

## Param Poojaniya Sarsangchalak pays tribute to Netaji



RSS chief Dr. Mohan Bhagwat paying floral tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 23:

Param Poojaniya Sarsangchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Dr. Mohan Bhagwat has paid floral tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on Sunday at Rajarshi Bhagyachanda Skill Development Centre, Hararong, Imphal East on the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

While addressing the gathering at the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose organised by RSS, Manipur Prant, Param Poojaniya Sarsangchalak said that RSS celebrated the birth anniversary of Netaji every year across the country. However, this year's celebration is important as it falls with the 75th year of India's independence for which Netaji sacrificed his entire life. For this independence, Netaji raised an

army and fight against the British.

It is not known whether Netaji was dead or not, however he had sacrificed his entire life for the nation without any hesitation. Netaji's is a symbol of courage, nationalism, dedication and selfless sacrifice. His life is an inspiration for all of us. He lived not for himself but for others and the nation. India was ruled by the British and it was a disgrace for him and fought for

full independence, Param Poojaniya Sarsangchalak said.

We could not be Netaji, we could try to become like him this would benefit the individual, nation and all. Always the nation needs a person like him for development and growth. Following his vision and instilling the spirit of nationalism, unity and sacrifice would be the real remembrance and tribute to Netaji, Param Poojaniya Sarsangchalak said.

The Param Poojaniya Sarsangchalak is in Manipur on a four-day visit for karyakarta beithak. Family members of war heroes Moirang Koireng and Heman Nilamani were also present during the celebration and paid their tribute to the portrait of Netaji.

As part of the celebration a photo gallery of Indian National Army and Netaji's life was also displayed.

The celebration was also attended by Sunil Deshpande, Akhil Bharatiya Sah-Samprak Pramukh, Sri Ullash Kulkarni, Assam Kshretra Pracharak, Vashista Bajur Baruah, Assam Kshretra Sah-Pracharak, Kh Rajen Singh, Kshretra Karyavah, MM Asokan, Kshretra Pracharak Pramukh and other prominent personalities.

## India' military might will be on display at R-Day parade



By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Jan 23:

Twenty five Tableaux of different states, Union Ministries and Armed Forces, 16 marching contingents from the armed forces, Central paramilitary forces, Delhi

police, NCC, NSS along with 17 military bands, Pipes and Drum bands will make the 73rd Republic day parade at Rajpath in New Delhi, an interesting affair.

The Indian Air Force's 75 aircraft in 15 formations will participate in aerial display. Of

these, the Amrit formation will comprise a maximum of 17 aircraft. The fleet includes a fly past by four advance light helicopter (ALH). The Indian Meteorological dept will organise the release of balloons on the occasion.

contd. on Page 3

## ASUK calls Total Shutdown on Republic Day

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 23:

The Alliance for Socialist Unity, Kangleipak calls for total shutdown on 26th January 2022. The total shutdown will begin from 6:00 am of 26th January till 6:00pm of the same day. Essential services and Medical emergencies are exempted from the shutdown, as per the press release sent out by ASUK.

The Press statement by the armed rebel group said, "26th January will be celebrated all over India including Manipur as the Republic Day of India. However, the day is the second Black day of Manipur, the first being October 15. The constitution of India had its effect from January 26, 1950 and based on it, Manipur which was an already independent state was forcefully merged into India on 1949. Manipur was given the

status of a Part-C state which was below the status of a Union Territory. In August 2019, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 was passed by the Indian Parliament and Article 370 was amended to disintegrate Jammu and Kashmir into two different Union Territories. This act was condemned at both National and International level. The way in which Manipur was merged into India as a Part-C state violates law and is more condemnable than what happened with Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. Every Manipuri and people from WESEA shouldn't celebrate the day instead should lament the day.

With Manipur's merger into India, the status of Manipur has degraded at a very great level. Once pure and beautiful art and culture of the state is now being used as means to

appease the VIPs who come to Manipur, and traditional dance and other martial arts which was once a sacred thing is now being performed in roadside to welcome those VIPs. Kamatapur, Tripura and Manipur were annexed by the British in 1773, 1809 and 1826 respectively and only in 1949, these states were merged into India. It is very unfortunate that the people of WESEA region managed to remain quiet and content when leaders of this region mix the story of Shri Krishna of Mahabharata with the beautiful and time immemorial history of WESEA region on their speech in public platform, it added.

The ASUK's statement appealed the people of the region to support the total shutdown called by ASUK and to remember that we are still under colonial rule.

## MHRC registers cases over non-availability of OST medicines in centres

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 23:

Community Network for Empowerment (CoNE) President Rk Nalinikanta in a press release stated that the Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) while taking serious note over the frequent non-availability of oral substitution therapy (OST) medicines to drug dependents coming to acquire medicines from OST centres opened across the state, has exclaimed it as a case of human rights violation and registered a case under Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

The decision to this effect was arrived at on January 20, 2022, following a complaint lodged by Community Network for Empowerment (CoNE) over denial of oral substitution therapy (OST) medicines by various OST centres across the state to drug dependents who are desperate in leading a normal life and become a responsible and productive citizen.

MHRC, while considering the act as a case of human rights violation and registering the complaint lodged by CoNE as MHRC Complaint Case No. 5 of 2022, has directed all respondents' viz. Director of National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India; Director, Manipur State AIDS Control Society

(MACS), Govt. of Manipur; Chief Medical Officer, Kakching Community Health Centre; Medical Superintendent, Ukhrul District Hospital and Medical Superintendent, Senapati District Hospital, to respond within three weeks' time w.e.f. January 20, 2022.

CoNE on various occasions has made complaints to authorities concerned to ensure uninterrupted supply of OST medicines in all OST centres across the state.

The latest complaint came to CoNE on January 18, 2022, from three drug dependents who accessed OST medicines from OST centres located at Kakching Community Health Centre, Ukhrul District Hospital and Senapati District Hospital.

OST centres were opened in different centres across the state considering its effective treatment for opioid dependence and harm reduction strategy among IDUs. International evidence including Indian records show that OST programme are effective in substantially reducing the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other blood borne virus like Hepatitis-C & B. Despite this evidence and the positive outcome of the OST programme, the program due to evident negligence on the part of the implementing authorities, is now in a state of failure which needs to be looked into seriously.

## Petrol pumps in Manipur to shut down on Jan 24

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 23:

Manipur petroleum Retail Outlet Dealer Association has urged the Government of Manipur to initiate a departmental inquiry to prove security lapses on January 21, where escorted Petroleum product tankers were damaged and physically assaulted drivers by bandh supporters at Keithelmanbi.

The Association said that all the petrol pumps of IOCL, HPCL, BPCL, and Narayana Energy shall remain close on January 24, 2022 in support of the demands of the affected

drivers for compensation and as a mark of solidarity. The decision was adopted during a telephonic meeting held today in connection with the incident with the office bearer of the association of HPCL, BPCL, IOCL, and Narayana Energy.

In the meeting, the association also resolved to urge the government of Manipur to provide all norms and rules of proper highway on NH-2 in the state of Manipur. Besides, the association demanded appropriate compensation to the affected drivers and for the damaged tankers by the government of Manipur within a stipulated time.

## Film Appreciation Book on works of Jahnua Barua released

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 23:

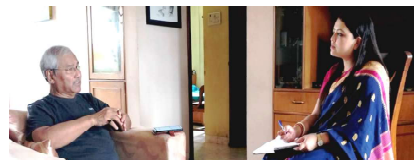
A book, 'Film Appreciation on Cinemas (1980 to 1990) of Jahnua Barua: Social, Economic, Political and Cultural Perspectives,' was released at the 37th Day Session of Global Communication Education Conclave (GCEC) held under the aegis of the Global Media Education Conclave (GMEC).

The book is penned by Dr. Jui P. Pathak, an academican from Assam who works as an Assistant Professor at Sharda University, Uttar Pradesh.

Padma Bhushan Jahnua Barua commented on the book: "It always makes a filmmaker happy when people discuss or write about film appreciation. I

appreciate Dr. Jui P. Pathak's work in bringing out... a comprehensive analysis of my films. This book will also be a handbook for film students to understand how to appreciate films from multiple dimensions, not only from the perspective of cinema but also the rubrics of politics, economics, culture, and society apart from others that Dr. Jui has tried to highlight through her exhaustive works. This book will go a long way in celebrating the rich customs and diverse culture of Assam."

In the introduction of the book, Bollywood film director Arunaraje Patil, who is also a winner of 5 National Awards, wrote, "Everybody talks of Jahnua's work - his cinema and the accolades he has received over the years. In fact, this book



is about that!"

Jahnua Barua is an Indian filmmaker of international repute. This book explores the man and his message through an in-depth analysis of his films from 1982 to 2014. The research study considers a span of 32 years. This research project considers 12 Assamese feature films of Jahnua Barua and excludes the Hindi Language feature films and other short films. The entire research was conducted under a project of the Altruist

Centre for Research, Training and Development (ACRTD), a wing of Capt. Ayush Purusartha Foundation (CAPF). The Research Project made way for mammoth data that has been divided into three books. This book is the first of the trilogy.

The expected outcome of this book is to document and preserve Assamese culture and help understand the various facets of the Assamese society in detail. The book has brought

out the macro-environmental factors like representing social, economic, political, and cultural aspects of Assamese society or change. While films reflect society, this attempt to document the message in Jahnua Barua's films, which are largely focused on issues of human interest, will act as a ready reckoner for anybody who would aspire to delve into the intricacies of Assamese society, its people, and culture.

Apart from this book, Dr. Jui Pathak has authored two books - 'Introduction to Media Laws and Ethics (1st Ed 2014, 2nd Ed 2017)' and 'Television Advertising Ethics and Human Rights (1st Ed 2018)' and co-authored 'Contemporary Media Discourses: Trends, Issues and Prospects' (1st Ed 2021).

# A career in mining engineering can enthrall your life

By: Kaustov Kashyap

Mining engineering deals with designing safe and efficient mines for removing coal and metals. Mining engineering optimizes mines for removing resources in the most efficient manner possible. The studies under it, figure out the ways by which as much of the resource as possible is extracted.

Mining engineering provides specialization in a particular mineral or metal, such as iron or coal. Some Mining engineers collaborate with geologists to find and evaluate new ore deposits.

Others develop or improve mining equipment, or manage processing operations that separate and refine minerals. Mining safety engineers implement best practices, conduct mine and equipment inspections, monitor air quality, and ensure compliance with all safety regulations to keep workers safe.

## Eligibility for Mining Engineering

The students who have appeared in 12th examination and await the result are allowed to apply for the B. Tech course. Candidates should have passed B.E./B.Tech. (Civil/Mining/Agricultural Engineering/EEE/ECE/CSE) are eligible for the course. One can pursue M.E. or M.Tech as well after qualifying GATE and completion of graduation.

## Entrance exams for Mining Engineering are:

**IIT Joint Entrance Examination:** It is the examination conducted for IIT aspirants every year across various centres in India.

**JEE Mains:** This exam is conducted in the months of December and January. For Paper 1, students can opt for either pen paper-based exam or online exam.

**JEE Advanced:** It is the exam for IIT aspirants and Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad which is available for online admission and application selection. This course trains the students to enable them for improving and innovating mining techniques and technologies. Entrance exam is the preferred mode to take admission for most of the institutions

All India Engineering Entrance Exam (AIEEE)

AICET: All India Common Entrance Test.

AMIE: Associate Membership of Institutions of Engineers.

DCE CEE: Delhi College of Engineering Combined Entrance Exam.

NERIST: North Eastern Region Institute of Science and Technology

BITSAT: Birla Institute of Science and Technology Entrance Exam

Courses in Mining Engineering

## B. Tech

It is a 4-year undergraduate course in mining engineering. It is a branch of engineering that deals with the theory, science, application and technology of processing and extracting resources from the natural environment. For being eligible for this course, candidate has to pass senior secondary examination from a recognized board with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics as subjects. Most of the institutions have entrance exams as admission mode while some others offer students a direct entry to the students on the basis of merit list.

## M. Tech.

Mining Engineering or Master of Technology in Mining Engineering is a postgraduate Mining Engineering course. Mining engineering is the discipline that involves the practice, the theory, the science, the technology, and application of extracting and processing minerals from a naturally occurring environment. Mining engineering also includes processing minerals of additional value. The syllabus for the course is divided into four semesters plus a list of electives. The duration of the course, generally, is two years but it depends as per the criteria of the different institutes. The course is an important and career orienting in nature which opens a lot of opportunities for the candidates after its successful completion.

## Career in Mining Engineering

Mining engineers design both open-pit and underground mines, supervise construction of mine structures, plan the transportation of minerals to processing plants, monitor production, and prepare reports. They assess the geological characteristics of mining sites and determine the structures, equipment and processes to be used at a particular operation.

These professionals also make sure that mine operations are conducted in environmentally sound ways. They may also apply their expertise to land reclamation, water and air pollution, and sustainability issues.

Mining Engineers design mines and will use engineering principles, technology and scientific theory for the safe and effective extraction of natural resources from these mines. Mining Engineers plan, design and operate the mining processes, both underground and above ground. Mining Engineers will be responsible for the overseeing of both mining operations and miners, and are employed by many mining-related organizations.

Mining Engineers will often work with Geologists and Metallurgical Engineers to find and evaluate new mineral deposits. Some Mining Engineers will be involved in the development of new equipment or direct mineral-processing operations to separate minerals from dirt, rock, and other material

## Job Opportunities for Mining Engineers

There are various opportunities that a mining engineer will obtain, considering that many countries are focused on mining the resources in their geographical boundaries. Countries in the Middle East like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait provide excellent job opportunities for job aspirants with good qualification. China is the largest gold producing country in the world, producing 403t (tons) of gold in 2012, an 11.7% increase in production over the previous year, and the job opportunities are only expanding. Australia is currently facing a lot of crisis with respect to finding workforce related to mining. The WA Chamber of Minerals and Energy is already planning recruitments in large numbers, from overseas and has allocated resources worth more than US\$ 2 billion to bring in skilled migrants.

## Salary after Mining Engineering

A fresher gets 3.5 to 4.6 lakh per annum in India. The salary gets increased with the experience.

(The writer is a HR & Career Consultant, Jorhat & Guwahati, Assam)

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

# Science Vs Religion

By: Roshan Yumnam

With the rapid progress made by science & technology in the recent past, the conflict between the two has widened further. Science on the one hand concludes the theories are based on experiment and analytical logic, while religion theories are based on experience, meditation and blind faith. Science deals with the things objectively, which religion is a subjective math's. In the present age of rapid growth in scientific advancement in all walks of life, the further history would depend on the way of living of the new generation to reconcile the conflict between science and religion.

Religion is mainly a phenomenon of faith, a purely subjective math's while science is based.

Totally on reasoning and analytical proving the concepts based on laboratory and mechanical experiments. Science always speaks the truth include language and in absolute terms, which religion speaks in poetic and touching sentiment. Science has the credit of all the material progress made in the world, religions enjoy the credit for providing mental peace and solace in the world, where everyone is mortal. Through science one can amass endless wealth, unimaginable luxuries, all material and physical things, that the others, but the mental solace, the self-respect, the eternal peace, one can secure only through religion. Science gives luxuries and materialistic living to a man, while religion gives him peace of mind.

Bernard Shaw once said, "life well lose its charm when faith is replaced by Cold Scientific Reason".

Many great scientist, scholars, political leaders, writer have given credits of their achievements to the almighty, a supernatural being. It shows that religion is not an unimportant concept to throw away. There is no weightage for moral and ethical values in the materialistic world created by scientific inventions and discoveries but without ethical and moral values, the world become a self-destructive entity. By pushing a button of nuclear warheads, the whole world on the whole civilization may face distinction, science is not going to tell you the consequences of the act of punishing a button but it is the moral and ethical values imbedded in a man because of his face in a religion, which prevent him from pushing such a button as it can destroy the beautiful world and could lead to our extinction.

The approach of science towards life is crude, monotonous, lifeless, devoid of feeling of love, emotions, which on the other hand the religion approaches life with feeling of faith, love towards all human beings, faith in self and faith in the omnipotent, omnipresent, superbeing. According to religion the existence of man is by the will of "God" all the bad and good happens only by the will of "God" while science rejects all these concepts and believe that the birth of child in the result of sexual relation between man and woman. Science has been able to use several incurable diseases but unable to conquer the inevitable death. Science can't tell us the reason and cause of rebirth of soul. Science can't solve many mysteries of the

world. Religion gives us answers of the above questions, but does not prove them as in religion, the things are based in faith and belief and can't be justified and prove in a scientific way.

Swami Vivekananda in his speech at the parliament of religious held at Chicago in 1893 said, "Science in nothing but the finding of unity. As soon as science would reach perfect unity, it would stop from further progress, because it would reach the goal. Thus, chemistry could not progress further when it would discover one element out of which all others could be made. Physics would stop when it would be able to fulfill its services in discovering one energy of which all the other are manifestations and the science of religion becomes perfect when it could discover 'HIM' who is one life in a universe of death, 'HIM' who is the constant basis of an ever-changing world one who is the only soul of which all souls are but delusive manifestations. Thus, it is through multiplicity and duality that the ultimate unity is reached. Religion can go no further; this is the goal of all sciences. All sciences are bound to come to this conclusion in the long run. Manifestation and not creation is the word of science today."

According to religious philosophy, "Everything is in this universe has been created by the 'Almighty' and soul are eternal and immortal. The body of man is mortal. On the death of a person, it is the body that is destroyed, the soul just takes charge of a new body or spirit. The science does

not accept existence of 'Soul' or 'God' and does not believe in Reincarnation or Rebirth' etc."

The diversities prevailing in various concepts of different religions and the selfish interest of the heads of the different protagonists of religion, term out the haven's superstitions and unscientific, illogical traditions, ritual and make religion a hegemony of some people. Untouchability, division of society based on birth, caste and creed, has caused a great loss to the civilized world. Order to satisfy the lust for power, killing thousands of innocent lives and thus contemplated to infuse moral and ethical values in human beings to spread love, peace, harmony and fraternity among the civilized world.

Science & Religion are altogether different concepts. Science deals with materialistic progress of the world, needed to arrange physical things necessary for the comfort, convenience and luxury for man, while religion in true sense deals exclusively for the peace of mind, for the eternal solace, for advancement of spiritualism of man, for the good of all concepts.

Now, first arose, the primal seed of mind. Sages, searching in this heart of wisdom, found the bond between existence and non-existence - German Philosopher.

For survival in this complicated, competitive and corrupted modern society, to have our needs everything need money but fortunately money couldn't become everything - Anonymous.

# Efficacious school governance works wonders

The emphasis on school governance is a much-needed step to push cheers into the cheeks of four children. This cannot be merely a policy directive. The recently released new education policy speaks of school governance as one of its founding goals. A closer look at the recommendations renders its intent of addressing obstacles in the path of efficacious school governance. The policy supports the promise of "minimum government, maximum governance."

The NEP envisions the impact on what children learn, at least for next two decades, in school. This mandates that the effective and efficient use of resources, accountability, and participation by stakeholders as decision makers is pivotal. The policy underlines the School Complex Management Committee (SCMC), consisting of all school heads, selected teachers, representatives of local community, students, parents, etc. for more robust and improved governance, monitoring, support and innovations. The purpose of the SCMC is decentralisation of power to bring in improved and effi-

cient governance of schools. These SCMCs are obliged to prepare school complex development plan (SCDP) which will include human, learning, physical, financial resources, improvement initiatives, school culture initiatives, teacher development plans, and educational outcomes. This is a kind of autonomy to schools towards providing integrated and inclusive education, to experiment with pedagogies and curriculum in line with National and State Curriculum Frameworks.

A school's governance should be determined by its laws and bylaws and the decisions should be according to those provisions. It should be ensured that decisions are based on school needs which improves school's overall performance. It is appropriate to flag that the success of every school depends on the way it is managed.



By: Ravindra Kumar Mishra

School has a number of stakeholders in their activities. Their governance may therefore, be done through a coalition of interests working together and performing different functions, all aimed at enabling the school to operate and to achieve its aims and objectives i.e. every child in school and every child learning.

Repeated school closure, due to the pandemic, based on the local considerations seems to be a new normal for a while. Simultaneously, it offered opportunity for parental engagement and participation in learning of children and enhanced digital governance into operation. This is certainly an edge to enable parents, community and stakeholders to participate through online platform for strengthening the governance of the school. We must ensure that we do not lose this momentum of increased parental involve-

ment. There is good number of research and evidence which establishes that parental involvement helps in children's learning.

In early childhood education, the distinction between formal and informal learning is blurring and demands consultations, deliberations and discussion in the light of NEP that provides a pathway for informal learning in school curriculum, for all inclusive school governance. There is a lot to learn from the approaches of other countries also on how their school governance system makes education full proof.

It is thus critical that school governance does not emanate from an exclusion of any constituent that shall push the realisation of a NEP's educational and social order further away from the foreseeable future.

Attendance to achievement, learners and teachers, parents and community, stakeholders and visitors feel welcome when an efficacious school governance works wonders.

(The writer is a Former Chief Consultant, Min. of Education (formerly MHRD), GOI)

# Teach the children well

The problem. But the threat is particularly worrying for young children, who are today exposed very early to devices that spread disinformation even before they are fully familiar with the ideas of context, history and perspective. All of this makes the ability to identify fake news a life-skill that families and education systems must increasingly teach children as they grow up, just as they once educated them in good manners and responsible citizenship.



By: Vijay GarG

However, it is unclear whether France's approach is necessarily the most effective, at least for India. Like many Western nations, France has, in recent years, faced disinformation-laced influence cam-

paigns from abroad aimed at impacting elections. Given that background, it is clear that Mr Macron's initiative will principally focus on busting fake news propagated by foreign adversaries. That is an important issue to address: no democracy can allow external forces to intervene in its electoral processes. But it is also an easy — and limited — strategy for governments to adopt. In reality, the most dangerous fake news often emanates from within the country. Mr Macron himself has been accused of peddling false and dangerous tropes when he claimed in November 2020 that many Muslim parents were bringing up their children in "hatred of France's values" and that many communities in

the country were "breeding grounds for terrorists".

As fact-checker organizations have repeatedly shown, the ruling government and its affiliates in India are often the source of worrying disinformation that is then spread virally on social platforms. All of this should serve as a reminder of the perils of a government-designed school curriculum — even one ostensibly targeting fake news. Instead, India needs to learn from Finland's example. Since 2014, the Nordic nation's schools use regular subjects to train students to sift out fact from fiction: fairytales, statistics lessons, art class and history books can all teach students to identify serial liars, the misrepresentation of numbers, manipulation of images, and the dangers of propaganda. Such an approach to education is not easy. But when the future of entire generations is at stake, India cannot afford to take shortcuts.



# Omicron is transmitting in community, dominant strain in metro cities: Centre



Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 23:

The expert committee (INSACOG) which studies various strains of SARS-CoV-2 and their genome sequencing has concluded that Omicron, the variant driving the third wave of the pandemic, is in the community transmission stage in India and has become the dominant strain in multiple metros. The observation was made early this month in its latest bulletin of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics or Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genetics Consortium or INSACOG.

"Omicron is now in community transmission in India and has become dominant in

multiple metros, where new cases have been rising exponentially. BA.2 lineage is in a substantial fraction in India and S gene dropout based screening is thus likely to give high false negatives," it said.

While most Omicron cases so far have been asymptomatic or mild, hospitalisations and ICU cases have been increasing in the current wave. The threat level remains unchanged, the expe

Several states earlier said that Omicron was spreading in the community as patients without foreign travel history, without being a contact of anyone who has travelled abroad contracted the Omicron variant.

Omicron, the variant first detected in South Africa on November 24 last year, is driving the third wave of the pandemic in the country. It has emerged as the dominant variant, replacing Delta, the variant which drove the second wave of the pandemic in India. In metro cities, Omicron has already become the dominant strain, while in districts it is on its way to replacing Delta.

The first few cases of Omicron in the country reported in December 2021 were among foreign travellers. Within weeks, Omicron spread rapidly indicating that the variant is not anymore confined within the person-to-person transmission, but has spread in the community.

# Joint CEO briefs press on importance of publication of Criminal Antecedents and PB

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 23:

In view of the ensuing current general election to the Legislative Assembly of Manipur Joint Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Ramananda Nongmeikapam briefed the press on importance of publication of Criminal Antecedents and Postal Ballot (PB) at a press briefing held yesterday at the Conference Hall of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Lamphelpat.

Joint CEO stressing on the importance of the publication of Criminal Antecedents said that the details of the candidate shall be published in one of the local vernacular newspaper and one national newspaper shortlisted by the CEO, Manipur, within 48 hours of the selection of the candidate or not less than two weeks before the first date for filing of nominations, whichever is earlier. It should also be uploaded on the official social media platforms of the political party, including Facebook and Twitter.

Ramananda, on publication of The Criminal Antecedents, said that it should include detailed information regarding individuals (candidate) with pending criminal cases including nature of the offences and relevant particulars as to whether

charges have been framed, concerned Court, case number and other relevant information. Clarity should be given regarding the selected candidate, the reasons for such selection, and also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates. It should also mention the reasons as to how selections are made not merely on 'winnability' at the polls but also with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate concerned.

The political party concerned should also submit a report of compliance with these directions to the Election Commission within 72 hours of the selection of the said candidate, he added. Addressing the media,

Joint CEO informed that till date, 929 Postal Ballot forms have been received out of 33376 Postal Ballot (PB) forms issued. Out of the total PB forms issued, 23,393 PB forms had been issued to 80 years and above aged electors in which 807 have been submitted. 122 PB forms have been received out of 6988 PB forms issued to People with Disabilities. So far, 1140 COVID affected persons and 1855 persons employed in essential services had applied for PB forms.

Ramananda said that the postal ballot is an option facilitated by the Election Commission of India for exercising the franchise for the PWDs and 80 plus elders and is not mandatory. If they wish to cast their vote, they can come out on the poll day

and cast their votes physically at their respective polling stations.

He further stated that in Manipur there are 14 designated camps housing 2177 cadres who are qualified electors belonging to 23 different UG Groups under Suspension of Operation (SoO) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). In total there are. The Election Commission of India has given direction that these electors be allowed to vote by Postal Ballot (PB) taking into account the right of franchise of such electors as they cannot move out of their designated camps. In order to ensure that their right to vote is fulfilled necessary election machineries will be deployed in these designated camps.

Contd. from Page 1

# India' military might .....

Before the parade President Ram Nath Kovind will hoist the National Flag at Red Fort and the National Anthem will be played. Before commencement of the parade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the nation in paying a homage to the martyrs by laying a wreath at National War Memorial. The parade will start at 10.30 am with the National salute. The duration of parade will be 90 minutes. Two Param Vir Chakra and one Ashok Chakra awardees will participate in the R day parade.

The mounted Columns would include 61 Cavalry comprising 39 horses. There will a motor cycle display by ITBP (male team) and BSF (female team).

There will be a display of new generation and vintage weapon and equipments by mechanised columns which include: One tank PT-76 and Centurion (On Tank Transporters) and two MBT Arjun MK-I, one APC TOPAS and BMP-1 (On Tank Transporter) and two BMP-II, one 75/24 Towed gun (on vehicle) and two Dhanush Gun system, one PMS bridge and two Sarvatra bridge system, one HT-16 (on vehicle) and two Tarang Shakti Electronic Warfare system, one Tiget Cat missile and two Akash missile systems.

There marching contingents and military bands include: Rajpur Regiment Centre Contingent-"Sarvatra Vijay" (quick march), Assam Regiment Centre Contingent- "Assamese Warrior"(quick march), Sikh Light Infantry Centre Contingent-"Faulad Ka Jigar"(quick march), Navy Brass Band-"Jai Bharati" and Navy Tableau-"Combat Ready, credible and cohesive: Indian Navy", Air Force Band-"Sound Barrier" and IAF Tableau "Transforming the future: IAF".

The different bands will play their designated tunes. They would include: CRPF Band-"Desh Ke Hum Hain Rakshak", Delhi Police Band- "Delhi Police Anthem", CISF band-"Amar Senani", Sashastra Seema Bal-" Sashastra Seema Bal Geet", BSF Camel Band-"BSF Song", NCC (Mixed Military Band) -"Kadam Kadam Badhae Ja" (Quick march), and National Service Scheme Marching Contingent- Massed Pipes and Drums Band-"Herana Herana" (Quick March).

Besides there will be cultural programs of groups of dancers selected through "Vande Bharat" competition. Lt Gen Vijaykumar Mishra, GOC, Delhi area will be parade commander and Maj Gen Alok Kacker, Chief of Staff, Delhi area will be the Second-in-Command.

The Naval Contingent comprises 96 men, three Platoon Commanders and one Contingent commander. The contingent comprises the Navy Tableau-"Combat Ready, credible and cohesive: Indian Navy".

The nation is celebrating 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which finds a special mention in the tableau as Navy's contribution to our freedom struggle.

Naval Tableau The nation is celebrating 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which finds a special mention in the tableau as Navy's contribution to our freedom struggle.

Naval Tableau The nation is celebrating 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which finds a special mention in the tableau as Navy's contribution to our freedom struggle.

Naval Tableau The nation is celebrating 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which finds a special mention in the tableau as Navy's contribution to our freedom struggle.

Naval Tableau The nation is celebrating 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which finds a special mention in the tableau as Navy's contribution to our freedom struggle.

of Navy particularly for the period 1983 to 2021. The model of indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant in air takes the centre stage flanked by models of indigenous missile Corvette "Kora", the Destroyer "Visakhapatnam", Frigate "Shivalik" on left and P-75 submarine "Kalvari", frigate "Godavari" and destroyer "Delhi" on the right side. Frames on the lower section of the trailer depict construction of Indian Naval platforms in India."

Naval Band The world-renowned brass band of the Indian Navy led by Vincent Johnson, Master

Chief Petty Officer Musician I Honorary Lt (Sub Lieutenant) will play notable tunes at R Day parade. This is for the 18th time, Johnson, will be marching down Rajpath during the R Day parade. He will lead a 72-men naval band as its drum major in front of the President of India.

From Sydney to Mauritius and St Petersburg to Edinburgh, Vincent Johnson has led the Indian Navy band at various military events across the world, but if there's a celebration that's closest to his heart, it's the R Day parade. The tunes which will be played in the R Day Parade: include Indian Fleet, Silver Jubilee, INS Vikrant, Blue Field, INS India, Jai Nidhi, Swarn Jayanti, Jai Bharati and "Sare Jahan Se Achha".

Lt Cdr Aanchal Sharma an Observer Officer and Lt Cdr Kushal Agarwal an Air Electrical Officer, posted at INS Rajali, described the preparation and the sentiments of the Naval contingent saying that "The hard work and tough schedule in the last two months has paid off and out contingent is full of passion and pride and each individual has a sense of honour to be marching in front of our Supreme Commander, the President of India.

# Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh virtually interacts with NCC Cadets taking part in Republic Day Camp 2022

PIB  
New Delhi, Jan 23:

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh virtually interacted with the cadets of National Cadet Corps (NCC), taking part in the Republic Day Camp 2022, on January 22, 2022. He lauded the youth organisation for instilling into its cadets the qualities of a leader, soldier, artist, musician and above all a good human being, making them a complete person. He commended NCC for developing the qualities of its cadets so that they create their own paths and give new direction to society. He urged the cadets to find purpose in life and take inspiration from many NCC alumni who made a mark in society by adopting the qualities of unity, discipline, truthfulness, courage, harmony and leadership taught at the organisation. "The NCC is doing a yeoman service to the Nation by transforming the youth into a cohesive and disciplined force," he said.

Terming hard work as the key to success, the RakshaMantri urged the NCC cadets to strive for a "new dawn of progress from petty jealousies and soul-sapping prejudices of regions, religions, castes and classes." He called for equality between men and women, enjoying the highest measure of liberty, consistent with the common good. He laid equal emphasis on moulding with the continuously



evolving times and carrying forward Indian values, traditions and the feeling of humanity while bringing about that change. ShriRajnath Singh cited a saying of Swami Vivekananda, "You are lions, you are souls, pure, infinite, and perfect. The might of the universe is within you", exhorting the NCC cadets to dream big and work diligently towards achieving their goals by breaking the shackles of fear & scepticism. "Go ahead in your lives with a vision to create something new, something of the highest order, something that makes you successful and makes our country proud," he said. The RakshaMantri decided to interact with the NCC cadets

virtually as he is still COVID-19 positive and following all protocols. He told the cadets that, being an NCC alumni and a teacher himself, he ensures that he doesn't miss any event organised by NCC. During the event held in the NCC auditorium at Delhi Cantt, the NCC cadets presented a colourful rendition of the song 'Shat ShatNaman' to the RakshaMantri. The event was marked by the announcement of the winners of this year's Raksha Mantri Padak & Commendation Cards. DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh and senior civil and military officers of Ministry of Defence attended the function.

The RakshaMantriPadak was instituted in 1989 and since then it is awarded to the most deserving cadets and instructors every year for bravery or exceptional service of the highest order. This year, the RakshaMantriPadak will be awarded to Cadet Divyanshi of Delhi Directorate and Lt AkshayDeepakraoMandlik of Karnataka & Goa Directorate. RakshaMantri Commendation Cards will be awarded to Cadet CaptDheeraj Singh of Gujarat Directorate, SUO Somesh Manoj Sinha of Maharashtra Directorate, SUO KH MonitaSingha of North East Region Directorate and Cadet Adarsh Sharma of West Bengal & Sikkim Directorate.

# India logs 3.33 lakh new Covid-19 cases, daily positivity rate at 17.78%

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 23:

India recorded 3,33,533 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, 4171 (1.2 per cent) less than yesterday, according to the data by the Union Health Ministry at 8 am on Sunday. With this, the total caseload stands at 3,92,37,264.

The top five states which registered maximum cases are Maharashtra with 46,393 cases, followed by Kerala with

45,136 cases, Karnataka with 42,470 cases, Tamil Nadu with 30,744 cases and Gujarat with 23,150 cases.

The five states were responsible for 56.33 per cent of the new cases, with Maharashtra alone responsible for 13.91 per cent of the new cases.

At least 525 deaths were reported in the country in the last 24 hours, increasing the total reported death count to 4,89,409.

India's recovery rate now stands at 93.18 per cent. A total of 2,59,168 patients recovered in the last 24 hours, which brings the total recoveries to 3,65,60,650 across the country.

India's active caseload stands at 21,87,205. In the last 24 hours, active cases increased by 73,840.

On the vaccination front, India has administered a total of 71,10,445 doses in the last 24 hours, which brings the total tally of doses administered

to 1,61,92,84,270.

A total of 18,75,533 samples were tested for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours.

On Saturday, Delhi saw a slight uptick in cases as the national capital recorded 11,486 fresh Covid-19 cases with a positivity rate of 16.36 per cent. The city reported 45 deaths in a single day, the highest since June 5 last year.

Maharashtra reported 46,393 new Covid-19 cases and 48 deaths on Saturday.

# Manipur Congress workers protest over candidates' list

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 23:

Within a few hours of the publication of the Congress list containing the names of 40 candidates in Manipur, some workers of politicians denied ticket started vandalising the party's election booths. In Hiyanglam Assembly constituency, in the Imphal West district, angry workers tore down the party flags and banners. They reportedly tore the banners and stomped at the shredded party flags. Flags and banners kept to welcome the Congress na-

tional leaders, who are coming here to discuss election-related issues, were also torn.

Some of the protesting workers said politicians who had the best chance of winning were ignored. Police said that steps had been taken up to check the violence in other parts of the State.

State Congress leaders are not commenting on the spreading violence in Manipur which goes to the poll on February 27 and March 3.

Last week, the Congress office at Kumbi Assembly constituency in Bishnupur district

was closed and all ranking members resigned. They said that Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee president N. Loken did not listen to the suggestions of the party workers in the constituency on candidate selection.

Despite State BJP president A. Sharda's appeal that politicians who were denied party ticket should not agitate, there were signs of a gathering storm. The candidates' list has been taken to Delhi for approval by the national leaders and the names may be announced in two days' time.

# Netaji Subash Chandra Bose birth anniversary: PM Modi to unveil hologram statue today at India Gate

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 23:

From this year onwards, India's Republic day celebration will begin from January 23 instead of January 24 to include the birth anniversary of late freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. On this day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the hologram statue of Netaji at India Gate, Delhi on Sunday at 6 PM.

PM Modi had announced till the time the work for the "grand statue" of Netaji, made of granite, is completed, a hologram statue would be installed at the same place. Netaji's statue will be used under a canopy, which will have a statue of King George V that was removed in 1968.

**About Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose hologram statue:**

The hologram statue will be powered by a 30,000 lumens 4K projector.

An invisible, high gain, 90% transparent holographic screen has been erected in such a way that it is not visible to visitors.

The 3D image of Netaji will be projected on it to create the effect of a hologram.

Hologram size: The size of the hologram statue is 28 feet in height and 6 feet in width.

**Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose 125th birth anniversary:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and said that every Indian is proud of his monumental contribution to the nation.

"Wishing all the countrymen a very Happy Parakram Diwas. My respectful tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra

Bose on his 125th birth anniversary. I bow to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his Jayanti. Every Indian is proud of his monumental contribution to our nation," tweeted PM Modi today.

On the special occasion,

PM Modi will confer the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskars, for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 in the investiture ceremony. A total of seven awards will be presented during the ceremony.

# Royal Riders Manipur observes 15th Foundation Day

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 23:

Royal Riders Manipur (RRM) observed its 15th Foundation Day at its office in Meitei Langol today. Floral tributes were paid to the deceased members of the club with members of the club along with the family members of the deceased members attending the foundation day.

Speaking on the occasion of the 15th foundation day President, Royal Riders Manipur Rk Tombisana stated that in the past the club organised medical camp in the remote hill area of Manipur and in this coming February month the club will organise an environmental campaign and as a part of the campaign medical camp will conduct at the remote area.



IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, Jan 23:

The Jiri Development Organisation (JDO), Pari Puri Athouba Ningsing Lup (PPANL), Coalition Against Drugs and Alcohol (CADA), District Committee, Jiribam and Jiri Ima Meira Paibi Apunba Lup (JIMPAL) have expressed condolence on the untimely

demise of Y. Sanjiv Singh on January 18.

The President of JDO, Jiribam N. Sadananda Meitei stated that Y. Sanjiv Singh had taken part in the various important activities of the Jiribam. He had served as a President of AMSU, District Committee, Jiribam for long time and presently he served as a Advisor of AMSU, well as Convenor of

JCILPS, Jiribam branch; Organisation Secretary of CADA, District Committee, Jiribam and also took part active roles in others like minded organisation of Jiribam.

They expressed deep and heartfelt condolence to the grieving family and also observed a two minute silence prayer for the peaceful rest of the departed soul.

## Sports

# Bala Devi void hurts India as Chinese Taipei looms at the Asian Cup

Courtesy: Indian Express  
Mumbai, Jan 23:

Perhaps, Bhaichung Bhutia was talking from personal experience.

In 2011, when India were gearing up for their first men's Asian Cup appearance after more than three decades, the former captain watched from the sidelines as he recuperated from an injury. Bhutia, the country's highest goal-scorer and a highly influential player in the dressing room, ultimately played for just a handful of minutes in the final group-stage match but his experience was sorely missed as India bowed out without making an impact.

Now, as the women's team returns to the continental stage after nearly 20 years, they find themselves in a similar predicament. India are without their star striker and the focal point of their attack, Ngangom Bala Devi, the country's all-time top scorer with 52 goals in 58 appearances.

Without the former Glasgow Rangers forward, India lacked sharpness in attack as they were held to a frustrating goalless draw by Iran in their Asian Cup opener on Thursday. It was a dominant performance and India created 24 scoring opportunities, three times more than Iran. But only five of those were on target and



none were good enough to find the back of the net.

"Maybe, looking back, the experience of a Bala Devi up front may have been handy," Bhutia was quoted as saying by the All India Football Federation. "But injuries are part and parcel of football, and I am confident the others will fill in the void."

Sunday's match against Chinese Taipei will virtually be a make-or-break situation. The tie will be crucial in determining the team that will finish the group stage second behind 8-time Asian champions China, who looked in imperious form in their 4-0 win over Taipei on Thursday. The top two teams of the three groups and two

best third-placed sides will progress to the quarterfinals.

Devi, the first Indian woman to score in a European league, had suffered an ACL injury while playing for Rangers last season. She returned to India to complete her rehab, thus bringing an end to her stint with the Scottish club and also ruling her out of the Asian Cup.

The 31-year-old's absence, however, complicated the national team's preparation for the Asian Cup. One of the three Indian women to play overseas in recent years - two others being goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan (West Ham United) and right-back Dalima Chibber (university football in Canada) - Devi's influence on a young

squad, with an average age of roughly 23 years, goes beyond the playfield.

In her absence, chief coach Thomas Dennerby has built the attack around Manisha Kalyan, Pyari Xaxa, Sandhya Ranganathan and Grace Dangmei. Against Iran, the quartet routinely got into scoring positions and made timely moves to get behind the defence. At times, they were plain unlucky but on the occasion of an opportunity, the forwards lacked the composure to finish off a move.

A lot of this can be put down to a lack of experience and consistent match time. After Dennerby took over last August, the AIFF organised a prolonged training camp and friendly matches to prepare this team for the Asian Cup. The pandemic scuttled the team's plan to play a few more matches just before the tournament in a bid to get them into the groove. But no number of friendly matches could prepare them for the nerves and pressure that are by-products of a big tournament.

This was visible in the opening 20 minutes against Iran, when the Indian players seemed a little overwhelmed by the occasion, giving their opponents, placed 25 places below them at 70th in the world rankings, freedom and space to mount multiple attacks.

# Indian SL: Chennaiyin FC leapfrog to third in table with 2-1 win over rock-bottom NorthEast United FC

Agency  
Fatorenda, Jan 23:

Chennaiyin FC rode a second-half blitz to move third in the points table as they heaped more misery on NorthEast United FC with a 2-1 victory in the Indian Super League at the P. J. N. Stadium in Fatehgarh on Saturday.

Laldanmawia Ralte helped NorthEast United take the lead in the 35th minute before Ariel Borysiuk (52nd) and Vladimir Koman (58th) got Chennaiyin back in the game within a space of six minutes.

The result means Chennaiyin have now jumped to third place from seventh with 18 points from 12 matches while NorthEast United remain at the foot of the table having collected just nine points from 13 games.

Chennaiyin started the game on the front foot, displaying some eye-catching passing football and keeping the rival defenders on their toes. Nerijus Valskis warmed Mirshad Michu's gloves early on as the blue shirts seemed to play with more purpose. Against the run of play, Laldanmawia Ralte broke free but wasted an opportunity to spoil Chennaiyin's appearence.

But Laldanmawia did not have to wait long to atone for his mistake as he found the back



of the net albeit fortuitously in the 35th minute. Debit Majumder was to blame under the Chennaiyin bar for coming off his line unnecessarily and conceding a corner. Off the flag-kick, Majumder was again caught on the wrong foot as he flapped down the ball unconsciously into the danger area for a lurking Laldanmawia to slot home.

At half-time, NorthEast United led 1-0 and also looked to turn the tide after Chennaiyin dominated the first half-an-hour.

But in the second half, Chennaiyin took the game by the scruff of the neck. Rahim Ali putting the ball in the path of Borysiuk whose tame effort deflected off Sehraj Singh's right boot to go inside. Things took a turn for the worse for the Highlanders as keeper Michu looked

in a lot of discomfort but coach Khalid Jamil decided to keep him on until his poor outing cost them the second goal. Koman's free-kick missed everyone as Michu ventured out of his line to see the ball go past him and into the back of the net. Subhashish Roy Choudhary replaced Michu.

Stung by the twin setback, Jamil sent star forward Marcelinho, who joined NorthEast United in the January transfer window, in for Laldanmawia in the 64th minute and the Brazilian made an immediate impact with his jinking runs and cutting edge in the final third. Marcelinho tried his luck from range to just send his effort wide before his delicious corner found Patrick Flottmann whose header came off the post with his rebound flying over the bar.