

## Is the BJP fielding candidates in all the 60 constituencies of Manipur?

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 28:

In an interview with the media persons of the state, President of the BJP Manipur Pradesh has stated that the BJP is fielding its party candidates in all the 60 Assembly constituencies of the state, where polling is scheduled in two phases – February 27 and March 3. She further added that all preparations for allotment of party ticket for all the assembly constituencies.

The same day the opposition congress party formed a pre poll alliance with the left wing which they claimed to be secular party. 6 (six) of them have united. This showed that the congress party now believed that no political party is getting even the magic number to form the next government. May be because of this the Congress party formed alliance with 6 other left and secular political parties.

What is interesting is that the BJP is still not announcing the name of the candidates till today even as the party leaders has time and



again stated that the selection of candidates has been finalized and the name of the candidates of the BJP will be announced soon.

Source with the Imphal Times said that list of candidates who have been selected by the BJP National leaders have already been completed on January 26. The delay is because of the party strategy and will announce in a screwed manner. The party is planning not to make any intending candidate

departed from the party.

Having said so, a little mistake may sabotage the strategy of the BJP if some office bearers spread unofficial news about who has been given the ticket.

National Executive member Th. Biswajit, state president A. Sarda Devi and even the Chief Minister is silent on ticket matters. But they assured to announce to announce the ticket when time comes.

But without giving any re-

spect to the state leaders some so call party karmy particularly some who are holding top post in the front are spreading news of the names of those getting the party ticket. As these people are office bearers, intending candidate certainly worried and the supporters of each candidate (intending) started having heaving argument.

The BJP is likely to be destroyed by its own cadres if the leaders fails to control them.

## One in three infected people die: Scientists at China's Wuhan lab on NeoCov, the latest variant of coronavirus

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 28:

Omicron may have turned out to be a fast-spreading but relatively non-lethal variant of COVID-19, but a more deadly version of the virus - NeoCov has now been detected in South Africa. Scientists from China's Wuhan lab have reportedly warned that NeoCov has a high death rate and high transmission rate.

According to a report by Russian news agency Sputnik, the NeoCov virus is associated with the MERS-CoV virus that was discovered in the middle-eastern countries in 2012-15.

NeoCov a relative of MERS

fever

According to Russian agency TASS, scientists in China discovered that the NeoCov variant of coronavirus that was found in bats in South Africa is a relative of the MERS fever that has symptoms and effects the same as SARS CoV-2. The report also cited that the Chinese researchers have found that the mortality rate in the NeoCov virus is very high - 'one in every three infected individuals'.

"The Vector research center is aware of the data obtained by Chinese researchers on the NeoCoV coronavirus. At the moment, the issue is not the emergence of a new

coronavirus capable of actively spreading among humans," the Russian State Virology and Biotechnology Research Center said in a statement.

It may be noted that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 was also detected first in Africa. While it was initially viewed as a variant of concern, researchers have observed that though fast-spreading, Omicron has not resulted in increased hospitalizations and has a low mortality rate. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has also stressed that increased vaccination has been the reason behind reduced mortality and hospitalisation due to Omicron.

## Bharat Biotech gets DCGI nod for intranasal booster dose trials of COVID vaccine

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 28:

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given permission to Bharat Biotech for intranasal booster dose trials in India. The trials will be conducted at nine locations, agencies reported citing sources.

According to reports, the trials will be conducted on 900 individuals. As reported earlier, the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of DCGI had given in-principle approval for phase III booster dose study of intranasal COVID vaccine. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech had proposed a booster dose for all those who have already been given both doses of Covaxin or Covishield.

Regular market approval for Covaxin, Covishield On Thursday, the DCGI

granted conditional market approval to Covaxin and Covishield, the two vaccines that have been permitted for being administered on population in India.

"The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has now upgraded the permission for COVAXIN and Covishield from restricted use in emergency situations to normal new drug permission in the adult population with certain conditions... The conditions include supply for programmatic settings including registration on the CoWIN platform and to con-

tinue to submit safety data on a six-monthly basis," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a tweet.

On January 19, the drug controller had cleared the proposal to grant regular market approval to the two vaccines. Intranasal vaccines are believed to be more effective against the more transmissible variants of COVID-19 such as Omicron.

On January 10, the government gave a go-ahead for regular booster doses for the adult population above 60 years of age and frontline health workers.

## India reports over 2.5 lakh Covid cases, 627 fatalities

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 28:

India registered a significant dip in Covid-19 caseload with 2,51,209 fresh infections being registered on Friday.

This is a little over 35,000 less than Thursday's figures when 2,86,384 cases were reported. The current active caseload currently stood at 21,05,611, which is 5.18 per cent of the total cases, the Union ministry of health and family welfare said in its updated bulletin.

The daily positivity rate also registered a dip at 15.88 per cent. This was at 19.59 per cent a day ago.

As many as 627 patients lost their battle to the disease, while 3,47,443 were declared cured, pushing the overall deaths to 4,92,327 and recoveries to 3,80,24,771.

As part of the nationwide vaccination drive, the country has so far administered 1,64,44,73,216 doses against the coronavirus disease, including first, second and precautionary jabs.

The ministry said More than 163.96 crore (1,63,96,46,725) vaccine doses have been provided to states

and Union territories so far for free and through direct state procurement category.

Also read | Centre likely to issue advisory on reopening of schools soon: Report

It said another 13 crore (13,00,84,651) balance and unutilised doses are still available with the states/UT authorities that are yet to be administered.

The government said 72.37 crore total samples have been tested so far for the virus. Of these, 15,82,307 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.

States have slowly started reopening the economy and easing restrictions that were imposed over the past one

month amid the latest resurgence of cases, driven by the fast-spreading Omicron variant. The government is also likely to advise states on reopening of schools.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

## PREPAK claims responsibility of the 4 blasts on R-Day

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 28:

Proscribed has claimed responsibility of the blast that occurred on January 26, the country is celebrating the 73rd republic day.

In a statement by Mangal Khuman, Publicity officer, dept. of Publicity and propaganda, PREPAK said that the blasts were triggered by the Red Army of the PREPAK, Special Task force A and C. The outfit claimed to have blasted 4 bombs as reported in this newspaper yesterday.

Even as the PREPAK claims 4 blasts, the one at Wangoo Lamkhai which they claimed could not be confirmed as the site of the blast could not be confirmed.

## PEC maintains demand for release of all Burmese journalists

IT News  
Geneva, Jan 28:

Appreciating the release of three digital media workers in Myanmar recently, the global media safety & rights body Press Emblem Campaign (PEC) maintains its demand to the Burmese junta for unconditional release of all detained journalists in the south-east Asian country. The military rulers of Myanmar (also known as Burma and Brahmadesh) detained over 125 scribes since 1 February 2021 military coup that deposed the democratically elected Aung San Suu Kyi-led government in Naypyitaw and over 40 are still behind the bars.



Ma Moe Myint

The Min Aung Hlaing-led military junta (also known as Tatmadaw) arrested two reporters (Ko Zaw and Ma Moe Myint) along with a graphic designer (Ko Thar Gyi) from Dawei, the headquarter of

Tanintharyi region in southern Myanmar, on 18 January and all of them have been released on 25 January. They work for DaweiWatch Burmese news portal, which primarily covers socio-political events taking place in the southern localities of Myanmar.

PEC's south-east Asia representative Nava Thakuria informed that the military personnel also raided the portal office and seized some documents. DaweiWatch employees were also interrogated in custody for various information before their release. Mentionable is that the portal recently reported about the worsening human rights situ-

ation in Tanintharyi region as over 50 civilians were killed and nearly 900 were imprisoned in the last 11 months.

"The junta not only threatened the media with brutal laws, but at least three Burmese journalists lost their lives because of its atrocities. Freelance photojournalist Ko Soe Naing lost his life on 14 December under military custody. Later journalist Sai Win Aung of FederalNews died of head injuries caused by the Tatmadaw-operated shells on 25 December and Khonumthung news agency editor Pu Thi Dim died in military firing on 9 January," said Blaise Lempem, secretary-general of PEC.

## SC quashes indefinite suspension of 12 BJP MLAs from Maharashtra assembly

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 28:

The Supreme Court on Friday set aside the Maharashtra Assembly's decision to suspend 12 legislators of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for a one-year period beginning July 5, 2021.

The apex court held the suspension beyond the remainder period of the session of the Assembly was 'non-est' in law, substantially unconstitutional and irrational. Calling the resolution illegal, the top court said it was "beyond the powers of the assembly".

The MLAs will now be entitled to all consequential benefits after the conclusion of the session in July, last year.

The legislators were suspended for a year for allegedly misbehaving with the presiding officer in the Assembly.

A batch of petitions were filed challenging the Maharashtra Assembly's resolution on July 5, 2021, suspending the BJP MLAs for a year over alleged disorderly behaviour in the House.

Soon after the ruling, senior BJP leader and former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnis thanked the Supreme court in a seand said the ruling is another tight slap on the face of Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress.

"Since the beginning, we were saying that it was completely unconstitutional & gross misuse of power to suspend our MLAs for such a long period to create artificial majority & that too for no valid reason & the Hon SC has upheld our stand," he said.

# Budget must consider global supply chain crisis

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



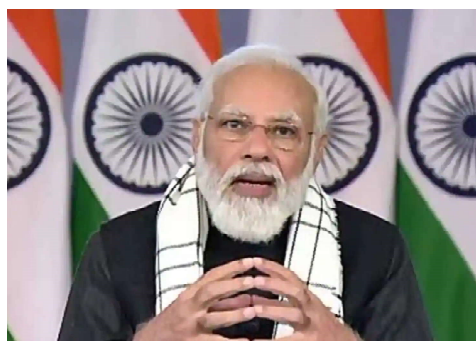
Economists and all big and small entrepreneurs are eyeing the upcoming budget session of Parliament. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present her fourth Union Budget on February 1, 2022. The budget session of Parliament will begin on January 31, in which President Ram Nath Kovind will address both the houses. The session will be conducted in two parts, the first part will end on February 11, while the second part will run from March 14 to April 8, 2022. Each industry is setting its own expectations from the annual budget. For various reasons, this time the budget is very important for startups, electric vehicles and garment exports industry. Startups are expecting support from the government. The expectations of the startup ecosystem are with respect to some tax exemptions and startup-friendly measures. Similarly, the textile and export industry has proposed certain steps. The industry experts complain that India does not have a global shipping line and large cap container manufacturing unit. Industry body, Home Garments Exporters Welfare Association (HEWA) suggests that the time is ripe for India to take some concrete steps to make way for a global shipping line.

Vikas Singh Chauhan, Director, HEWA, says that the Production Linked Initiative (PLI) Scheme should be started for micro, small and medium industries (MSMEs) with a minimum investment of Rs 10 crore. There is a need to increase the RoDTEP budget, especially for handicrafts, handlooms and other labour-intensive sectors. The Finance Minister is requested to remove the import duty on cotton yarn to reduce the pressure on supply and demand imbalance. In order to encourage exports of finished goods, export incentives on raw materials should also be withdrawn for a certain period. After two weeks, there is going to be a situation like October last year, when the cost of freight and container was very high. The budget should draw inspiration from the global supply chain crisis. It is unfortunate that India does not have a global shipping line and large cap container manufacturing unit. The time has come for India to take concrete steps to make it a global shipping line. The budget also needs to announce some mechanism to prevent overcharging due to rollover, exchange rate, spot booking, booking cancellation, weight variation etc. Almost all exporters have to shell out a hefty amount to meet such expenses.

Meanwhile, the electric vehicle (EV) era has begun in India, which will be further boosted by the rapid development of charging infrastructure and advanced EV models in 2022. The EV industry expects the central government to announce new initiatives to encourage local EV manufacturing and facilitate easy finance, and create a new EV ecosystem. Simultaneously, the industry has urged for reduction of GST on EV purchase and rental from five per cent to two per cent. The Finance Minister may also reduce the tax on loans taken to buy electric vehicles. The reduction in GST and tax benefits will play an important role in making electric vehicles accessible to all. Additionally, the government may also subsidize electricity prices to further improve the existing EV charging infrastructure in the country.

# PM's address at interaction with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees

PIB, New Delhi



Present in the program are my colleagues in the Council of Ministers Smriti Irani ji and Dr. Mahendrabhai, all the officials, parents and teachers, and the future of India, my young friends!

It was a pleasure interacting with you. I also got to know about your experiences. You have received awards for your extraordinary achievements in various fields ranging from art and culture to gallantry, education to innovation, social service and sports. And you have got these awards after a tough competition. Children from every corner of the country have come forward and you have been selected. The number of awardees may not be so much, but the number of promising children is unparalleled in our country. Once again, many congratulations to all of you for these awards. Today is also National Girl Child Day. I also congratulate and extend my best wishes to all the daughters of the country.

Friends, Along with you, I want to especially congratulate your parents and teachers. They have a major contribution to your growth today. Therefore, every success of yours is also the success of your loved ones. It includes the efforts and emotions of your loved ones.

My young friends, The award you have received today is very special for another reason. It is the occasion for these awards! The country is currently celebrating 75 years of its independence. You have received this award in this important period. Throughout your life, you would proudly claim that 'I received this award when my country was celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence'.

This award also entails a huge responsibility for you. Now the expectations of your friends, family and society have also increased from you. You do not have to take stress from these expectations, but you have to take inspiration from them.

Young friends, small children, sons and daughters of our country have written history in every era. Heroes like Birbala Kanaklata Barua, Khudiram Bose and Rani Gaidinliu have a history in our freedom struggle that fills us with pride. These fighters had made the country's independence the mission of their lives at a very young age and had dedicated themselves for it.

You must have seen it on TV when I went to Nowshera sector of Jammu-Kashmir on Diwali last year. There I met heroes Shri Baldev Singh and Shri Basant Singh, who had fought the war in Kashmir immediately after independence as child soldiers. Now they are very old, but they were very young then. They were recognized as child soldiers for the first time in our army. They had helped the army at such a young age without caring about their lives.

Similarly, the bravery and sacrifice of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh ji is another example! Sahibzadas were very young when they had sacrificed with immense valor, patience, courage and complete dedication. Their sacrifice for India's civilization, culture, faith and religion is incomparable. The country has also started 'Veer Bal Diwas' on 26th December in memory of the sacrifices of Sahibzadas. I would like all of you and all the youth of the country to read about the brave Sahibzadas of the country.

You must have also seen that a digital statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was installed near India Gate in Delhi yesterday. We get the biggest inspiration of duty, of the nation first from Netaji. Taking inspiration from Netaji, all of us and the young generation, in particular, have to move forward on our path of duty for the country.

Friends, Our 75 years of independence are important because today we can be proud of our past and draw energy from it. Now is the time to fulfill the present resolutions. This is the time for new dreams for the future and set new goals and move forward. These goals are for the next 25 years, when the country will complete its hundred years of independence.

Think over it. Most of you today are between the ages of 10 and 20. When there will be hundred years of independence, you would be at that stage of your life when the country would be very grand, divine, progressive and at its peak and your life would be full of happiness and peace. In effect, these goals are for our youth, for your generation and for you. Our young generation has an immense role when the country would be at its pinnacle in the next 25 years and there would

be a huge potential of the country.

Friends, We have got the fruits of what our ancestors sowed; it is because of their austerity and sacrifice. But you belong to a period and where the country is today that you would get to savor the fruits that you would sow! Such a swift change is going to happen. Therefore, you must have seen that our young generation and you are at the center of the policies and efforts that are being made in the country today.

You take up any sector. Today there are missions like Startup India, programs like Standup India; there is a massive Digital India campaign, the impetus is being given to the Make in India, the mass movement of self-reliant India is leading to the rapid expansion of modern infrastructure in every nook and corner of the country, highways and high-speed expressways are being built. With whose pace does this progress and speed match? You are the people who see themselves connected with all these changes and remain so excited for all of them. Your generation is leading this new era not only in India but outside India as well.

Today we feel proud when we see the CEOs of all the major companies of the world and everyone is discussing them. Who are these CEOs? They are the children of our own country. This is the young generation of this country which is dominant in the world today. Today, we feel proud when we see that the youth of India are making their mark in the world of start-ups. Today, we feel proud when we see that the youth of India are making new innovations and taking the country forward. Sometime from now, India, on its own strength, is all set to send Indians into space for the first time. The responsibility of the Gaganyaan mission is also on our youth. The youth who have been selected for this mission are working hard.

Friends, The awards that you received today also celebrate the courage and valor of our younger generation. This courage and valor is the identity of new India today. We have seen the country's fight against Corona. Our scientists and vaccine manufacturers took the lead in the world and provided vaccines to the country. Our healthcare workers served the countrymen non-stop even in the toughest of times. Our nurses are vaccinating people visiting the most difficult places in villages. This reflects the country's great example of courage.

Similarly, look at the valor of our soldiers posted on the borders. Their courage to protect the country has become our identity. Today our players are also achieving accolades, considered impossible for India. Similarly, our daughters are doing wonders in the fields where they were not allowed earlier. This is the new India, which does not hold back from innovating. Courage and determination are the identities of India today.

Friends,

Today, India is taking continuous steps to strengthen the future of its present and coming generations. Emphasis is being laid on learning in the local languages in the new National Education Policy. This will make it easier for you to read and learn. Special provisions have been made in the education policy to enable you to study the subjects of your choice. Atal Tinkering Labs, being built in thousands of schools across the country, are instilling the potential of innovation in children from the very early days of their studies.

Friends,

The children of India, the younger generation have always proved their mettle in taking India to new heights in the 21st century. I remember I had called children from across the country during Chandrayaan. I can never forget their enthusiasm and zeal. The children of India have displayed their modern and scientific thinking in the vaccination program as well. Since January 3, more than 40 million children have got the corona vaccine in just 20 days. It shows the awareness of the children of our country about their responsibilities.

Friends,

I also give a lot of credit for the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to the children of India. As child soldiers, you inspired your family and neighborhood households for the cleanliness campaign. The children themselves had taken up the task of ensuring cleanliness in houses by family members and no filth inside and outside of the houses. Today I seek cooperation from the children of the country for one more thing. And if the children support me, then the change will come in every family. And I am confident that my little friends and this army of children will help me a lot in this work.

As you came forward for the cleanliness campaign, you should also come forward for the 'Vocal for Local' campaign. All the brothers and sisters at home should make a list of products that you use from morning till late at night and write down them on a paper which are not made in India, but foreign-made. You then insist your family to buy the products made in India. It should have the fragrance of the soil of India and the sweat of the youth of India. What happens when you buy made-in-India products? Immediately, our production will pick up. Production will increase in everything. And when production increases, new employment opportunities will also be created. When employment increases, your life will also become self-sufficient. Therefore, the campaign of AatmaNirbhar Bharat is linked to our young generation, to all of you.

Friends,

Two days from today, the country will celebrate its Republic Day. We have to make some new resolutions for our country on Republic Day. Our resolutions can be for society, for the country and for the future of the entire world. The example of the environment is before us. India is doing so much for the environment today, and the entire world will benefit from it.

I would like you to think about those resolutions which are related to the identity of India and which will help in making India modern and developed. I am sure that your dreams will connect with the country's resolutions and you will set innumerable records for the country in the times to come.

With this belief, many congratulations to all of you once again!

Lots of love, congratulations and thanks to all my young friends!

# Emphasis on learning skills

The employment scenario in India is changing rapidly and it has been going on for the last few decades. It is expected that by 2022, 37% of the people working in India will be those whose work will require significantly changed skills. The result is a growing acceptance of the need to be understood.

## Learn some facts here

More than 50% of the country's population is below 25 years of age. Therefore, Industry 4.0 requires a skilled, well-trained workforce resulting in timely skill development.

Until recently, only 10% of Indian workers had received formal skills training, and according to Aspiring Minds, "only 26% of engineers are employable, and our students are not ready for the next decade."

## To promote vocational training and skill development

Times are changing and there is a new emphasis on promoting vocational training and skill development in collaboration with different stakeholders. For example, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana has been set up to streamline skill development initiatives.

This is the reason why many vocational and skill development companies are actively engaged in providing necessary skill training. This campaign is also gaining momentum from the scheme of the Government of India. Under this, 400 million Indians are to be trained through the National Skill Development Mission by 2022.

## Skills required for development

The companies involved in skill development work are tailoring the training to their needs and trying



By: Vijay Garg

their level best to bridge the skill gap. And for this it is developing a skilled and certified working class.

Skill providing institutes are providing relevant and job-critical or useful skills. Since the existing infrastructure of ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes), ITCs (Industrial Training Centres) and other government aided institutions is not sufficient to train people as per the future employment prospects, there is access to digital platforms and learners. The doors of such institutions are also open for this. In this way the industry will get technology savvy people giving high productivity from day one.

## Lack of structure

India will need a lot of professional training centers to train lakhs of deserving students in the country. The existing infrastructure is not sufficient to meet the growing requirements. Government tie-up with industry would be essential not only for skill up-gradation but also for ensuring skill development in the right areas and it would be as per the requirement of the industry. This would require a large number of people who would manage the training programs and train the

people.

## Headlines

Key factors such as technology, e-commerce and telecommunications are influencing all industries to redefine their strategy of change for their products and services.

The advent of digital technology is forcing the industry to make a digital transition

This applies to almost all areas. These include Technology, BFSI, Healthcare, Retail, Transport, Hospitality, Tourism, Beauty, Textile, Aviation, etc., and will open up a huge need for talent and new skills.

New digital courses and new employment opportunities are also opening in the skill development sector.

## Two types of skills

The report 'Future of Jobs Report 2018' prepared by the World Economic Forum suggests that generic skills will no longer be of much use. Instead, two types of skill sets will emerge: first, those with highly developed technical capabilities (Machine Learning, Big Data Robotics etc.) and second, those with 'human' skills (sales and marketing, training and development, organizational development, etc.).

## Learning skills necessary for the future

This clearly shows that half of the skills needed to be successful in the future are cognitive, with the remaining 50% focused on human connection and collaboration at work.

It is imperative that the development of new age skills as per the demands of the economy and industry is integrated into the formal education system from the school level itself. Simultaneously, more concrete and immediate action is needed at each step to address the challenges inherent to skill building outside the formal education system.

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# MHA extends Covid-19 containment measures till February 28

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, Jan 28:

In view of the steady increase in Covid-19 cases, led by new variant Omicron, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs extended the coronavirus containment measures till February 28, 2022, on Thursday.

In an order issued to states, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said that there has been an increase in the number of COVID cases in the country and the active cases have increased to over 22 lakh.

Bhalla said due to the current COVID wave, led by Omicron, the number of COVID cases in the country was going up. The active cases have increased although a majority of active cases are recovering fast and a low percentage of cases are in hospitals. It is still a matter of concern that 407 districts in 34 States and UTs are reporting a positivity rate of more than per cent. There is a need to exercise caution and vigilance, he added.

The order further read, "In this background, I would like to reiterate that all the States/UTs must observe all precautions and not let the guard down. Based on the normative framework, mentioned in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) D.O. letter dated December 21, 2021 and



assessment of the situation, local/district administration should continue to take prompt and appropriate containment measures. Imposition and lifting of local curbs/restrictions should be dynamic and should be based on the case positivity and hospitalization status at the local level."

The Union home secretary added that he would like to emphasize that there should be a continued focus on the five-fold strategy, i.e., Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour. The State enforcement machinery should strictly enforce the norms of COVID Appropriate Behaviour, i.e., wearing of face masks and maintaining safe social distancing in all public areas/gatherings. Besides, States and UTs should continue to hold regular media briefings to disseminate the right information

and to discourage any misinformation on new variants of concern," he added.

## 9,672 Omicron samples found in January

As many as 9,672 Omicron samples were found in January in genome sequencing constituting 75 per cent of the total sequenced samples of COVID-19, a huge rise from the December figure of 1,292, the government said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference, NCDC Director Dr S K Singh said sub-lineages of Omicron - BA.1 and BA.2 were found in sequenced samples while BA.3 has not been found yet. "We were getting more samples of BA.1 earlier mostly found in travellers but now we are seeing that BA.2 has become more prevalent in the community," Singh said.

Singh said that a huge rise

from December has been seen in the number of Omicron samples in January. In genome sequencing, a huge increase in Omicron samples was seen between December and January. In December, only 1,292 omicron samples and 17,272 samples of Delta variant and of AY series of COVID-19 were found in genomic sequencing.

In January, 9,672 omicron samples were found which was about 75 per cent of total sequenced samples and AY lineage was found in 3,201 samples and Delta was found in 1,578 samples. The Delta variant has been found predominantly in Odisha, West Bengal and Maharashtra.

Noting that 64% of COVID death in Delhi have been witnessed among the unvaccinated people and those with comorbidities. As such the vaccination is an important weapon against coronavirus. The unvaccinated and those with comorbidities form a very high-risk group.

Meanwhile, ICMR DG Dr Balram Bhargava called vaccination one of the most important weapons against COVID-19. "Vaccines show the ability to reduce death as compared to unvaccinated individuals, so it reduces death considerably in the vaccinated people compared to the unvaccinated people," he said.

# CAR apprehends four armed ZRA (SoO) insurgents



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 28:

Loktak Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) apprehended four armed ZRA insurgents indulging in activities which were in violation of SoO Agreement at

Churachandpur on January 25.

Based on reliable intelligence, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to the apprehension of the four ZRA insurgents, who in violation of the

SoO Agreement, were found carrying two 9mm Pistols and 11 live rounds in the town.

The apprehended insurgents along with recovered arms and ammunition were handed over to Churachandpur Police Station for further investigation.

# Carrying unexplained cash above Rs 50,000 seizable: Addl CEO



IT News  
Imphal, Jan 28:

Additional Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), N. Praveen Singh today stated that carrying any unexplained cash above Rs. 50,000/- will be subjected to seizure and the same can be released only after being proven that it has nothing to do with the elections. He made the statement during a press conference held today at the Office of the CEO, Manipur, Lamphelpat.

He briefed on the instruction of Election Commission of India, for information of the general public regarding carrying/transportation/storing in any premise of cash, and other valued items during the ongoing General Assembly Election to 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, 2022.

He further explained that any cash exceeding Rs. 50,000/- found in a vehicle carrying a candidate, his agent or party workers or carrying posters or election materials or any drugs, liquor, arms or gift items which are valued at more than Rs.10,000/- and likely to be used for inducement of electors or any other illicit articles are found in a vehicle, shall be subject to seizure by Static Surveillance Teams (SST)/Enforcement Agencies. Astar campaigner is allowed to carry cash up to Rs.1,00,000/-, exclusively for his/her personal use. A party functionary may carry cash provided certificate from the treasurer of the party mentioning the amount and its end use is produced when sought for and SST/Enforcement Agencies shall retain a copy of the certificate, he added.

He continued that if cash of more than Rs. 10,00,000/- is found in a vehicle and there is

no suspicion of commission of any crime or linkage to any candidate or agent or party functionary, then SST/Enforcement Agencies shall not seize the cash, but pass on the information to the Income Tax Authority, for necessary action under Income Tax Laws. A proper Panchnama/seizure document shall be issued for seizure of cash/items as per provisions of CrPC in prescribed format to the person(s) from whom such cash/items are seized. Procedure of appeal against seizure should be mentioned in the Panchnama/seizure document(s) and should also inform the concerned persons at the time of seizure of cash/items.

He informed that any person giving or accepting any gratification in cash or kind during election process, with a view to inducing the person to exercise his electoral right is punishable with imprisonment up to one year or with fine or with both and also considered as corrupt practices. Further, any person who threatens any candidate or elector, or any other person, with injury of any kind, is punishable with imprisonment up to one year or with fine or both and also considered as corrupt practices.

With the start of the announcement of their respective candidate by political parties, Addl. CEO, Manipur, while quoting relevant directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India & Hon'ble Election Commission of India, pointed out requirement for publication of information regarding candidate(s) with pending criminal cases along with reasons for such selections over other intending candidates without criminal antecedents in

Format C7 within 48 hours of announcement of candidate. Information in Format C7 shall have to be published in 1 (one) National Daily (either The Hindu (Kolkata Edition) or Times of India (Guwahati Edition)) and 1 (one) local daily from amongst the list of Local Dailies notified for the purpose.

Further, the information shall also have to be uploaded in the official Website/Social Media Platform of the concerned political party. He further pointed out that compliance of the above by all Political Parties in the form of duly filled in Format C8 shall also have to be submitted to ECI within 72 hours of announcement of candidates.

He further stated that adequate numbers of teams are in place for facilitating Postal Ballots by electors who are above 80 years of age, PwDs, COVID positive and COVID suspects and those in essential services.

Moreover, 5 (five) vans per Assembly Constituency in the valley districts (except Jiribam) and five vehicles per Block in hill districts and Jiribam district have been arranged for providing transportation facilities for PwDs and electors above 80 years voters who opt to cast their votes in their respective Polling Stations. These vans shall be equipped along with a team of volunteers, wheelchair and other assistive equipment. He added that Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) have been set up for all the 60 ACs with one Medical Officer and other support staff. Air-Ambulance will also be arranged for evacuation of casualties in case of medical emergencies.

Web-casting from all polling stations, where communication is available, will be provided and the rest will be covered through videography. Agency to carry out the same has also been identified. All Polling Stations will be sanitised one day before the poll date, he added.

Joint CEO, Ramananda Nongmeikapam, OSD (Election) N. Ganesh, State Nodal Officer (Transport Management) Dr. Mayengbam Veto Singh and Assistant State Nodal Officer (Expenditure Management) Ngangbam Rajesh were also present at the press conference.

# 'Come for peace talks': Assam CM urges ULFA-I, KLO

Agency  
Guwahati, Jan 28:

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has urged the militant outfits - ULFA-I and Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) to shun violence and come for peace parleys.

"I urge ULFA-I and KLO, two remaining major extremist groups, to come forward and sit in peace talks," Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

He added: "All other outfits are either engaged in peace talks with the government or have surrendered and returned to mainstream."

Sarma made this statement while speaking at a surrender ceremony of 169 cadres of two militant outfits of the state in Guwahati on Thursday.

Earlier, the Assam chief



minister had termed the proposed peace talks with Pargash Baruah-led ULFA-I as a "complex issue".

"ULFA issue is a complex one which has extended over a long period of time and caused many casualties. Both

sides have compulsions which is delaying a resolution to it," CM Sarma had said.

Meanwhile, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has said that the "era of tribal militancy in Assam is over".

Cadres of two militant out-

fits in Assam formally surrendered in Guwahati on Thursday.

The rebels that laid down arms in Guwahati belonged to the militant outfits - Tiwa Liberation Army (TLA) and United Gorkha People's Organisation (UGPO).

"With this, each and every tribal group has joined the mainstream. These were the last troops in the jungle. The era of tribal militancy is finally over in Assam," said CM Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The militants of TLA and UGPO laid down arms before Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at a surrender ceremony held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakhetra in Guwahati.

As many as 169 militants laid down arms in Guwahati on Thursday.

# Omicron detected in 94% Covid cases in Kerala: Minister

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 28:

At least 94% of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases in Kerala are triggered by the new Omicron variant and next three weeks are crucial for the state after which cases will flatten, health minister Veena George said on Thursday.

Kerala reported 51,739 fresh Covid cases on Thursday with a test positivity rate of 44.6 per cent after 116,003 samples were tested. The state also reported 11 deaths and added 57 previous undocumented deaths, taking total fatalities to 52,434.

"Genome sequencing tests

show 94 per cent cases are triggered by Omicron and 6 per cent by Delta variant. Among the new cases, only 3.6 per cent patients need hospitalisation and use of ICU dropped considerably," said the minister in the state capital.

"Unlike the second wave there is no pressure on hospital infrastructure this time. More than 90 per cent of the affected are confined to their homes and people with serious co-morbidities are getting hospitalised," the minister said, adding that strict action will be taken against private hospitals if they turn away Covid patients.

An analysis of the hospital statistics shows that dur-

ing the peak of the second wave (May 2021), more than 80 per cent of total beds were occupied but this time it is below 30 per cent. Similarly more than 60 per cent of the oxygen beds were occupied during the second wave but this time it is below 20 per cent. "Though Omicron is more infectious, its intensity is low when compared to Delta. We found that many people are taking antibiotics across the counter and this is really bad. Affected people with simple fever can remain at their home and take enough water to check dehydration," said the minister.

Of the 51,739 fresh cases reported on Thursday,

Ernakulam logged the highest (9,708), followed by Thiruvananthapuram (7,675) and Kozhikode (5,001).

As the cases mounted, the government has asked local bodies to start community kitchen across the state. Since many families are getting affected completely, they face shortage of food forcing the government to start community kitchen, which was a hit during two earlier waves. The health department has also set up Covid war rooms in every district and a minister will be made in-charge to take speedy decisions. It also decided to ramp up Covid first-line treatment centres and seek the help of health volunteers.



# Philippines to buy BrahMos missile system from India for \$375 million

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 28:

In a major fillip to India's hopes of becoming an exporter of defence platforms, the Philippines signed a deal to buy three batteries of the BrahMos missile, which is developed jointly by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.

The deal is worth nearly \$375 million, and is India's first significant defence export. The missiles are manufactured by BrahMos Aerospace in India.

The Defence Ministry said in a statement on Friday that BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) signed a contract with the Department of National Defense of the Republic of Philippines on January 28, 2022 for supply of Shore Based Anti-Ship Missile System to Philippines.

"The BAPL is a joint venture company of the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The contract is an important step forward for Government of India's policy of promoting responsible defence exports."



While the formal contract was signed on Friday, the Philippines had given a go ahead for the deal on December 31, 2021. Its National Defence department had sent a Notice of Award to BAPL, which mentioned that BAPL's proposal for the shore-based anti-ship acquisition project for the Philippine Navy, with a corresponding price proposal for US\$ 374,962,800 "is hereby accepted".

While the Philippines has become the first nation to which India will export the missile system, sources said that several other nations in South-

east Asia have expressed interest in buying it, including Vietnam and Thailand.

The deal with the Philippines is also significant, as like India, the country has seen its relationship with China sour, as Beijing has been making aggressive moves in the South China Sea. Additionally, Philippine fishermen also have to face the Little Blue Men, as China's maritime militia is called. India too has been involved in an over 21-month long standoff with China in eastern Ladakh, which remains unresolved.

BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile, which can reach a maximum speed of 2.8 mach, or 2.8 times the speed of sound.

It has a 300 km to 500 km range, and is a short-range, ramjet-powered, single warhead, supersonic anti-ship or land attack cruise missile. It can be launched from the ground, submarine, surface ships and fighter jets.

Recently, on January 11, India successfully test-fired the extended range sea-to-sea variant of the missile from the Navy's INS Vishakhapatnam.

# UP Election 2022: BJP releases list of 91 candidates, Yogi's media advisor Shalabh Mani Tripathi gets ticket from Deoria

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 28:

The BJP on Friday released a list of 91 candidates for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

While Siddharth Nath Singh has been fielded from Allahabad West, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's media advisor Shalabh Mani Tripathi got a ticket from Deoria.

Nand Kumar Gupta 'Nandi' has got a ticket from Allahabad South, Ved Prakash Gupta from Ayodhya and UP health minister Jay Pratap Singh will contest from Bansi.

The BJP has given tickets to nine women candidates in the current list of candidates.

The BJP women candidates in the new list are Sindhuja Mishra (Kunda), Neelam Karwariya (Meja), Aarti Kol (Karaon), Aarti Tiwari (Goshgainganj), Saroj Sonkar (Balha), Anupama Jaiswal (Bahraich), ANeelam Sonkar (Ialgaon), Manju Sonkar (Mehnagar) and Sunita Parishit Singh (Zamania).

However, the BJP is yet to declare a candidate from the Lucknow Cantonment seat.

Reacting to the new candidate list, Yogi Adityanath said, "Hearty congratulations to all



the BJP candidates declared today for the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Elections-2022. All of you are the followers of the mantra 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas'. 'Jan Vishwas' is your capital. Victory is sure for all of you."

With this new list, BJP has released names of 295 candidates for the 403 Assembly constituencies of Uttar Pradesh.

The saffron party had released its first list of 107 candidates for Uttar Pradesh, which included names of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur (Urban) Assembly constituency and Deputy

Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya from Sirathu Assembly seat in Prayagraj district on January 15.

On January 21, the fourth list of 85 candidates was released.

The BJP Central Election Committee (CEC) has finalised the names of party candidates for all the remaining seats of Uttar Pradesh and names to be finalised for the remaining seats will be announced in the coming days.

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls will be held in seven phases in February-March starting from February 10. Counting of votes will be held on March 10.

# Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launches NIPER Research Portal

PIB  
New Delhi, Jan 28:

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya today launched NIPER Research Portal along with Shri Bhagwanth Khuba, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers in presence of Dr V. K. Paul, Member (Health), Niti Aayog, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Research Portal has been created with the aim to disseminate the information about all the NIPERs and their research activities, patents filed and Publication information at one place so that a in-

dustry and other stakeholders know about them.

Reiterating the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan and Jai Anusandhaan, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said that Research & Development is one of the crucial pillars for a country's economy. He said that we need to harness this energy of aspirations of all stakeholders and create a holistic ecosystem. Our expertise in generics can also be further expanded to other sectors, he added.

Pointing towards the importance of healthy competition both in Industry and Academia, the Union Minister noted that

competition and demand is a necessity of research and innovation as this promotes quality ideas and solutions for our citizens. He stressed that Research and Innovation is a necessity for the sustained growth of pharmaceuticals sector.

The Minister stated that the country already has young talent and human resources, but we need to channelize them effectively through Industry-Academia cooperation. To enhance this industry-Academia collaboration, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has created this Research Portal to capture the research activities of

all seven NIPERs, he informed. He said that the platform inaugurated today would help us in promoting this synergy and would be a boon for our industries, especially the MSME sector.

Shri Bhagwanth Khuba said India is the third-largest pharmaceutical manufacturing country and our vaccine development story is an example of effective cooperation among stakeholders. He said that the platform will track the research and tasks of all NIPERs. He further said that the Government is committed to promote research and innovation and this portal is a step in that direction.

# I was once an active cadet like you: PM Modi tells young NCC cadets

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 28:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday addressed the National Cadet Corps PM Rally at the Cariappa ground in New Delhi. Speaking to the young cadets, PM Modi said he was once an NCC cadet just like them.

"I am proud that I have once been an active cadet of NCC like you," PM Modi said.

"The training I got in NCC, what I got to learn, today I get

immense strength in discharging my responsibilities towards the country," he added.

PM Modi said at a time when the country is celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav, or 75 years of its independence, there is a different enthusiasm in its celebration.

"This is the enthusiasm I am seeing right now at Cariappa ground," PM Modi said.

The rally will mark the culmination of the NCC Republic

Day Camp and is held on January 28 every year.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office said that PM Modi will inspect the guard of honour, review march past by NCC contingents and also witness the NCC cadets displaying their skills in Army action, slithering, micro-light flying, parasailing as well as cultural programmes.

The best cadets will receive a medal and baton from the prime minister, the statement said.

## Sports

# ISL: Hyderabad produce stellar second-half display to rally past Odisha 3-2

Agency  
Panaji, Jan 28:

Hyderabad FC underlined their credentials as one of the top contenders this season with a brilliant come-from-behind performance to beat Odisha FC 3-2 in the Indian Super League at the Tilak Maidan Stadium on Thursday.

Jerry Mawimhithanga (45th) gave Odisha the lead at the stroke of halftime but Hyderabad put on a show in the second half with goals from Joel Chianese (51st), Joao Victor (70th) and Akash Mishra (73rd) in the space of 20 minutes.

Jonathas Cristian (84th) reduced the margin but it was too little too late as Odisha succumbed to a defeat and remained in seventh place. Hyderabad consolidated their lead at the top with 23 points from 13 games although Kerala Blasters, sitting second, have two games in hand and are on 20 points.

The game got off to a cagey start as both teams



lacked the cutting edge in the final third. Joao Victor's effort from distance went wide for Hyderabad while top-scorer Bartholomew Ogbeche forced Arshdeep Singh into a good save.

Joel Chianese also hit wide from a Nikhil Poojary corner as Hyderabad tried hard to unlock the Odisha defence. Victor Mongil looked in solid touch for Odisha as he did well to block Ogbeche as the match neared the half-hour mark.

Odisha were not doing enough to test Laxmikant Kattimani in Hyderabad goal before Jerry scored against the run of play, turning in a Nandhakumar Sekar low cross at the front post past Kattimani.

At half-time, Hyderabad were behind despite creating more chances and being the better team. Post the breather, the Manolo Marquez-coached team started on the front foot and it took them six minutes to

draw level as Chianese leapt high to nod in a

Akash Mishra cross after the full-back bombed through the left flank to whip in a sumptuous cross. Odisha tried hard to get back their lead as Jerry struck from distance after spotting the keeper off his line but to no avail. They were in for more misery as Hyderabad rode a brilliant strike from Joao Victor to go 2-1 up. Victor received a pass from Ashish Rai, turned and shot first time as the ball arched past the keeper and bulged the net. Three minutes later, Hyderabad threatened to take the game away from Odisha. Yasir Mohammad swung in a lovely ball from a free-kick inside the box where a lurking Mishra applied a deft flick past the keeper and into the back of the net. Odisha were not ready to throw in the towel just yet when Jonathas fired home a powerful shot past Kattimani after he was fed by Redeem Tlang to throw the game wide open in the dying minutes.

# Australian Open 2022: Kristina Mladenovic and Ivan Dodig bag mixed-doubles crown



Agency  
Melbourne, Jan 28:

France's Kristina Mladenovic and Croatia's Ivan Dodig were on Friday crowned the Australian Open 2022 mixed doubles champions, defeating Australian wild cards Jaimee Fourlis and Jason Kubler 6-3, 6-4 at the Melbourne Park here. This is the second time in her career that the 28-year-old Mladenovic has emerged the Australian Open mixed doubles champion, with the previous title coming in 2014.

The win for the former top-10 player is her first mixed major crown in eight years, her third overall and second in Australia. She and Canada's Daniel Nestor reached consecutive finals in

Australia in 2014 and 2015, winning the former, and the duo also won Wimbledon in 2013. Mladenovic now boasts eight total Grand Slam titles across women's and mixed doubles.

Mladenovic and Dodig cruised in the 78-minute final, which was a far cry from their previous games, which were keenly fought. The duo was stretched to a match tiebreak in three of the four matches in the earlier rounds, and rallied from a set down to defeat No. 2 seeds Zhang Shuai of China and John Peers of Australia in the semifinals, 1-6, 7-5, 10-2. Fourlis and Kubler were the third wildcard team to reach the mixed doubles championship in Melbourne in the past four years.

## NOTICE

Imphal, the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

This is to gazette the general public that I, have noted an error made w.r.t. an official announcement (NOTICE) we made through a local daily newspaper Hueiyen Lanpao Vide HL-P/2573/17/1/13 of the date Thursday, the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 for the registration of the said Financial Institute under BML Act, 1946 bearing License No. 81/M/BML/2013, issued dated 21.01.2013. The establishment's name is Lan Leima Financial Institute as opposed to Lan Leima Financial Institution.

Sd/-

(L. Jibanata Devi)  
General Manager  
Lan Leima Financial Institute