

## Finally, the DMU recognizes Teachers teaching the DMU as original teacher

IT News  
Imphal, Jan. 24:

The long pending demand of the DM College of Arts Teachers' Forum has finally come to an end after the Vice Chancellor, Prof. N. Rajmuhon and the Registrar of the Dhanamanjuri University had recognized the sacrifices and services of the teachers of DM University since April 6, 2018 and thereafter as original teachers of the university.

A memorandum of understanding in the regard has been signed between the Vice Chancellor, Prof. N. Rajmuhon and the President of DM College of Arts Teachers' forum and the DM COSTA today.

"We appreciate and acknowledge the initiative of the VC and the Registrar for recognizing the sacrifices and services of the teachers of DM University since April 6, 2018 and thereafter as original teachers of the university. The teachers shall resume their respective PG teaching immedi-

ately." A statement by BS Sharma, President, DM College of Arts Teachers' forum said.

The MoU signed today for placing in the Syndicate on or before 5th February, 2022 are as follows:

1. Teachers of the constituent colleges in the subject departments running Post Graduate (PG) Programmes are recognised to have been in continuous engagement of taking their respective DMU PG Classes together with all other allied responsibilities since April 6, 2018 in a succession thereafter.

2. The same teachers (under para 1), unless otherwise opted, shall continue to run the new DMU PG Session 2022 or the current in session 3rd Semesters or both, as the case may be, for the eventual formation of regular DMU PG Departments.

3. The experience of such teachers for such duty shall be officially recorded and taken into account as a factor of quali-

fication to be duly reckoned with for any relevant position whatsoever within the DMU system (or without) in future.

4. The teachers (as mentioned in para 1) shall be given the first preference of position and post as original teachers in their respective regular PG departments, though under due process and by application of relevant regulations.

5. The power of the University as vested in the office of the Vice-Chancellor within the legitimate sphere of the DMU Act shall be exercised at the earliest by the 5th February, 2022 to invoke the authority of the Syndicate as mentioned in Section 21(2) of the Dhanamanjuri University Act, 2017 and in specific regard to contextually effective interpretation of the 'existing teachers' as meaning the working teachers of the constituent colleges (including utilized teachers) by amending the statute no. 30 of the Dhanamanjuri University Act, 2017.

## Sarsangchhalak honours descendants of Anglo-Manipuri war heroes

IT News  
Imphal, Jan. 24:

Param Poojaniya Sarsangchhalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Dr. Mohan Bhagwat has honoured the descendants of Anglo-Manipuri war heroes on Sunday during a book release function held at Rajarshi Bhagyachandra Skill Development Centre (RBSDC), Haraorou under Imphal East.

While stating that it is a proud moment for all Indians that our forefathers have fought and sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom, the Sarsangchhalak of RSS honored the descendants of the war heroes with a memento and a shawl.

The county has completed 75 years of independence because of the sacrifices made by our forefathers. Many Manipuris have participated in the freedom struggle and some of them were sentenced to death, even Maharaja



Kulchandra Singh of Manipur with 22 others were sent to Kalapani. The people of Manipur have also contributed the same as other states do in the freedom struggle of the country and it should be made known to all, Mohan Bhagwat said.

India is not based on religion but on dharma; the freedom fighters not only fought for freedom, but they also fought for dharma. The sacri-

ficing spirit of our forefathers is in our blood and their contribution makes the whole country strong. Making India a material and spiritually prosperous nation would be our befitting tribute to them. But, to lead the world as vishwaguru we need to change our strategy, said the Sarsangchhalak of RSS while taking the dedication of Israelis from their effort to establish Israel as a nation to becoming a global power as

an example.

Manipur has been a contributor to the life of India since the Mahabharata period. Today's generation also makes the same contribution by taking inspiration from those heroes. We should get such a whole of India upliftment through our actions, Mohan Bhagwat said while urging to translate the book into Manipuri and other Indian languages so that everyone can read and understand the contribution of Manipur in the freedom struggle.

The book entitled 'Unsung Anglo-Manipuri War Heroes at Kalapani' was released by the RSS Sarsangchhalak and Maharaj of Manipur, Leishemba Sanajaoba, who is also the Member of Rajya Sabha.

Earlier in the morning at RBSDC, the Sarsangchhalak led a floral tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary on the third day of his four-day visit to Manipur.

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## Protest staged at Kakching against entry of Y. Surchandra

Says will not accept if BJP allotted party ticket to him

IT News  
Kakching, Jan. 24:

Supporters of BJP MLA Mayanglabam Rameshwar, who replaced the Congress MLAY. Suchandra after his election was declared null and void by the High Court of Manipur in November 2020, staged protest against the entries the former Congress MLA and warns serious consequences if Y. Surchandra have been allotted BJP ticket to contest the upcoming state assembly election.

The BJP workers and supporters of MLA Mayanglabam Rameshwar staged the protest against any attempt to nominate Y. Surchandra as BJP candidate from Kakching Assembly constituency today at different



wards of Kakching Assembly constituency. Placards protesting granting of BJP ticket to Y. Surchandra were used by the protest at Polling No. 37/32, Sora Ching Mamang, Kakching ward No. 6, Polling No. 37/14, 15 Moirangthem leikai.

The protestors, who are

supporters of BJP MLA Mayanglabam Rameshwar alleged the former Congress MLA for his involvement in Criminal cases.

A supporter told media persons that they cannot accept the entry of the Former Congress MLA Y. Surchandra who has been alleged of com-

mitting several crimes.

"We have been working with MLA Mayanglabam Rameshwar as we trust the value base politics of the BJP", a protestor said.

The protestor said that BJP party ticket should be given to MLA Mayanglabam Rameshwar for contesting in the upcoming election.

Earlier too, supporters of the MLA Mayanglabam Rameshwar had staged a similar protest at Sora 37/31, Kakching Wair Ward no. 1 and Polling Station 4 of Pallel.

Mentioned may be made that Y. Surchandra joined the BJP along with lone TMC MLA Robindro on Jan 20. Both were given a rousing welcome by the Central and state leaders of the BJP.

## NPP announces 1st list of 20 candidates

IT News  
Imphal, Jan. 24:

The Election management Committee of the Nationalist People's Party (NPP) today announces the first list of 20 candidates for contesting the upcoming State Assembly Election scheduled to hold in two phase. Below is the list of candidates contesting in 20 Assembly constituencies -

Laitonjam Jayananda for 3-Khurai Assembly

Constituency, Sheikh Noorul Hassan for 4-Kshetrigaoi, Alhaj Mohd. Nasiruddin Khan for 6-Keirao AC, Yumnam Joykumar for 10-Uripok AC, L. Jayantakumar for 12-Keishamthong AC, Oinam Romen for 13-Singhjam AC, Huidrom Vikramjit for 14-Yaiskul AC, W (O) Sumati Devi for 17-Lamshang AC, K. Sarat Singh for 18-Konthoujam AC, Karam Nabakishor Singh for 20-Langthabal

AC, Kh. Loken Singh for 22-Wangoi AC, U. Ramesh Singh for 23-Mayang Imphal AC, I. (O) Nalini Devi for 25-Oinam AC, Th. Shanti Singh for 27-Moirang AC, N. Diten Singh for 33-Heirok AC, Usham Manglem Singh for 34-Wangjing Tenthia AC, M. Ranjit Singh for 36-Wabagai AC, Maibam Dhanabir Singh for 38-Hiyanglam AC, Lunkhopao (Aapao) for 41-Chandel AC, N. Kayisii for 49-Tadubi AC.

## State prepares for R-Day 2022; Full rehearsal in Imphal

IT News  
Imphal, Jan. 24:

Ahead of Republic Day 2022, a full dress parade rehearsal was held in Imphal, this morning. The rehearsal parade commenced from 1st MR parade ground on the route towards the saluting base at Kangla and returned towards 1st MR parade ground again.

Altogether 17 contingents are taking part in the March Past on Republic Day. The Ceremonial parade/functions in the morning of 26th January, 2022 will be held at the State Capital at Imphal and all District Headquarters of the State including Sub-Divisional Headquarters.

However, celebrations will be scaled down in view of the rapid increase in the number



of Covid-19 cases, as well as the upcoming State Assembly Election, 2022.

Governor La. Ganesan, who will attend the function as Chief Guest, will take the salute at Kangla. Chief Min-

ister N. Biren Singh will address the Vote of Thanks at 1st Bn. Manipur Rifles Parade Ground, Imphal. Kh. Sarma Devi, MPS, CO-9th IRB will be the parade commander.

It may be mentioned that there will be no programmes of Reception at Raj Bhavan in the afternoon of 26th January 2022 and Cultural Programme and Beating the Retreat on 27 January 2022 because of the Covid pandemic.

Covid Appropriate Behaviors viz greeting without physical contact, wearing of face mask, wearing of hand glove, maintaining social distancing and avoid crowding will also be maintained during the celebration.

In connection with the celebration on January 26, the Office of the Traffic Control Police Wing has already issued a notification enforcing traffic diversions along various major roads in the State capital for the smooth celebration of the Republic Day and in public interest.

## Huyam Priobatra as Election Committee Convenor of sitting MLA H. Dingo unfortunate

The entries of H. Priobatra, an employee of Govt. of Manipur Education Department, Head Master I/C, Khurkhul Sadar Patel High School proves that the sitting MLA H. Dingo 16-Sekmai A/C become unpopular among the common people of this Assembly Constituency. If any good and dynamic political persons on the side of this MLA among the common people may be select any person as Election Core Committee Convenor instead of H. Priyobatra. In this point of view it is understand MLA H. Dingo found unpopular in this constituency.

Because MLA H. Dingo is a person implicated in the women crime just when he was elected while CMN. Biren announces 100 days development programme. And in this case he use huge amount of fund misused to settle this crime, instead of using for local development works.

So, he select H. Priobatra as Election Core Committee Convenor of his election campaign. Now I on behalf of the "16-Sekmai Nonscheduled Caste Development Committee" submitted on application requesting for taking action to Director Education (S), Govt. of Manipur and Chief Secretary against H. Priyobatra for involving in election campaign violating service rule. This will make unfortunate on H. Priobatra and MLA H. Dingo.

So, I on behalf of the committee appeal to all the people of this constituency not to cooperate such persons.

Sd/-

Phijam Anuba Singh

Convenor,

16-Sekmai A/C Nonscheduled Caste Development Committee

# The chip shortage is visible on luxury cars

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



The lack of semiconductors, or chips in common language, has affected the production of cars and electronic items to such an extent that two luxury cars had to remove their automatic rearview mirrors from their upmarket models. These are Skoda Kushak and Volkswagen Taigun. This remarkable change has been done for all variants. So, even if people opt for the top-spec variant, they will have to fold the outer rearview mirrors of the car manually. The reason behind this sudden change is the global shortage of semiconductors born out of the Covid pandemic. When a Skoda Auto India sales, service and marketing official was asked on Twitter why this was done, his reply was that he hoped the supply issue would be resolved in the coming time. That is, Skoda can add this feature again in the coming months. The old brochure on the website has been updated. Automobile companies all over the world are facing problems due to lack of chips. This problem is also something special in front of big car companies in India. They are forced to reduce their production.

Since the problem of chip shortage is long lasting and there is no immediate solution in sight, Tata Motors has decided to manufacture the chips on its own. The company will set up an outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing plant for this purpose only. In such plants, silicon wafers are converted into chips. This plant can be set up in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka or Telangana, although at present the final decision will be taken only after getting the consent of the state governments. The Tata group can invest up to Rs 2200 crore for this purpose. The demand for new cars remains the same, but car companies are not able to supply cars. The condition is that interested buyers have to wait for the delivery of the vehicle of their choice. Semiconductor chip shortage is being cited as the biggest reason for this delay and uncertain supply. The second reason is the rise in raw material prices. Chip shortages have forced many car companies to reduce their production despite demand.

In the month of October last year, the wholesale sales of cars registered a decline of 27 per cent, which was 16.7 per cent lower than the pre-Covid, October 2019 sales. That is, less cars were sold than the number of cars sold during the Covid period. The situation was even worse in September last, when wholesale sales declined by 41.16 per cent year-on-year and nearly 26 per cent lower than in September 2019. According to Rajesh Mittal, director general of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), an association of automobile companies, automakers were hoping that if there were less sales at the beginning of the current financial year, then the account would be leveled in the festive season. But it didn't happen. Chips typically made from silicon are used to supply power to a wide variety of devices such as cars, laptops, smartphones, home appliances and gaming consoles. The chip performs many functions, such as power display and data transfer, etc. Therefore, the effect of shortage of supply is bound to be there.

## Give yourself time



By: Harkirat Kaur

Time is a force. It never stopped for anyone. It has been going on and will continue to go on. The tension of time is so complicated that people do not have time to scratch their heads. In the struggle to get ahead of each other, human beings have started giving all their time to their work and occupations. As a result of which human beings became estranged from themselves wherever there was a rift in human relationships. Carrying the burden of life on one's shoulders, one forgets one's hobbies, forgets the purpose of life. The human

being, who is just busy with responsibilities and other tasks, walks away from this world and finally leaves this world.

God has given us life. This is a blessing of nature. We have the most authority over it. But all our lives we do not understand that we have to understand our own value. Nature is so beautiful, crowded, noisy drunks, running, stone cities, mobile phones, sometimes take yourself out with nature. Enjoy your sangat sometime. Try to find out who you are. Why are you And how should you be? Sit down and think about where I spent half, more than half of my life, whether I wanted such a life or not. If the answer is yes then thank God if it turns into despair after thinking then think about changing your attitude slowly.

We all live less for ourselves and more for others. We spend all our life in pleasing others, we lose our very existence, we forget ourselves. Fulfill responsibilities, take care of the family, take care of their needs, take care of their happiness too. But in the process, remember that you also have an identity.

Our happiness is our responsibility. Someone else may be the cause of it but the responsibility of making it eternal will remain ours. We can keep ourselves happy only when the smile on our face comes not because of anyone else but because of our own company.

But we can enjoy this happiness only if we give ourselves some time every day. Our daily routine should also include setting aside some time for ourselves.

Spend a few hours with nature, try to know yourself. Try to stop all the thoughts that come to your mind for a few moments. These thoughts will bother you again and again, but when you learn to sit quietly with yourself then you will feel at ease. The power to deal with every situation peacefully will come. The smile on your face will last forever which cannot be affected by high or low conditions.

That is why it is important to give yourself time.

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# Samagra Shiksha : The Vehicle for NEP 2020

Samagra Shiksha, an overarching programme for the schooling sector extending from pre-school to class 12, was launched on 1st April 2018 in order to treat school education holistically without segmentation from pre-nursery to class 12. It subsumed the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). The scheme has been extended upto the FY 2025-26 and fully aligned with the provisions of National Education Policy, 2020.

Several transformational recommendations of NEP have been made part of the Samagra Shiksha scheme, which includes holistic progress card, child tracking, bagless days, focus on SEDGs and out of school children etc. To ensure time bound implementation of NEP, a comprehensive and task oriented implementation plan called SARTHAQ has been released. Also to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) has been launched, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in Reading, Writing and Numeracy at the end of grade-3, by 2026-27.

Decentralized Planning exercise based on measurable outcomes is being carried out with the involvement of all stakeholders so that the scheme be fruitful in achieving the ultimate goal. In order to achieve the desirable objectives and outcomes of the schemes, a comprehensive action plan upto FY 2025-26 covering all the interventions of Samagra Shiksha is being prepared by all the states.

NIPUN Bharat portal is to be launched, which will have all the documents for the mission at one place. The focus will be on various interventions related to child-centric teaching learning materials, play based activities and supplementary graded materials, resource materials for teachers to align their innovative pedagogies with learning outcomes and grade level competency at foundational level. The Lakshya (Targets) of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy is to be displayed on the walls of schools/classrooms for mass mobilization. Also the Codified Learning outcomes for Foundational stage will be intimated to the parents & teachers. In the next academic session, a 3-month play based preparation module for Grade-I (VidyaPravesh) will be adopted by all the schools.

In order to ensure 100% GER at

all levels as envisaged in the NEP, adequate facilities for infrastructure and quality education at secondary level will be targeted for universal access and quality education for the age group of 14-18 years. New secondary/Senior secondary schools will be opened in unserved localities on the basis of GIS mapping. All secondary schools will be equipped with integrated science lab and ICT/Smart classroom with internet facility. Vocational education is to be planned in 50% of the composite secondary/Sr secondary schools. The drop-out rate at Secondary level is quite high, primarily due to students' inability to cope up with the curriculum and high stakes associated with these classes. To tackle this situation, 2-3 month School Readiness Module for children entering Grade-IX will be adopted.

To ensure universal access and afford opportunity for quality education to all children from pre-school to Grade-12, opening of new/upgraded school from pre-primary to class-12, addition of new subjects in existing secondary schools, provision of adequate number of classrooms & labs, rain-water harvesting, solar panel/electrification, barrier free access, toilets, drinking water, hand washing facilities, incinerators & sanitary pad vending machines



By: Er Prabhat Kishore

Although various initiatives have been taken during the school closure to support the children; but they require a bridge course to bridge the learning gap. Based on the findings of NAS, appropriate interventions are to be ensured in the schools. Further usage of DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge SHaring), which enables education at home through innovative state programmes, will be ensured. A 100-days reading campaign for children from Bal Vatika to class-VIII has already been initiated in January 2022.

As per NEP emphasis, age appropriate enjoyable and inspirational books are to be ensured in the school library. The success stories and best practices, especially those adopted during pandemic, are to be uploaded on national repository for nationwide sharing among teachers/students. NISHTHA training will be extended for teachers upto secondary level and also to Anganwadi workers as well as educational administrators.

As NEP mandates 50 Hrs of CPD every year to teachers, training need analysis for teachers will be conducted by SCERTs to customized training programmes. The excess teachers presently available will be re-deployed in needy schools before filling up the vacant posts. In most

12 in next 3 years. Safety and security guidelines will be strictly enforced and its social audit will be done. Also KGBVs will be equipped with ICT & SMART classes and will be enriched with library books through Library Grant. Activities will be planned to improve access, enrolment, retention and learning outcomes of all disadvantaged groups and vulnerable children including girls, transgender, SC, ST, minorities, migratory and urban deprived children. States will adopt & notify guidelines for fixing accountability of school management with regard to the safety of children in schools. A comprehensive action plan is to be chalk out for identification of children with special needs (CWSN), training of teachers, availability of special educators, infrastructure creation and ICT inclusive programmes.

To expedite the vocational education, construction of workshop/laboratory-cum-classroom, training module for courses of entrepreneurship soft skill etc. is to be done in upper primary schools. All upper primary, secondary and senior secondary school will be covered with ICT and digital initiatives in a time bound manner. Social Audit to cover 20% of schools per year is mandatory to monitor the implementation of schemes and ensuring transparency & accountability. Special emphasis is to be given to Aspirational Districts, Special Focus Districts (SFD), Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts, Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB), SC/ST/Minority concentration districts.

For all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), the financial management system has been changed and a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) has been designated for each CSS for each state. The bank account of each SNA is to be opened and mapped in PFMS.

SamagraShiksha will act as vehicle for carrying out the recommendations of National Education Policy 2020. Proper planning and implementation of interventions of SamagraShiksha would help in achieving the objectives of providing quality education for all, in a time bound manner and remove the bottlenecks currently available in the education sector. It will prove to be an efficacious weapon in transforming the nation as "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat".

(The author is a technocrat & academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj)



in all girl's hostels, Classroom-computer workshop for vocational education, extension of transport/escort facility upto secondary level, special training for out of school children of age-group 16 to 19 years belonging to SEDGs through open school system at secondary/Sr secondary stage will be made.

Covid-19 pandemic has hampered the education sector drastically due to year long closure of the schools and large scale migration.

states, the PTR is better than the prescribed national norms; but there is a shortage of subject teachers, which will be taken into account at the time of recruitment. Suitable mechanism for online and transparent system of recruitment as well as transfer will be developed.

BRCs and CRCs will be developed as vibrant academic resource centres for training and onsite support to teachers and schools. All KGBVs will be upgraded upto class

objectives of providing quality education for all, in a time bound manner and remove the bottlenecks currently available in the education sector. It will prove to be an efficacious weapon in transforming the nation as "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat".

(The author is a technocrat & academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj)

## The why of "Anglo-Kuki War"

(A comment on the letter dated 21-01-22 of Kangleipak Kanba Lup)

By: W.L Hangshing

The title of any book is the absolute prerogative of the author. "The conflict of 1917-1919 was truly a War", in the words of Shri Jai Ram Ramesh, an erstwhile Minister in the UPA government of PM Manmohan Singh. He has the credentials of having authored many books, including several on contemporary modern Indian polity. It was a guerrilla war fought by the Kukis against British Imperial high-handedness. The protagonists of the war have been referred to as Kukis in all contemporary records, military despatches, British official files and contemporary British books written on the subject.

It was thus a War and it was fought between the Kukis and the English. What more appropriate title can there thus be than 'The Anglo-Kuki War'. Col. Vijay Chetri has therefore hit the nail on the head

when he titled his book as 'The Anglo Kuki War'. It is a well written book, well researched, and is an unbiased, balanced, non-propagative work. It should be read by all who have an open mind to understand the conflict and the effect of it's aftermath on the Kuki.

It appears that the Kangleipak Kanba Lup have only reacted on the title of the book without reading the book itself, without understanding what Col. Vijay has to say. They are making the mistake of looking at the episode that occurred a century ago through the coloured spectacles of the present. They seem to be touchy and over-sensitive over the territorial integrity of the Modern state of Manipur, while being ignorant and callous over the core issue of maintaining the emotional and sentimental integrity of this beautiful modern state of Manipur with all its multi

coloured culture, language, and ethnicity. It is not just only a Meitei State.

As an aside, one wonders what would be the reaction if one were to question the title of the Khongjom war, as the Anglo-Manipur War; if one were to say that it should be titled as Anglo-Meitei Battle; or not even as the Khongjom War but "the battle of Khongjom". After all it was just one battle, albeit a very brief one (an hour at the most) that ended in a complete rout. All dictionary meanings of War indicates that a "War" comprises of a series of conflicts drawn out over a long period, usually years. Khongjom war was therefore definitely not a war, it was also not a conflict involving all Manipur (Modern Manipur) to merit the terminology of Manipur, unless of course it is admitted that Manipur comprised

only of the Meitei population. It was but a rally by a faction of those loyal to the 'Meilhei lengpa' (Meitei King). Thus, the Battle of Khongjom would be the appropriate title in the academic sense, and "Anglo-Manipur War" is a misnomer. One excuse could be that the meitei language does not differentiate between War and battle, but then it would be a lame excuse. It has one word 'lal' (lan?) for both. How silly it would be if we were to today to rename the 'battles of Panipat', and 'the battle of Plassey' as 'Anglo-Indian War' or the 'Panipat War' or 'The Plassey War' respectively, for that matter. But then, who is anybody anyway to have a say in such important matters of state!

(The writer is a Chief Commissioner (retd), General Secretary, Kuki People's Alliance)



# PM interacts with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees

*"Sacrifice of Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh Ji for India's civilization, culture, faith and religion is incomparable"*

PIB  
New Delhi, Jan 24:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) awardees today via video conference. Digital certificates were conferred on PMRBP awardees for the years 2022 and 2021 using Blockchain Technology. This technology was used for the first time for giving certificates to awardees. Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Zubin Irani and Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai, Minister of State were among those present on the occasion.

Interacting with Master Avi Sharma of Indore, Madhya Pradesh the Prime Minister enquired about the secret of his prolific output with regard to various aspects of Ramayana. Master Avi Sharma said that he got the inspiration by the decision of broadcasting the serial Ramayana during the lockdown. Avi also recited some couplets from his creation. The Prime Minister narrated an incident when he went and heard Sushri Uma Bharti Ji when, as a child, she showed immense spiritual depth and knowledge in a programme. He said there is something in the soil of Madhya Pradesh that gives rise to such precocious talent. The Prime Minister told Avi that he is an inspiration and an example of the adage that you are never too young to do big things.

Interacting with Kumari Remona Evette Pereira from Karnataka, the Prime Minister discussed her passion for Indian Dance. He inquired about the difficulties she faced in pursuing her passion. The Prime Minister complimented her mother for ignoring her own adversities to realise her daughter's dreams. The Prime Minister said that Remona's achievements are much bigger than her age and told her that

her art is a way of expressing the strength of the great country.

Interacting with Kumari Puhabi Chakraborty of Tripura, the Prime Minister enquired about her COVID related innovation. She also informed the Prime Minister about her fitness app for sportspersons. The Prime Minister asked about the support she receives from the school, friends and parents in her endeavour. He asked about her balance in devoting her time to sports as well as developing innovative apps.

Interacting with Master Dhiraj Kumar from West Champaran, Bihar, the Prime Minister asked about the incident where he saved his younger brother from a crocodile attack. PM asked about his state of mind while saving his younger brother and how he feels after the fame he got now. The Prime Minister praised his courage and presence of mind. Dhiraj told the Prime Minister that he wants to serve the country as an Army soldier.

Interacting with Master Meedhanish Kumar Gupta from Punjab, the Prime Minister enquired about his achievement of creating an app for COVID issues. The Prime Minister said that in children like Meedhanish he feels that the government efforts to promote entrepreneurship are bearing fruit and a tendency to become job providers instead of being job seekers is becoming more pronounced.

Interacting with Kumari Tarushi Gaur from Chandigarh, the Prime Minister enquired about her opinion on the balance between sports and studies. The Prime Minister asked why Tarushi idolises Boxer Mary Kom. She informed the Prime Minister that she likes her because of her commitment to excellence and balance that she strikes as a sportsperson and as a mother. The Prime Minister said that the govern-

ment is committed to providing all the facilities to the sportspersons and creating a mindset of winning at every level.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister noted that these awards become all the more significant in the light of the fact that they have been conferred during the important period when the country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. He said this is the time to draw energy from the past and dedicate oneself to achieving great results in the coming 25 years of the Amrit kaal. He also greeted the daughters of the country on National Girl Child Day. The Prime Minister remembered the glorious history of the Freedom Struggle and the contribution of Birbala Kanaklata Barua, Khudiram Bose and Rani Gaidinili. "These fighters had made the country's freedom the mission of their lives at a very young age and had dedicated themselves for it" the Prime Minister noted.

The Prime Minister also recalled his visit to the Nowshera sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Diwali last year where he met Baldev Singh and Basant Singh who had played the role of child soldiers in the post-independence war. They helped his army at such a young age without caring about their life. The Prime Minister paid tribute to the bravery of these heroes.

The Prime Minister cited examples of the bravery and sacrifice of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. He pointed out that when the Sahibzadas had sacrificed with immense valour, they were very young. Their sacrifice for India's civilization, culture, faith and religion is incomparable. The Prime Minister asked the youngsters to know more about the Sahibzadas and their sacrifice.

The Prime Minister remarked that a digital statue of

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has also been installed near India Gate in Delhi. "We get the biggest inspiration from Netaji - duty of the nation first. Taking inspiration from Netaji, you have to proceed on the path of duty for the country", Shri Modi added.

The Prime Minister said that in any sector, policies and initiatives are keeping youth at the centre. He cited initiatives like Start Up India, Stand Up India, Digital India, Make in India along with Jan Andolan of Aatmnirbhar India and creation of modern infrastructure. This, he said, is in sync with the speed of the youth of India who are leading this new epoch both in India and outside. The Prime Minister underlined the growing prowess of India in the innovation and start-up sphere. He conveyed the nation's pride in the fact of major global companies being led by Indian young CEOs. "Today we feel proud when we see the youth of India excelling in the world of startups. Today we feel proud when we see that the youth of India are innovating, taking the country forward", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said in areas where daughters were not even allowed earlier, daughters are doing wonders in them today. This is the new India, which does not hold back from innovating, courage and determination are the hallmarks of India today.

The Prime Minister lauded that the children of India have shown their modern and scientific thinking in the vaccination program as well. Since January 3, in just 20 days, more than 40 million children have got the corona vaccine. He also lauded them for their leadership in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The Prime Minister appealed to them to be an ambassador for Vocal for Local and lead the campaign of Aatmnirbhar Bharat.

# Assam Rifles foils influx of illegal Myanmar Nationals



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 24:

Tengnoupal battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) foiled an attempt by illegal Myanmar nationals

to enter India on 22 January.

During routine check at PVCP Khudengthabi, troops of Assam Rifles intercepted 22 Myanmar nationals who were attempt-

ing to illegally enter India with the assistance of 12 Indian nationals.

The illegal immigrants were handed over to Moreh Police for further investigation and legal action.

# 44 AR celebrated Parakram Diwas in Tamenglong

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 24:

As the nation this year celebrates 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of Headquarters 22 Sector AR/IGAR (East) organised various events in Tamenglong district on the occasion of Parakram Diwas, commemorating birth

anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The events included a COVID awareness Walkathon in Tamenglong town & expansion of Ujjala campaign by battalion in Tousem sub division.

The Commandant, Tamenglong AR battalion paid floral tributes at a function organised at Tamenglong. Later the first of its kind COVID awareness Walkathon

was flagged off by him to spread the message of CAB & booster dose vaccination. The participants holding banners, cut outs spread the message of hand sanitization, wearing mask & social distancing in the town. The Commandant, also urged the youth to channelise their energy in upliftment of the society and contribute towards nation building and development.

# Omicron will not be last Covid-19 variant, future mutations could be adept at surviving: WHO amid surge

Agency  
Geneva, Jan 24:

With the Omicron cases surging across the world, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has been cautioning people to get vaccinated and continue the use of masks. The WHO's technical lead on Covid-19, Maria van Kerkhove, said that Omicron will not be the last variant of the coronavirus and there could be more in the future.

"This virus is still evolving and changing and we need to change and adjust accordingly. We not only have to increase the vaccination coverage around the world, but also try and transition out. It will not end with the latest wave and Omicron will not be the

last variant we speak about, unfortunately," Maria van Kerkhove told the BBC in an interview.

She added that out of 10 billion dosages of vaccines administered throughout the world since the rollout of the vaccine, there are still three billion people who are yet to get the first dose. So, we still have a highly susceptible population and even if some countries are further along, we have to treat this global problem with global solutions.

Speaking on the growing speculation around Omicron being the last mutation and that its symptoms are milder, Maria van Kerkhove said that there is this narrative that Omicron is mild, it is not mild. She added that it is less se-

vere than Delta, but it is still putting people in hospitals, especially those who are not vaccinated and have comorbidities.

"There is a suggestion that future variants will be less severe and that's not a certainty. We expect more variants to emerge which could be fitter and more evolved than Omicron to survive. There is no guarantee that they will be less severe and they may have evolved properties that may render our countermeasures ineffective," she added.

"This virus is spreading really intensely, the challenge ahead is to get the balance right with measures required to reduce the spread. We are asking people to be very cautious," she said.

# Bodoland People's Front to 'work' with BJP but not as an alliance partner: Assam CM

Agency  
Guwahati, Jan 24:

Following the disintegration of the Congress-led 'Mahajot' alliance, Bodoland People's Front (BPF) has returned as a partner of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Assam Assembly, confirmed CM Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday.

It should be noted that the BPF severed its ties with the Mahajot after Congress broke its alliance with the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF).

While speaking to media, Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "From today, we have admit-

ted the Bodoland People's Front as one of the partner parties of BJP within the Assam Legislative Assembly. We will have total floor coordination with BPF as well as they will be sitting in the ruling party's portion in the Assam assembly."

However, Sarma also added that so far, the friendship will be confined to the Assembly and will not extend to a political level.

"BJP has not formed an alliance with BPF; the BJP Legislature Party and BPF Legislature Party will work together. On this, I have also taken consent from United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) and have

discussed with them also. They have no objection to this new formation," the Chief Minister said.

"So, the total strength of BJP and its friendly legislature parties is now 82 in the Assam assembly," Sarma added.

Last year in February, the BPF had severed ties with BJP, just before the Assembly polls in Assam and joined the grand alliance led by Congress. But the BPF quit the Congress-led grand alliance as well after some time.

In the Assam assembly polls, the grand alliance of Congress, AIUDF, BPF, and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) had won 50 seats.

## Career Guidance

## Online lesson have limits



By: Vijay Garg

When this type of distance learning was initially started, the teachers were learning and there was a natural curiosity among the students. Now that the teachers have learned a lot, the interest of the students is fading away.

There are many psychosocial reasons for this, which certainly must be being studied somewhere, but the school or college system cannot wait for those researches to become public. However, this research also comes with its limitations. Due to the urgency of the problems in educational institutions, the results and the process of improvement cannot wait. In such conversa-

tions, it is often the teacher in the courtroom that it is your responsibility to make the class such that the readers will look forward to your class.

It is the job of the teacher to make the classroom interesting and effective, but in the present scenario all these are not working. Attendance in interesting classes is decreasing. The materials available on the net are becoming helpful to the students. They are getting the summary of a chapter in less than a quarter of the class. And if something like 'screenshot' has saved you from bothering to write it, then the whole game is left with 'data pack'. According to the way the examinations are being done online, they are helping 'screenshot' and 'google'. Usually students who do not open their mouths in the class are getting a lot of marks and a common teacher concern is why the examinations should be conducted at all!

Online education has been seen as a new field by big capital companies. They are investing heavily in not only cre-

ating content, but also in increasing the tendency of students to acquire 'Knowledge', cooked at home, from the comfort of their homes. There is no problem in that students learn from different sources in their own appropriate way, but with this it is also a great fact that there is no substitute for classroom learning. The prevalence of learning materials on the Internet gives readers a certain amount of certainty that they will be read at any time.

There is no harm in this too, but the quality of the materials, the social value being given through it, etc. cannot be confused. From simple youtube to large education company providing lesson material, the emphasis is on learning concepts, summarizing and solving questions etc. There is no connection of common life with the subject, present and immediate questions of society, no sources of individuality etc. are found there.

It can be said about this type of education that it is useful in the subject of mathemat-

ics, science etc. Being there objectively 'gets points'. But this teaching-learning process is problematic. This is the situation when situation-based questions are being asked in subjects like science and mathematics, where students' understanding of link to link is being tested, understanding of social utility of rules, principles is being seen.

Then what about the subjects like language, social science, commerce, arts etc. The materials available are not such that one can connect history with geography and understand its politics. The readers are learning the laws of science, but these materials are silent on how much benefit the common man can be from them.

First of all, due to the lack of resources, there are very few students taking online type of education in the country, the study materials available to them are not trustworthy. The Internet can be an adjunct to classroom-based lessons, but it has not yet reached the point of rendering the teacher ineffective.

# On 73rd Republic Day, India's Overall Economic Activity Remains Strong

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Jan 24:

Despite the third Covid-19 Wave and emergence of Omicron, India's economy on 73rd Republic Day, remains strong and, monetary and credit conditions are gradually improving, although inflation continues to mount.

The R day is being celebrated amid Covid protocols with a limited number of guests at Rajpath in New Delhi. There will be no foreign guest for the R Day function, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be interacting with Central Asian leaders (who were invited for R day celebrations) on January 27 through a virtual mode.

The entry to the R Day parade will strictly be through the invitation card. No standing spectators would be allowed. Children below the age of 15 years will not be allowed. Ten huge LED screens, screening the live event for the audience, will be put up. Several seats during the parade will be allotted for workers such as auto-rickshaw drivers, construction and sanitation workers, frontline health workers etc.

**Floats**  
There will be 12 floats states and Union territories, 9 from union ministries and the defence establishments including the Indian Navy, CRPF, Indian Air Force and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The floats from the states: Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra,

Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. The Haryana float will feature the life-size replica of Tokyo Olympics gold medal winner, Neeraj Chopra.

The floats from the Union ministries: the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Post in the ministry of Communication, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Textiles, Department of Justice from the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Culture.

On January 29, the Annual Beating Retreat ceremony will have a show of nearly 1,000 drones by a IIT-Delhi-based startup to commemorate 75 years of country's independence.

**Future Prospects**  
It is imperative that a stock of the various issues confronting the country is taken on Republic Day. As per the RBI, overall economic activity in India remains strong, with upbeat consumer and business confidence and upticks in several incoming high-frequency indicators.

**Economy**  
However, the economy continues to be plagued by bad loans in the public sector. RBI in its recent financial stability report expressed concern about bad loans in MSME and the stress it is causing. The public sector banks have written off bad debts worth Rs 2.08 lakh crore in the recent past.

RBI's structural model estimates for 2022-2023, indicate real

GDP growth at 7.8 percent. While announcing the monetary policy, the RBI had forecast the growth for Financial Year 2022 at 9.5 percent, while the Consumer Price Index inflation projection was revised downward, from 5.7 percent to 5.3 percent.

**FDI**  
The Foreign Direct Investment is likely to increase by 20-30 percent this year and may approach the pre-pandemic level of 2019. FDI equity inflow grew by 112 percent in the first four months of FY 2021-22 (\$20.42 billion) compared to the same period a year ago (\$9.61 billion). Karnataka was the top recipient state during FY 2022 with a 45 percent share of the total FDI equity inflows followed by Maharashtra with 23 percent and Delhi with 12 percent. However, the foreign exchange reserves declined by \$878 million to stand at \$632.736 billion. Simultaneously the gold reserves inched up by \$14 million to \$39.405 billion and the country's reserve position with the IMF remained constant at \$5,207 billion.

**Loss of jobs**  
As per the report of the Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate in the country touched a four-month high and it was 7.91 percent in December 2021. The urban and rural unemployment rate was 9.3 percent and 7.3 percent respectively. The unemployment rate is expected to be around 6.20 percent this year and 6.50 percent in 2023.

**Foodgrains**  
The Union Agriculture Ministry has predicted a bumper production and has set a target of

307.33 million tonnes of food grains. The targets for rice, wheat, coarse cereals, pulses, and oilseeds, are 121.10 million tonnes, 110 million tonnes, 51.21 million tonnes, 25 million tonnes, and 38.4 million tonnes respectively, in the current crop year.

**Population**  
The current population of India is in the region of 140 crores which is equivalent to 17.7% of the world population and the country ranks number 2 in the list of countries by population. India is expected to surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2024.

**35.0 % of the population is urban and 65 percent rural.** The female population is 48.04 percent while the male population is 51.96 percent. As per the fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS) for 2019-2021, India's sex ratio is 1000 (men)-1020 (women). However, the sex ratio at birth continues to differ. The ratio of Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is 775 women per 1,000 men, while in Delhi (rural) it is 859 women per 1000 men.

**Literacy**  
On average 73.5% of people in rural areas and 87.7% of people in urban areas are literate. The male and female literacy is 84.7% and 70.3% respectively. Kerala has the highest literacy rate of 96.2%, followed by Mizoram with 91.33 %, according to the National Statistical Office survey. The states with the lowest literacy rate include Bihar-61.80 %, Arunachal Pradesh-65.38 %, Rajasthan-66.11 %, and Jharkhand-66.41 % and Andhra Pradesh-67.02 %.

# India logs over 3 lakh Covid-19 cases, 439 deaths

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 24:

Coronavirus cases in India continued to surge over 3 lakh for the fifth day in a row as the country registered 306,064 fresh infections in the last 24 hours, the Union health ministry bulletin showed on Monday morning. The death toll surged to 4,89,848 with 439 new fatalities.

Notably, as high as 60 per cent of the patients who have died in the third wave of pandemic in India were either unvaccinated or had received only a single dose.

India's active caseload, driven by the Omicron surge, currently stands at 22,49,335.

The active numbers are up by 62,130 since the previous day, recording 5.69 per cent of the total infections.

A total of 2,43,495 people recovered from the viral infection in the last 24 hours, the health bulletin stated.

The daily positivity rate showed a 3 per cent rise to 20.75 per cent as compared to yesterday's 17.73 per cent, while the weekly positivity increased to 17.03 per cent.

More than 27 lakh vaccine doses have been administered in the last 24 hours, recording a cumulative total of more than 1.62 billion jabs under nationwide vaccination drive.

A study conducted by the

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras showed that the existing Omicron-driven Covid-19 wave in India is likely to peak in the next 14 days, meaning that cases will be the highest around February 6.

The result is based on the institute's analysis of the national 'R-value', which, it said, declined further in the week of January 14-21.

The data shared in the study revealed that in individual cities like Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai, the R-value stood at 0.56, 0.67, 0.98 and 1.2, respectively. If this number goes below 1, the pandemic is considered to have 'ended', the researchers explained.

# CEO Manipur to observe 12th National Voters' Day

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 24:

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Manipur is all set to observe the 12th National Voters' Day 2022 on 25th January, 2022 at City Convention Centre, Palace Compound, Imphal from 10:00 AM onwards. The Day will be celebrated under the theme 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible, and Participative'.

Chief Secretary, Manipur

Dr. Rajesh Kumar will grace the occasion as Chief Guest while Director General of Police, Manipur P. Doungel, Additional Chief Secretaries, Government of Manipur M.H. Khan, Lethogin Haokip, Paulunthang Vaiphei and Vumlung Vualnam will be the Guests of Honour of the programme.

As a part of the celebration, a photo exhibition on SVEEP Campaign will also be opened by the Chief Guest. Administration of National Voters' Day

Pledge, presentation of newly enrolled voters with badges and EPIC, felicitation of SVEEP State Icons, launching of video on Ethical Voting, PwD & Video screening on SVEEP Campaigns and distribution of various awards will be the main highlights of the event.

CEO, Manipur cordially requests the people of the State to join the celebration of the 12th National Voters' Day and may also virtually join through <https://youtu.be/WcNkYbysOHM>.

Contd. from Page 1

# Sarsangchalak honours...

Co-author of the book, Hanjabam Sukhdev Sharma said that even in difficult times the war heroes of Manipur protested against the food provided for them while they were imprisoned at Mount Manipur (earlier Mount Harriet) as the food was against

the Vaishnavite culture. They cook their own food and continue to survive with strong Vaishnavism.

When the Manipuri war heroes were not allowed to return home, they decided to rest till their last breath at holy pilgrimages like

Nabadwip, Radha Kund and Vrindavan. Maharaja Bhagyachandra died at Nabadwip, while Maharaja Kullachandra died at Radha Kund, Sukhdev Sharma said while urging the government to preserve and promote the heritage.

## Sports

# AFC Women's Asian Cup: India forced to withdraw from tournament due to Covid-19 outbreak in the camp

Agency  
Mumbai, Jan 24:

A COVID-19 outbreak in the team forced host India to withdraw from its second group match of the AFC Women's Asian Cup against Chinese Taipei on Sunday at the DY Patil stadium.

With several members of the team testing positive, India failed to adhere to the AFC guidelines of having a minimum of 13 players — 11 starters and two reserves — to continue a game.

"Following several positive cases of COVID-19, India failed to name the required minimum of 13 players for the

Group A match against Chinese Taipei. In accordance with Article 4.1 of the 'Special Rules Applicable to AFC Competitions during the COVID-19 pandemic' (Special Rules), India was therefore unable to participate in the match and the full provisions of Article 4.1 will apply," the AFC said in a statement.

According to Article 4.1 in the AFC special rules for the competition during pandemic, "If a participating team / participating club has less than 13 participating players (including one goalkeeper) available for a match for any reason (whether or not relating to COVID-19), the relevant par-

ticipating team / participating club shall not be able to participate in the match.

"Such participating team / participating club shall be held responsible for the match not taking place and shall be considered to have withdrawn from the relevant competition. The relevant participating team / participating club and its affiliated member association shall be subject to the provisions of the relevant competition regulations regarding the consequences of withdrawal, as applicable."

The matter will now be referred to the relevant AFC Committee(s) in accordance with the applicable regulations.

This virtually rules out India's chances of making the knockouts of the continental championship and also casts a doubt over India's final group game against China on Wednesday.

Even though the match officials and the members of the Chinese Taipei team took the field almost an hour before the scheduled start time and warmed up, there was no sign of the Indian team.

All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel said, "The team is heartbroken. Unfortunately, this happened to us despite the best measures out in place. It is sheer bad luck."

# ISL: FC Goa held 1-1 by Bengaluru FC as Sunil Chhetri equals highest goal scorer record

Agency  
Bambolim, Jan 24:

Sunil Chhetri's 11-game barren run of goals in the Indian Super League (ISL) came to an end as he salvaged a point for Bengaluru FC in a 1-1 draw with FC Goa at the Athletic Stadium in Bambolim. Scoring his 48th Hero ISL goal, the India captain equalled the League's all-time record goalscorer, Ferran Corominas tally.

Dylan Fox (41') scored his

first goal for FCG with a header until Sunil Chhetri (61') equalised with his first of the campaign. The result keeps both Bengaluru FC and FC Goa in eighth and ninth place respectively in the points table with 14 points each.

The match began at a frantic pace which led to an early injury for Glan Martins who had to be replaced by Princeton Rebello inside the first 12 minutes.

Roshan Naorem and Iman Basafa had their shots go nar-

rowly off-target shortly after in a positive start for the Blues. The Iranian midfielder along with Danish Farooq also received a yellow card each in the first half for poor challenges.

Both teams exchanged blows for the remainder of the first half but did not create any meaningful scoring chances until Dylan Fox broke the deadlock. Jorge Ortiz was allowed space on the left flank to deliver a pinpoint cross. It found the centre-back on the far-post,

and all Fox had to do was get his head on the ball to score his first goal of the season.

Thanks to the goal, the Gaurs went into the halftime break with a slender advantage. The second half saw BFC start purposefully but the Gaurs were resolute in defence and kept their attackers silent. Cleiton Silva came close to scoring the equaliser with a volley moments before the hour mark but his attempt went narrowly past the right side of the goal.

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