indirect or direct to diffuse peer pressure. Talking to the peers and their parents on this issue can resolve the situation.

**Parental Association:** A neighbourhood association or a formal parental association can enforce certain laws and regulation regarding the viewing of T.V. Parents can keep a tab on each other's child and find, consensual advice can be reached upon for the proper course of action.

**Locking or Censoring the Channels:** Though not a major or the most efficient method to prevent excessive TV viewing but still effective to a certain degree. Not all kids know the technical aspects of a TV. Certain channels can be removed by the cable operator himself.

**Support and Promote Social and Physical Activities:** Kids need to get out of the house and have some fun. Parents can play with them or accompany them. They should encourage and support their participation in school games, debates, flower decoration, arts and crafts, exhibitions etc. This way kids will remain healthy both physically and mentally.

**Set an Example:** Sometimes you have to follow the rules yourself in certain situations. Kids may question - "Why are you watching this when we cannot watch it?" Kids might not understand what you are trying to tell them because of their intellect. So you have to set an example by not watching TV and show them the path. One can record his/her show and watch it later.

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# Sputnik V vaccine shows higher Omicron-specific antibodies than Pfizer: Study

Agency  
Moscow, Jan 22:

The levels of Omicron-neutralising antibodies of people vaccinated with two doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine did not decline as much as of those who had Pfizer shots, according to a small study.

The joint Russian-Italian study — funded by the Russian Direct Investment Fund which markets Sputnik V — compared the blood serum samples of people taken three to six months after the second dose of the two vaccines.

The yet-to-be peer-reviewed study, posted on the preprint repository MedRxiv on January 19, was conducted by scientists from the Spallanzani Institute in Italy and Gamaleya Institute in Russia, the developer of the vaccine.

The study found that Sputnik V vaccine demonstrates more than 2 times higher levels of virus neutralising antibodies to Omicron variant than two



doses of Pfizer vaccine.

The research was conducted on comparable blood samples from 51 people vaccinated with Sputnik V and 17 with the Pfizer preventive with a similar level of neutralising antibodies against the original Wuhan variant.

"Sputnik V shows significantly smaller (2.6 times) reduction of virus neutralising activity against Omicron as compared to reference Wuhan variant," the authors of the study noted.

cent of those vaccinated with Sputnik V were able to neutralise Omicron variant in comparison to 83.3 per cent of individuals vaccinated with Pfizer," the researchers said.

RBD is a key part of a virus located on its 'spike' protein that allows it to enter and infect the human cells.

"Among all samples, 74.2 per cent of Sputnik V-vaccinated sera were able to neutralise Omicron vs 56.9 per cent for Pfizer-vaccinated," they said.

An earlier study by the Gamaleya Institute, also posted on MedRxiv, showed that a booster shot of Sputnik Light vaccine provided a stronger antibody response against Omicron than the two-dose Sputnik V vaccine alone.

"Today the necessity of third booster vaccination is obvious. And the most effective approach, already shown in several studies, is the use of heterologous booster vaccination pioneered in COVID-19 vaccines by Sputnik V," the authors of the study added.

"The vaccine showed an 8.1-fold reduction of virus neutralising activity against Omicron as against 21.4-fold reduction for Pfizer vaccine," they said.

The study demonstrates that Sputnik V neutralises the Omicron variant by inducing robust antibody response associated with high levels of protection.

"Among the top quartile of individuals with high receptor-binding domain (RBD)-specific IgG antibodies, 100 per

# Health experts say Omicron reinfection possible, advice to keep wearing face masks

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 22:

With daily infections of fast-spreading Omicron variant rapidly increasing ever since the new coronavirus strain has been detected in the country, the top health experts have not ruled out reinfection advising people to maintain COVID-appropriate behaviour.

According to Dr Shashank Joshi, who is a member of the Maharashtra COVID-19 task force member, people should not take the risk of improper masking or no masking even

those who have recently recovered from an Omicron infection.

"Reinfection is something that we cannot ignore in Covid at all, irrespective of the variant. Even if people have recently recovered from an Omicron infection, they cannot take the risk of improper masking or no masking, because reinfection with the variant has still not been ruled out," Tol quoted Joshi as saying.

Another member of the task force stated that there was no official Omicron reinfection case reported anywhere in India so far.

However, he stressed that not following COVID-appropriate behaviour after the recent recovery from the infection is still not an option because one never knows what variant may surface in the future.

"Therefore, masking and physical distancing are a must to preclude any possible reinfections - whether from Omicron itself or any other SARS-CoV-2 variant," said Intensivist Dr Rahul Pandit.

India's Omicron tally rises to 9,692

tally has risen to 9,692 on Friday, an increase of 4.36 per cent from the previous day, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

A total of 3,47 lakh COVID-19 cases and 703 fatalities were reported in the past 24 hours, the health ministry had said. With the fresh fatalities, the death toll climbed to 4,88,396, it added.

The recovery of 2,51,777 patients during the same period has increased the cumulative tally to 3,60,58,806. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 93.50 per cent.

# 'No such decision is taken': Priyanka Gandhi clarifies on being 'CM face' in UP

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 22:

A day after declaring herself the 'CM face' in the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday clarified her remarks saying that no such decision has been taken by the party.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Priyanka stated that she made the remarks in a "slight exaggerated way" in response to repeated queries from the media on the issue.

"I am not saying that I am the (CM) face (of Congress in the Uttar Pradesh elections)...I said that (you can see my face everywhere) in irritation because you all were asking the same question again and again," she said.

Priyanka further stated that the party decides who will be the chief ministerial candidate and in some States, no such decision is taken.

The Congress leader had on Friday dropped major hints that she could be the chief ministerial face of the Congress in Uttar Pradesh.

"Are you seeing any other face from the Congress? Then?" "Then you are the CM face for the Congress?"

Priyanka Gandhi was asked, "Dikh toh raha hai na sab jaga mera chehra (My face can be seen everywhere)," she had said.

Mayawati is 'quiet' in UP polls: Priyanka Gandhi Expressing 'surprise' at the 'low-profile campaign' of BSP in UP elections, Priyanka

Gandhi said that the campaign of the Mayawati-led party has not picked up the expected pace even though the state is in the middle of the polls.

"I am also surprised seeing... six-seven months back we use to think that her party is not active, maybe they will start close to elections. We were also very surprised that the election has started we are in the middle of the election and it has not become active. As you said, (she) is very quiet, I am not able to understand," she said.

# CorCom boycotts R-Day, calls 18-hr shutdown

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 22:

Coordination Committee (CorCom), a conglomerate of seven insurgent groups, has announced boycott of India's 73rd Republic Day celebration.

Issuing a statement, CorCom publicity committee recalled that Manipur was forcefully annexed to India.

As such, India's celebration of its Republic Day is basically a reminder of "Colonial Days" for the people of Manipur.

People should not take part in the celebrations of the Government of India (GOI) whose agenda is to exterminate all the people of WESEA by equating them to terrorists, as shown by the recent killings of 14 civilians in Oting, Nagaland by the 21 Para Special Forces.

As long as this plan of GOI exists, more deaths will ensue regardless of whether AFSPA is imposed or not.

It continued: "The Indian government does not believe in the saying - 'Democracy is for the people, of the people and by the people', but believes it can influence, suppress and control the people with money."

The elections, thus, are merely a show when it comes to the well-being of Kangleipak (Manipur) as acts of violence,

substance abuse, drug trade and others are publicly endorsed, for the sake of garnering more votes.

Meanwhile, people continue to suffer endlessly.

Such acts will continue as long as Manipur is attached to India, whose 'colonial' policy is to end the small Manipuri society.

Thus, an armed struggle for the independence of Kangleipak is the only solution to these issues.

"The GOI continues to weave an illusion in front of the people in the form of Republic Day celebration every year."

It has converted the celebration into Military Day for Indian army by showing military prowess through display of weapons of mass destruction and a long parade of soldiers.

The largest democracy in the country has basically converted its biggest celebration of democratic values into a big-war show.

In simple words, the present India is not the India Mahatma Gandhi dreamed of, but what Hitler envisioned.

"In addition, the Indian Constitution which is meant to safeguard the people is instead depriving the people of their basic human rights."

People are increasing afraid of the government instead of

vice versa. More than half of the Lok Sabha members have criminal cases against them, as per National Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Such politicians are the ones sitting in the parliament, casually making the whole thing into "Potemkin Democracy".

"Furthermore, India has long lost its 'moral compass'. The present Indian Army did not fight for protecting the country but for suppressing their own people and denying them their rights."

Thus, the celebration of 'Republic Day' is quite contradictory in this sense," CorCom stated and appealed to the people not to take part in the celebrations.

As such, CorCom has imposed a total shutdown for 18-hours from the intervening night of January 25. It then appealed to the people of Manipur to cease work for the day and stay inside their homes, and boycott the Republic Day celebration of India.

The Committee further appealed to the people to show a display of united stand against the enemy government, while informing that religious activities, health and emergency services will be exempted from the purview of the total shutdown.

# 44 Assam Rifles kick-started Covid Booster Dose campaign



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 22:

44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of 22 Sect AR/IGAR (East) kick-started the administration of precautionary dose. Yesterday a total of 36 eligible individuals were vaccinated in the first phase. Within a short span of time, Omicron cases in India have rapidly surged. While the new variant is said to be mild so far, the high rate of transmissibility has become a source of concern. The Gol has rolled out third precautionary dose (booster) of COVID-19 vaccine for those above 60 facing co-morbidities and with highly compromised immune system. Apart from this, healthcare and frontline workers are prioritized for the booster shots, since they are more prone to be in contact with patients suffering with COVID-19 or the new

omicon variants. Tamenglong battalion has also undertaken initiatives at the grassroots level and have roped in various community leaders to spread public awareness about the benefits of following CAB and vaccine. Proper education and awareness are the keys to achieving safer society.

## Lost

I have lost my hand bag containing Certificate of Matric (Class-X) Examination, bearing Roll No. 5812 of 1980, issued by the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur (BOSEM) on the way between Salam to Old Secretariat on January 9, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

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

## Admit Card Lost

I have lost my Admit Card of Class X, bearing Roll No. 23693, issued by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur of the year 2013 on the way between Thoubal bazar to Imphal on 21st January 2022.

Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-

**Ningombam Ronelkumar Singh**  
Thoubal Ningombam  
#7005137105

# Goa Elections: Laxmikant Parsekar, Who succeeded Manohar Parrikar in Goa, To quit BJP today

Agency  
Panaji, Jan 22:

Goa's former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Laxmikant Parsekar, who was denied ticket by the party for the next month's state Assembly elections, today said he will resign from the ruling party.

Talking to news agency PTI, the 65-year-old leader said he does not wish to remain in the party and will formally submit his resignation by this evening.



Mr Parsekar currently heads the BJP's manifesto committee for the upcoming Goa elections and is also a

member of the party's core committee.

The BJP has nominated sitting MLA Dayanand Sopte

from Mandrem Assembly segment, which Mr Parsekar had represented between 2002 and 2017.

Mr Sopte had defeated Mr Parsekar in the 2017 state polls as a Congress candidate, but joined the ruling BJP in 2019 along with nine other leaders.

"As of now, I have decided to resign. What I should be doing next, would be decided later," Mr Parsekar told news agency Press Trust of India.

He said that Mr Sopte has been neglecting the original

BJP workers in Mandrem, due to which there is large-scale resentment among them.

Mr Parsekar was the Chief Minister of Goa between 2014 and 2017. He was selected to head the state after the then Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar was inducted into the Union Cabinet as the Defence Minister.

The BJP has announced its first list of 34 candidates for the February 14 Goa Assembly elections. There are total 40 seats in the state.

# India reports 3,37,704 new Covid cases, 488 deaths in 24 hours

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 22:

India added 3,37,704 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,89,03,731, which includes 10,050 cases of the Omicron variant, according to Union health ministry data updated on Saturday.

The active cases have increased to 21,13,365, the highest in 237 days, while the death toll has climbed to 4,88,884 with 488 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

There has been a 3.69 per cent increase in Omicron cases since Friday, the ministry said.

The active cases comprise 5.43 per cent of the total infections, while the national

COVID-19 recovery rate has decreased to 93.31 per cent, the ministry said.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 17.22 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 16.65 per cent.

The data stated that 71.34 crore tests have been conducted so far and 19,60,954 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.

So far, 161.16 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered, it said.

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, 2020. India crossed two crore cases on May 4 and three crore cases on June 23 last year.

Meanwhile, the Centre said that Covid vaccination, including precaution doses, for individuals having lab test proven coronavirus infection will be deferred by three months after recovery. In a letter to all states and union territories, Union Health Minister Anil Deveshwar said that requests have been received from various quarters for guidance in regard to the administration of precaution dose to the eligible persons having Covid illness. The suggestion is based on scientific evidence

and recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.

On Friday, Maharashtra Social Justice and Special Assistance Minister Dhananjay Munde directed officials to reopen hostels of his department in coordination with municipal corporations and district administrations as classroom teaching was set to begin in schools in the state from Monday. According to a government release, Munde has directed commissioners in municipal areas, the disaster management department and chief executive officers of Zilla Parishads to review the COVID-19 situation to reopen schools, including residential ones, and hostels.

# State Handloom Expo 2021 concludes



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 22:

State Handloom Expo 2021, which started from January 7 at the premises of the Manipur Public Library concluded yesterday. The Expo was organized under the sponsorship of Development Commissioner

for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

The closing function was attended by Urikhimbam Bala Devi, Indian handloom Brand 7 National Awardee, A Ronika Devi, President, The Manipur Apex KL Weavers & HC Artisans, C. S. Ltd. Imphal, H.K.

Baro, Deputy Director /HoO Weaver Service Center, Porompat, Imphal East, Y. Shantikumar, Officer in charge, National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. Porompat, Imphal East and K. Chaoba, Library Custodian, Manipur Public Library as dignitaries on the dais.

# 'District administrations have important role in good governance': PM Modi at meeting with DMs

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 22:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday interacted with District Magistrates (DMs) of various districts via video conferencing regarding the implementation of the key government schemes.

"District administrations have an important role in good governance. It helps govt to implement the schemes in a better way. Detail guidelines should be made for field visits and inspections," the Prime Minister said.

The Chief Ministers of several states also took part in the interaction.

PM Modi further stated that every district needs to learn from the success of others and also evaluate their challenges.

The Prime Minister also called for a direct, emotional connection between administration and public to ensure 'top to bottom' as well as 'bottom to top' governance flow.

During the interaction, PM Modi took direct feedback about the progress and present the status of the implementation of government schemes and programmes in the districts.

"The interaction will help review the performance and ascertain the challenges that are being faced," the PMO had

earlier said in an official release.

It had further stated that the meeting is aimed at achieving saturation of various schemes by various departments in the districts in mission mode, in convergence with all stakeholders.

"Under the leadership of PM Modi, the Government has continuously taken several steps to overcome the asymmetry in growth and development across the country. This is in line with the commitment of the Government towards raising the living standards of all citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all," the release read. Assembly polls in five

The meeting comes ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in five states. The five states that are going to the polls are Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa, and Manipur.

According to the Election Commission's schedule, Uttar Pradesh will go to poll in 7 phases starting from February 10. The polling in Uttarakhand and Goa will be held in single-phase on February 14, while Manipur will go to poll in two phases on February 27 and March 3.

The EC has postponed the Punjab elections to February 20 after requests from the political parties due to Sri Guru Ravidas Jayanti.

# State Level Ballot Battle Quiz Competition held

## Team Bishnupur District wins

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 22:

A State Level Ballot Battle Quiz Competition on Election and Electoral Process was held today at J.N. Dance Academy, Imphal. The Quiz Competition was organised by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur regarding the current General Election to the Manipur State Legislative Assembly.

Earlier, Ballot Battle Quiz Competition was also conducted at district level in all 11 Electoral Districts and top winning teams were selected from all electoral districts for the state level competition. Only 10 teams out of the 11 selected teams participated in the State Level Quiz Competition held today as Jiribam District team reported unwell and

couldn't participate.

The programme began with an address by the Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur Naorem Praveen Singh who deliberated upon various activities taken up by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur regarding the current General Election to the Manipur State Legislative Assembly.

As a part of today's competition, a written examination was first conducted as Elimination round selecting six teams, representing Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur, Senapati, Ukhrul and Thoubal Districts, out of the participating 10 teams for the Quiz round. A total of four rounds were conducted during the Quiz round to select the top three teams. Team represent-

ing Bishnupur District bagged the first position while Senapati and Imphal East teams secured second and third position respectively.

It may be mentioned that the top three teams will be awarded cash prizes on the National Voters' Day which will be organised at City Convention Centre, Palace Compound on 25th January, 2022. The Cash prizes include Rs. 20,000, Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 10,000 for first, second and third position respectively.

Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur Ramananda Nongmeikapam, Joint Chief Electoral Officer (II) Md. S. Daulat Khan and students representing different electoral districts were also present during the quiz competition among others.

## Sports

# Hardworking local coaches behind Manipur being hotbed of women's football

Courtesy: Indian Express  
New Delhi, January 22:

Chaoba Devi was visiting her maternal grandparents in Angthang, roughly 25km from Imphal, when she saw a young girl playing with full energy with a bunch of other kids on a barren, uneven surface. There was something about her that immediately caught Chaoba's attention. "Her discipline... and skill, of course," she says.

Impulsively, Chaoba asked the girl, in her early teens, if she'd move to Imphal and join her community club, Kangchup Road Young Physical and Sports Association (KRYPSAFC). Almost as impulsively, the girl agreed and before they knew it, they were on a bus to Manipur's capital.

This was in 2008. In the decade that followed, that teenager, Loitongbam Ashalata Devi, went on to become one of the most influential players in India. In 2019, she was named as one of the three nominees for Asia's Player of the Year by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). And on Thursday, she was the captain in India's Asian Cup match against Iran in what was the team's first appearance in the tournament after 19 years.

It was one of those 'by chance' encounters that coaches and scouts hope for. For Chaoba, this was one of the rare occasions in her decades

of coaching. The rest of the time, the former India captain and assistant coach travelled from village to village across Manipur, spending hours on dusty fields in the hope of spotting a player who could become a star. In a state overflowing with talent, that shouldn't be a tough task, one assumes.

Ashalata is one of the eight players from the north-eastern hotbed in India's Asian Cup squad, accounting for almost one-third of the side. Chaoba says five of those players - Sweetie Devi Nangbam, Maibam Linthoingambi Devi, Nongmeithem Ratanbala Devi, Grace Dangmei and Ashalata - have been trained by her at some point in their formative years. It could have been nine had striker Bala Devi, arguably the best of the lot, not been ruled out by injury.

That Manipuri players dominate the squad is hardly surprising, given the deep-rooted football culture at a community level there. But a cursory glance at the team sheet gives some insight into the potential to grow the women's game. More than half of the squad, 13 out of the 23 players, come from Manipur and Tamil Nadu. Five are from the Delhi-Haryana belt, two from Odisha and there's one each from Punjab, West Bengal and Jharkhand.

Former India international Maymol Rocky, who has been

associated with the junior and senior national teams in different roles over the last decade, says the scouting network is always on the lookout for players. "I can safely say that from the talent we've seen across the country in the last decade, 99 percent of the best players are in the team," Rocky, who was India's chief coach from 2017 to 2021, says. "The scouts keep an eye on all the matches at the national championships. And to be sure that no player is missed, we also do a state-wide exercise."

## Work at grassroots

The high number of players from Tamil Nadu, Rocky adds, is largely due to the work done by the state's first all-girls football side, Sethu. The Madurai-based club opened its doors to women only in 2016 but in a short period, it's been a runaway success at the national level, doing well in the women's league and, simultaneously, unearthing players.

But while Sethu has been around for only five years, it's the patient and relentless hard work by the coaches, and a functional structure that supports them, that's made Manipur a conveyor belt for women footballers for decades.

For Chaoba, the first Indian woman to acquire an AFC 'A' licence, the transition to coaching happened very early in her career. "When I started playing

in 1985, there was no coach to guide me," she says. Like most women footballers, Chaoba, too, played with a boys' team early on. "The senior players in the team taught me how to dribble, how to juggle, how to run, how to kick... I wasn't taught anything formally. I didn't want the generations of women players after me to face the same problem. So, whatever I learnt, I used to teach the younger players in our local club."

At the turn of the century, soon after her playing career, Chaoba earned her coaching licence and immediately began traversing Manipur's hilly terrain in search of players.

Suffice to say, her visits didn't go to waste. This one time, Chaoba was at a School Games Federation of India championship where she came across an "extremely skillful forward". That player, Ratanbala, is now one of India's mainstays and plays as a holding midfielder.

At times, players' families reach out to her, as it happened in the case of Dangmei, whose father - a pastor in a local church in Bishnupur village, travelled roughly 30km to Imphal, saw how Chaoba trained kids at her academy and then requested her to enroll his football-mad child.

And then sometimes, one just stumbles upon players who'd go on to become one of the finest of their generation. Like Ashalata.

# 6 dead, 28 injured in massive fire at Mumbai high-rise; Rs 7 lakh ex gratia announced

Agency  
Mumbai, Jan 22:

At least six people were killed and 28 others wounded in a major fire that erupted in a multi-storey building near Bhatia Hospital in Mumbai early morning on Saturday.

Initial reports stated that the fire broke out around 7:30 am on the eighteenth floor of Kamala Building in Nana Chowk in the city's Tardeo area.

The Mumbai Fire Brigade has designated it as a Level-3 (major) fire. Thirteen fire tenders are at the scene to douse the blaze, along with five ambulances to rush any possible casualties to hospital.

Of the wounded, seven were shifted to Nair Hospital. Doctors declared two dead on arrival, while three later succumbed to their injuries. The condition of the other two is stable.

Fifteen injured were admitted to the nearby Bhatia Hospital. A doctor told India Today that three patients were in critical condition, while the others are undergoing treatment in the general ward.

Kasturba Hospital also took in two casualties, of whom one died later.

The Maharashtra government has announced ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the next of kin of those who perished in the fire. The state will also bear the cost of medical treatment for the injured.

The Prime Minister's Office also promised compensation to the families of the victims and the wounded.

"An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of those who have lost their lives due to the building fire in Tardeo, Mumbai. The injured would be

given Rs 50,000 each," the PMO said in a tweet.

Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray said he is monitoring the firefighting and rescue operations that are underway.

"In touch with the authorities regarding the fire outbreak at the Kamala building in Tardeo. The fire brigade and the police are on site. Rescue and cooling operations are underway," he tweeted.

Officials said prima facie the fire occurred after some cables in the building's electricity duct melted. Smoke from the electricity duct spread to multiple floors. The building has a fire suppression system but it failed to work.

People are being evacuated from all floors of the building and being taken to hospitals for examination in case of smoke inhalation.

## Contd. from Page 1

# ZUF welcome its ardent...

He regretted to have been misled and wasted his time with the defected group. The defected group led by Raitu Chawang & S. Kamson

after being merged to NSCN-UC could not represent the Zeliangrong people or carry the name of ZUF anymore, as the trust of the people is lost

and support back out. He therefore, decided to resume his commitment made to serve the cause of fighting for Zeliangrong homeland.