

## Chief Minister N. Biren regain seat with a landslide victory

### Heavyweight Congress leader Gaikhangam, President N. Loken, NPP leader and Dy. CM Joykumar, L Jayantakumar defeated; Counting underway

IT News  
Imphal, March 10

Chief Minister N Biren Singh of Heingang AC regain his seat in Heingang Assembly Constituency by a huge margin of nearly 20,000 votes than his nearest rival Pangejam Saratcandra Singh today.

By the end of round 7 today on the counting day of the 12<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly Elections, 2022. N Biren Singh got a cumulative total of about 24268 votes while Saratcandra of INC got only 6486 votes. The total number of votes in NOTA category is 239.

At 4 pm today, counting for 43 Assembly

constituencies have been completed and out of this BJP has so far win in 21 seats, INC and JDU have already win 5 seat each, NPP have win in 7 seat and NPF have so far win 4 seat each.

Counting for 17 Assembly constituencies is underway at the time of Filing this report.

Among those declared elected for the BJP include two women candidates contesting from Kangpokpi AC and Chandel Assembly constituencies. SS Olish defeated his nearest rival candidate from NPP and Nemcha Kipgen regain her seat with a huge margin.

Newly form Kuki National Alliance Kinnao Haokip Hasing also also gets

elected from Saikul Assembly Election.

In a set back of the Congress Party, MPCC President N Loken contesting at Nambol Assembly constituency and Gaikhangam contesting at Nungba Assembly Constituency defeated from their respective Rival BJP Candidate. Th. Basanta and Dinganglung Gangmei of the BJP candidates defeated the two heavy weight Congress leaders in the respective constituency.

Janata Dal United (JDU) candidate Joykishan also regains his MLA seat at Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency from his nearest BJP candidate Jotin Waikhom.

Former DGP LM Koute, the JDU candidate also win from Churanchandpur Assembly constituency in Tipaimuk Assembly Constituency. Janata Dal (United) candidate from 40-Jiribam Assembly constituency Md. Achab Uddin defeated his nearest rival Nameirakpam Budhachandra Singh, BJP Candidate with a margin of around 486 votes. JDU candidate from Lillong Assembly constituency also win the Lillong Assembly seat.

INC candidate Thokchom Lokeshwar Singh of Khundrakpam defeated his nearest rival BJP candidate Thangjam Mohendro Singh.

As per report NPP candidates Sheikh Noorul

Hassan contested at Kshtrigao Assembly Constituency defeated his nearest rival BJP candidate Indrajit, NPP candidate Thokchom Shanti also win from Morang AC defeating BJP candidate M Prithviraj and Congress Candidate and former MLA Sharatchandra. NPP candidate M. Rameshwar Singh have also reported win the Kakching Assembly Constituency. Total NPP candidate so far win at the filing of this story is 7. The bad news is that NPP candidate and Dy. CM Joykumar defeated in the hand of BJP candidate Raghunmani and Working president of the NPP L Jayantakumar got defeated in hand of Independent

candidate Sapam Nishikanta in Keishamthong Assembly constituency

Former Speaker and BJP candidate Y. Khemchand has regain his seat in Singjamei Assembly constituency by defeating his nearest rival NPP candidate Roman. BJP candidate S. Lourembam Rameshwar Meetei also regain his seat in Keiroa Assembly Constituency by a large margin. BJP candidate Thokchom Satyabrata Singh also regains his seat at Yaikul AC. BJP candidate from Hiyanglam Assembly Constituency have also regain his seat by defeating his nearest rival INC candidate. In Khurai Assembly Constituency BJP Candidate L

Sushilkumar regain his seat.

In Ukhrul Assembly Constituencies all the NPP candidate contesting in the 3 Assembly constituencies have won defeating their respective rival candidate.

NPP candidate Ram Muivah defeated his nearest rival candidate INC candidate MLA Alfred Kanngam Authur. At Chinagi AC too NPP candidate Khasim Vashum had won defeating his nearest rival candidate.

It may be mentioned that the Manipur Legislative Assembly Elections, 2022 was conducted in two phases for 60 seats on February 28 and March 5, 2022. 173 in phase I and 92 candidates in phase II, altogether 265 candidates were in the fray.

## CM says he will move to lift AFSPA



IT News  
Imphal, March 10:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh who was once more elected said that he will urge for removal of AFSPA from the state and will complete the

unfinished works taken up by his government. The Chief Minister however said that he will follow the directives of the BJP National Leadership and will not bargain for the post of Chief Minister.

N. Biren Singh further said that

the BJP, even after getting magic number the BJP will follow the Coalition dharma with likeminded political party. The Chief Minister however said that the BJP may not consider NPP as their coalition partners.

## INC wins in only 5 seats, O Ibobi blames unfair election for the election

IT News  
Imphal, March 10:

Even as the Indian National Congress has fielded 54 candidates in 54 assembly constituencies, the party manage to win in only 5 seat. Thos seat which the Congress win are Th. Lokeshwar of Khundrakpam AC, Former

Chief Minister Okram Ibobi who contested at Thoubal Assembly constituency, his son Okram Surjakumar, Keisham Meghachandra of Wangkhem Assembly.

Talking to reporter, CLP leader Okram Ibobi said that the election conducted was not in a free and fair way

and that was the reason for the decrease of the Congress seat.

"There were lot of Booth capturing in all the assembly constituencies of Hill district using muscle and money power", Ibobi said. He added that it was force election conducted to win by the BJP in the most unfair manner.

## UCM inspects Indo Myanmar Pillar issue

IT News  
Imphal, March 10:

UCM visits Kangpat Khullen, Nambisha and Skipe villages in Kamjong district as the villages complained of loss of land due to border fencing.

A team of UCM led by its president Joychandra Konthoujam visited Kangpat Khullen, Nambisha and Skipe villages in Kamjong district after the village chiefs and

authorities wrote to UCM. UCM along with the chiefs and authorities of the three villages, visited and inspected 11 border pillars including pillar nos 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, along with no 6, 7 and sub-pillar 102-1 and 102-3.

Following, the United Committee Manipur (UCM) has urged both the Centre and the State Government to spell out the progress of the works taken up to solve the Indo-Myanmar border

issues at the earliest.

Joychandra Konthoujam, President UCM also suggested that an official team should visit and verify the location of the border pillars at the earliest, as was promised to do so by the External Affairs Minister by October last year, while cautioning that any further delay in the matter could lead to clashes between the Manipur citizens residing along the border and the people of Myanmar.



### MESSAGE



Manipur State Legal Services Authority along with High Court Legal Services Committee and all District Legal Services Authorities will be organising National Lok Adalats on 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 13<sup>th</sup> of August and 12<sup>th</sup> of November for the year 2022.

2. A Lok Adalat is a People's Court where parties have an opportunity to directly take part in the resolution of the disputes amicably. Formal rules of procedures and evidence are not applied. It is a speedy, cost effective and creates a permanent win-win situation for the parties.

3. Both pre-litigation and pending cases such as given below can be determined before the National Lok Adalat:

#### I. Pre-Litigation:

- Cases under Section 138 NI Act (Cheque bouncing cases);
- Money/Bank Loan recovery;
- Electricity and water bills;
- Family maintenance cases;
- Other civil disputes.

#### II. Pending cases in Courts/Tribunals:

- Cases under Section 138 NI Act (Cheque bouncing cases);
- Money/Bank Loan recovery cases;
- Motor Accident Claims;
- Labour and Employment disputes;
- Electricity, and other bill payment related cases;
- Matrimonial disputes (except divorce);
- Land acquisition (pending before the civil courts/tribunals);
- Service matters relating to pay and allowances and retiral benefits;
- Revenue cases.

**\*\* Do the parties need to be physically present before the National Lok Adalat?**

No, the parties do not need to be physically present. They can take part in the Lok Adalat online using a mobile, laptop, computer etc., though video conferencing.

**\*\*Any individual/ Govt. Depts/ Organisations etc., desirous of settling their pre-litigation disputes or those cases pending before the courts through Lok Adalat may kindly contact the following:**

MANIPUR STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY,  
ADR Building Lamphelpat, Imphal West 795001,  
e-mail: maslsa.imphal@gmail.com,  
Mobile No. +91-9436239669; +91-9436239666

Helpline number for High Court Legal Services Committee (HCLSC): +91-7005752351

Helpline nos. for District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs):

- |                          |                  |                            |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Imphal West           | : +91-6009904967 | 6. Churachandpur/ Pherzawl | : +91-6009904970 |
| 2. Imphal East / Jiribam | : +91-6009904974 | 7. Chandel/ Tengnoupal     | : +91-6009904966 |
| 3. Thoubal/ Kakching     | : +91-6009904965 | 8. Tamenglong/ Noney       | : +91-6009904971 |
| 4. Bishnupur             | : +91-6009904968 | 9. Senapati/ Kangpokpi     | : +91-6009904969 |
| 5. Ukhrul/ Kamjong       | : +91-6009904972 |                            |                  |

(Issued in public interest by: Manipur State Legal Services Authority)  
Under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority

# CHOOSING A RIGHT CHIEF MINISTER

*(Responsibility is People's representatives not the People)*

By - Thougamba Managang

The Chief Minister is the most powerful functionary of a state government as being the head of the state council of Minister taking him or her as the real executive head. Taking reference to the Constitution of India, the Chief Minister is, in practice, appointed by the Governor but not in his own choice. He is to formally appoint the Chief Minister only when an MLA is elected as leader by the political party or coalition group that come up as secured majority after the state assembly election and communicate to him as their elected leader. The Chief Minister is so powerful that he can be dismissed by the Governor only when he loses majority support.

The question is that can an imperfection of a Chief Minister of a state is the fault of people when he is to be elected by the M.L.A.'s elected through adult franchise in the state assembly election by the people of respective constituencies? Definitely not, because a Chief Minister is directly elected by the representatives of people i.e. the M.L.A.s not directly by the eligible citizens. Voters elected M.L.A.'s, the elected M.L.A.'s of the Party or the Coalition of Parties elected the leader as the Chief Minister and communicated to the Governor who formally declare him as the Chief Minister of the state.

Manipur became full-fledged state of India in 1972 and the powerful state assembly was instituted through adult franchise with people's representatives. Starting from the 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 the state of Manipur has been ruled by chief ministers of absolute majority of political party or coalition majority parties. To mention them all, Alimuddin (Meitei Pangal) of MPP from 20-03-1972 to 28-03-1973 and from 04-03-1974 to 08-07-1974; Yangmasho Saiza of U.D.F. from 10-07-1974 to 05-12-1974; R.K. Dorendro Singh of Congress from 06-12-1974 to 13-05-1977, Yangmasho Saiza of U.D.F. from 29-06-1977 to 1979; R.K. Dorendro of Congress from 14-01-1980 to 26-11-1980; Rishang Keishing of Congress from 27-11-1980 to 28-02-1981, from 19-06-1981 to 28-02-1985, from 04-01-1985 to 04-03-1988; R.K. Dorendro Singh of Congress-I from 04-03-1988 to 17-02-1990; R.K. Ranbir of U.L.F. from 23-02-1990 to 07-01-1992; R.K. Dorendro of Congress-I from 08-04-1992 to 31-12-1993; Rishang Keishing of Congress-I from 13-12-1994 to 24-02-1995; W. Nipamacha of M.S.C.P. from 16-12-1997 to 13-02-2001; Radhabinod Koijam of People's Front from 15-02-2001 to 21-05-2001; Okram Ibobi Congress led S.P.F. from 07-03-2002 to 2016 and N. Biren Singh of B.J.P. from 2017 to 2021.

From the above, it is known that the Indian National Congress simply known as Congress has been ruling India in the longest period but even though a few personalities of international repute had been born, many of the leaders of later generation were unaccountable to the people of India and similar situation were seen in the state of Manipur too. This was why the Congress governance has been dwindling away from the soils of India including Manipur. Manipur during the period of Congress ruling was down to nadir inflicted with all social ailments and so the people experienced at extreme degrees of unfurlness on all fronts like what we popularly call as fake encounter, economic blockades, third-degree torture, combing operation, unemployment and price-hikes etc. Why the Chief Minister is so important is for reasons that he is empowered for formation of the Council of Ministers, distribution and Change of Portfolios (Departments) among Ministers, working as Chairman of the Council of Minister, the main communicator between the Governor and the government's council of ministers etc.

Because of the lack of leadership qualities, the past Congress governments committed a lot of mistakes and indulges into many malpractices against the wills and wishes of the public and thereby left out themselves as political satans. The BJP led government came into Manipur in 2017 as alternative way of life of the people of Manipur with high hopes and aspirations. Here, it is the fact that one Mr. Biswajit Singh a young and dynamic M.L.A. which brought up the BJP party as lone soldier sacrificed all his rights of leadership and shouldered to form N. Biren led BJP government in the state and so facilitated to get rid of the anarchy of the Congress. He though abandoned leadership position took major roles in the Biren's Council of Ministers holding the ever largest number of portfolios and by skillfully administering all the assigned departments in his best capacities bestowing best performances to the satisfactions of the people and thus endowed a good BJP government. But it is also not exaggeration that there happened some unwanted situations during the mid period of the bygone government such as misunderstandings between the leader and the council of ministers, hard-hitting upon the people's rights of expressions, absence of lasting policies and programme that seemed the government completed its full term only because of the people's liking not to repeat or return the past Congress led governance.

It all shows that choosing a right leader of the council of minister is the foremost duty of all the newly elected people's representatives. People can no longer be blamed for choosing a leader of government as they have rightfully chosen their representatives as M.L.A.s who have all the rights to choose their right leader as Chief Minister of the state. Today, the results of the 12<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly will be out and the single largest party or the coalition parties will form a new government in the shortest possible period. Here comes the important roles of the M.L.A.s of the single largest party or the coalition parties towards choosing their right leader. It is time for choosing a young and dynamic leader who knows the pulses of all sections of the society and the interests of all communities so as to making a progressive Manipuri society that moves on in accordance with the advantages of the fast changing global scenarios but with safeguarding the aged old traditional values of the state. Let new lotus bloom for a stable government of the people and for the people and by the people of Manipur.

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

# War and the Exodus of Uncertainties



By: M.R. Laitu

Pictures of exodus from a war-ravaged Ukraine are seriously distressing. The plight of the displaced ordinary people is ostensibly heart wrenching, who had to leave their homes overnight, with little more than the clothes on their back, probably uncertain of a destination that they can find asylum in. War is not only about the destruction that it can cause but the unlimited human sufferings it brings, makes it the most hazardous one. Cutting the umbilical cord of intimacy with one's own land, people flee for safety deserting their dreams and the ambience that they really loved and cherished. The world is watching millions of Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries like Poland, Hungary, Romania, Moldova and Slovakia with a chill in their spine. Would they ever be able to build their lives from under the debris of the devastating war? It needs tremendous courage to cross over to spaces of anonymity, enduring freezing temperatures, waiting for their chance for days on the road probably with unfed kids and feeble old people. Salutations to those who decided to take up Kalashnikovs in their hands back home, to fight the last war before they fall forever. Undoubtedly, beyond an ego war, Ukraine truly depicts the highest form of patriotism against the hostility of its gigantic neighbor. Nobody at present can predict the outcome of the war, not even the pundits. Twelve days after the Russian invasion began, it is still unpredictable to the level of casualty the war would cause by the time it

ends. But the exodus by the innocent civilians to safety across the boundaries is relentless. With the United Nations estimating a 4 million people in the coming days to become refugees, the situation is becoming tougher, throwing humanity across the globe a chance and a challenge to exhibit the level of kindness that it is capable of responding with.

Human history, without pages devoted to the stories of exoduses, will remain incomplete. For the Ukrainians, the acceptance by the European Union to accommodate them to its fold is a great humanitarian decision. Sudden influx of refugees to any country would make its socio-economic ambience wobbly. It takes time for the refugees and the countries that give them asylum to take a steady move further. History is full of evidence and tendencies of great humanitarian challenges. Large human migrations changing the demography of lands subsequently altering their civilizational continuity in an unpredictable manner have been subjects of research. To quote from the scriptures, it was the Biblical Moses who took his people for a miraculous expedition, an exodus of the folkloric kind, having given a heed to his God's command to escape from the dry land of Egypt. On confronted by the pharaoh and being unable to continue his exodus, Moses had to wait until God's wrath happened upon humanity in the form of 10

plagues which almost wiped-out people from the land of Egypt. Disasters made Moses and his people to make the first human exodus.

Though conflicting and contradictory, Indians and many in the west cherished an Aryan Invasion Theory until recently, believing that the central Asian pastoralists in an exodus, walked over to our subcontinent spreading their Indo-European languages. Exodus due to human aggression or natural calamities or any reason for that matter, is bound to make socio-political challenges in the place where they get settled. It was in August 1947, when the British decided to pack their bags back to England, India witnessed the most horrifying, humiliating exodus in Indian history. Millions of people who became homeless and impoverished, forced to cross the borders of the land they amicably settled, leaving everything behind which once they held as their own. Displacing themselves, about 15 million people crossed borders to India and Pakistan. The legacy of the Indian partition is the story of thousands of homeless people, who, after 75 years of the deadly exercise, are still antagonized with an essence of estrangement. Another exodus that human history cannot miss is the massive exodus of over 500,000 people after their eviction from Jaffna by the LTTE. Every exodus creates a huge identity crisis for the fleeing

group. The identity that they lost in their own country and the mountainous difficulties and perplexities that the new land offers as they try to gain a new identity. And the horror of being human frequently haunts them in a land where they get alienated with all their ethnicities lost. During the covid pandemic India was terribly rattled at its fallacy of pushing its migrant laborers to the streets forcing them to flee for their home states. More than the pandemic, the panic that was created was enough for the mass exodus to happen. Endless stretches of roads ahead and under the scorching sun, millions of India's migrant workers walked hundreds of miles. Estrangement in their own land was the effect of such an exodus.

Every migration defines human survival irrationally, unable to distinguish the pleasure and pain of existence. But one thing is clear, from the exodus of Moses to that of the Ukrainians, humanity is intertwined with stories of terrible human sufferings. Since World War II, this must be the massive movement of people that Europe is witnessing. This is bound to pose serious economic and political problems in the days to come. Millions of Ukrainians flowing to European countries would critically affect the job market and turn the political situations of those countries uneasy. This war is putting the human race to test once again, to determine the depth of humaneness with which it would accept millions of homeless women and children in the streets of Ukraine and to the lands they walk into.

# During this Ukraine war, India proves once again that it's the real friend of Bangladesh

By - John Rozario

The world knows India's tremendous contributions to Bangladesh's 1971 great liberation war. It is true that without the assistance of India, it was quite impossible for Bangladesh to gain independence from occupier west Pakistan. India always stands with Bangladesh in its crisis moment. Even despite having internal problems in India during the Covid-19 period, it helped Bangladesh by providing medical equipment.

The Government of India and the people of India hastened the victory of Bangladesh by forming Allied forces with all possible help and cooperation in the movement against the Pakistani rulers, against the extreme discriminatory behavior of the army. Even the veto of the then Soviet Union in proposing a ceasefire on behalf of Pakistan at the UN was behind the Indian government's ultra-tactical alliance agreement with the Soviets. Basically, India supported Bangladesh directly and directly at that time.

In 1972-73, India provided emergency assistance not only for food or consumer goods but also for the repair and reconstruction of transport communication systems and for the supply of industrial raw materials by supplying crude oil for refineries. India supplies civilian aircraft and ships. Food was the most important thing for the new country. At the beginning of 1972, the country suffered from the devastation of the war on the one hand and the loss of crops twice in a row on the other. India also assists in the transportation of only 0.4 million tons of food grains. In the first six months, India provided 74 percent of the total food aid. Between December 1971 and June 1972, 200 million was donated and 42 million was raised for the import of goods and projects. It was the

second-largest donor to the United States after 577 million.

The day after the nationwide lockdown was announced in 2020, India was the first country to contact its trusted neighbor Bangladesh to deal with the coronavirus. The first batch of humanitarian aid has been sent to neighboring countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Maldives, Seychelles, and Mauritius. India has always been the first to respond to any crisis in the region and has always extended a helping hand.

India gave 1.2 million free doses of the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine to Bangladesh in March last year. As Dhaka urged New Delhi to maintain a regular supply of shots to battle the pandemic.

Operation Ganga is being conducted to rescue Indian nationals stranded in war-torn Ukraine. So far, thousands of Indian nationals have been repatriated under the scheme. Significantly, the Indian government has rescued citizens of several other countries besides Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal through this operation.

It is India that stood by Bangladesh always. Even during the Ukraine crisis, India helped Bangladesh to evacuate Bangladesh people. India's helping hand to Bangladesh is time-tested. A friend in need is a friend indeed. According to the media reports, 9 Bangladeshis nationals have been rescued from Ukraine recently under Operation Ganga. Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has already thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for rescuing the citizens of Bangladesh.

Media reports say, about 18,000 Indian nationals have been flown to India from Ukraine on special flights. On March 07, 410 Indian nationals were repatriated from Ukraine's neighboring countries on

two special flights.

Earlier, the Indian government had rescued Pakistani student Asma Shafiq, who was stranded in Ukraine during Operation Ganga. The student also thanked the Government of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Indian Embassy has assisted them even in difficult situations.

In less than two weeks after the Russian invasion, some two million people fled Ukraine. Half of them are children. The flight from Ukraine is thought to have created the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. The situation is particularly dire in cities besieged by Russian forces.

According to news sources, a convoy of 12 buses left Sumi, Ukraine for Poltava. Where the staff of the Indian Embassy was accompanied by the staff of the Red Cross. But there were not only Indians but also citizens of Pakistan and Bangladesh. A total of nine Bangladeshis were among the rescued citizens. Several stranded Nepali and Tunisian students were also rescued. At the moment no other Indian students are stuck in Sumi, which is to say the success of the Government of India's Operation Ganga.

The positive steps taken by the Government of India in the rescue operation are going to play a very important role in the Indian subcontinent.

India has always had good relations with Bangladesh. India helps Bangladesh in many ways. The bond of harmony between the two countries is also quite strong.

India is very successful in Operation Ganga. Indian planes rescue Indian students from war-torn Ukraine. However, not only for the students of their own country but also the students of neighboring Bangladesh were rescued from Ukraine by Indian aircraft through Operation Ganga.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina thanked the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for this initiative of India. According to news agency sources, Bangladeshi students were also stuck in Ukraine like other countries. Similarly, 9 Bangladeshi students were rescued by Indian Airlines. Besides, students from Nepal and Tunisia were also stranded in Ukraine. India also came forward to rescue them.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to work to strengthen relations with Bangladesh. He made the remarks while visiting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's security adviser Tariq Ahmed Siddiqui earlier. The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office in New Delhi on March 06. During the meeting, Narendra Modi recalled his visit to Bangladesh last year and greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Tariq Ahmed Siddiqui thanked Narendra Modi for expressing interest in strengthening Bangladesh-India relations. He also thanked the Prime Minister of India for standing by Bangladesh in times of crisis including the Covid-19 epidemic.

Prime Minister Modi praised the leadership of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for ensuring overall development. Modi promised to work with Sheikh Hasina to further strengthen India-Bangladesh relations. However, during this Ukraine war, India proves once again that it's the real friend of Bangladesh.

(The writer John Rozario, is based in Karnataka, India, and has completed a master's degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University in International Relations. He is a researcher, strategic and international affairs analyst. He can be reached at [johnrojarjnu@gmail.com](mailto:johnrojarjnu@gmail.com))

# PM Modi reviews COVID-19 situation and vaccination drive across the country; Lauds Healthcare workers for ensuring stellar vaccination campaign

Source AIR  
New Delhi, March 10:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appreciated the relentless efforts put in by Vaccinators, Healthcare Workers, Central and State Governments in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Modi chaired a high-level meeting last evening to review the COVID-19 pandemic situation, particularly in the context of the Omicron wave and the status of the vaccination drive in the country. The Prime Minister highlighted the significance of following the COVID-related protocols and urged continued support from community and participation of the individuals to get vaccinated when due and follow the COVID-appropriate behaviour.

A detailed presentation on the global scenario and India's status of COVID-19 was given during the meeting. India's consistent efforts towards the vaccination campaign and an analysis of vaccine effectiveness to aid the lesser hospitalization and low severity and mortality during the recent surge was highlighted. It emerged in the review that pro-active and collaborative efforts led by the Central Government helped in

effective management of the spread of infection. It was also noted that India's pandemic response and vaccination efforts have been lauded globally by World Health Organization (WHO), United

Nations, International Monetary Fund as well as in the reports of Harvard Business School and Institute for Competitiveness.

The meeting was attended by Union Home Minister Amit

Shah, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Dr P K Mishra, and Minister of State for Health Bharti Pravin Pawar. Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, Home

Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, Member (Health) in NITI Aayog Dr V K Paul were also present at the meeting along with other senior officials.

## Australian Army Chief visits India

IT News  
Imphal, March 10:

Lt Gen Richard Maxwell Burr AO, DSC, MVC, Chief of Army Australia along with four member delegation is visiting India from 08 to 11 March 2022.

On March 9, 2022, the Australian Army Chief laid a wreath at the National War Memorial and received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the South Block. Lt Gen Richard Burr called on the Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff and other senior military officers. Interaction between both the Chiefs of the Army Staff was warm and cordial. Both Chiefs exchanged views on the current global situation and the situation in Indo-Pacific in addition to discussing measures for enhancing defence



cooperation between both armies.

The General also addressed the faculty and participants of the prestigious National Defence College and

later interacted on regional security perspectives with the Vice Chief of Army Staff and the Director at Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), New Delhi.

The visiting Australian Army Chief will be visiting Indian Army formations and units deployed along Western Borders on 10 and 11 March 2022.

## 44 AR organised various events commemorating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

IT News  
Imphal, March 10:

As part of three days long "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav : Desh Ki Hifazat- Desh Ki Suraksha" celebration, 44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of 22 Sector AR/IGAR (East) organised wreath laying at Unit Memorial, Tamenglong. Secretary, district veterans association led the Veterans in paying his homage to Breavehearts. Later a Veterans Milan program was also organised by the battalion. On the sidelines of this celebration an immunization drive in Kotlen area of Kangpoki district was undertaken in collaboration with PHC, T Waichong. This first of its kind of immunization drive was conducted by 44 Assam Rifles



along with Doctor Mohammed Arif Khan, MO incharge, PHC, T Waichong. Children under the five years of age were administered BCG, DPT,

hepatitis B and oral polio vaccine. TT vaccine was also administered to pregnant women. The medical staff also briefed locals about benefits of

full immunization as it gives a child the best chance for healthy life and preventing diseases before it occurs thus saving money, energy and lives.

## There should be tolerance in human behavior



By: Vijay Garg

Human life is very beautiful and if one has the manners to live life then it becomes icing on the cake. In fact, living life is no less than a skill. Although there are no established or set rules for driving the vehicle of life, by following which a person can walk successfully on the road of life. In fact, everyone lives his own life. While living in life, it is often experienced that one does not get the understanding of life even after going through it all his life and there are some who are quick to understand the deep secrets of life.

Most of the people get out of this world as they are caught in the trap of subsistence, struggling with the bitter realities of life. Undoubtedly, the light of education and knowledge has helped to bring about great changes in human life. Many people who are considered to be literate can sometimes be seen as lacking in the way of life. On the contrary, many seemingly perfect rural people also become a beacon for many by living a simple life full of simplicity, hard work, free from ego and pride, full of service spirit.

Often the illusion of life is created only by the abundance of wealth and material possessions in life. Undoubtedly, it is difficult to drive a life without these things, but these are the things to understand life, to turn away from the meaning of life. If there is no purpose to life then even such a life becomes meaningless. There are many people who have amassed wealth and other things but there is no sign of happiness in their life. As the saying goes, "no matter how rich a man is, he cannot sleep in two beds at the same time." Such ones become so caught up in the race for life that they sometimes fall prey to physical and mental ailments. All human races are interested in making their life comfortable and full of happiness. This desire of man to make life better is a symbol of his desire to enjoy life in a better way. Life is never the same, it is constantly changing and showing many colors. For those who are constantly trying to keep the water of life flowing and clean, trying to create ripples in the water with pebbles, one day success will surely kiss their feet.

Those who adopt a stingy attitude towards life do not know life. What money does it cost to enjoy the many beautiful colors of nature? Trees, shrubs, twigs laden with colorful flowers, crops swinging in the fields, children's laughter, chirping birds, twinkling stars, the sky, the moon shining brightly, the raining rain, the roaring wind, the glowing laughter of life. There is so much more to talk about than just making a living. There are very few who enjoy such beauty of life and such closeness is also rare. Such people may be poor financially but the wealth they have is shared by very few people.

There are very few people who have the courage to face even the hardships of life. No matter how sad their mind may be, there is no trace of sadness on their face. On the contrary, there is no shortage of people who have their own pain in their eyes. People who are depressed and depressed all the time add to their worries by taking the path of living worse than hell. Too much destruction in times of sorrow is a negative outlook on life. Many people get so absorbed in the pleasures and pleasures of life that they forget everything but when they are faced with a problem, they are often discouraged. If the joys and sorrows of life are considered in a balanced way, then the ease of life is maintained.

Anger is so strong in the behavior of some people that frowns appear on their foreheads all the time. Humility, modesty, and tolerance are not to be found in the behavior of such individuals. Sometimes it feels like they are fighting with themselves. Some people are so polite in their behavior that they stay in your mind forever. When such people speak, they show unique manners, even with their words, everyone gets tickled. The inner beauty of a human being is revealed only through human behavior. The presence of such persons makes the atmosphere pleasant and comfortable. Some people run aimlessly without any purpose or goal but they don't reach anywhere for the rest of their life. Some get lost in the dust of the road quickly in the rush to reach the destination. The destination welcomes those who cross difficult valleys with perseverance, courage and fortitude. Living a life of food and luxury is not the only life. Life is not easy for those who are in the race for money. Bitter realities of the time have created such conditions for man that he cannot even sit and eat comfortably. Today's human being, immersed in the ocean of thoughts, under the burden of mental troubles, passes through the Burki Sangh. When the denomination took place, the creators of the stockpile of notes became very weak. It is understandable for a human being to be greedy but when this situation goes beyond all limits then the inhuman aspect of a human being comes to light.

## Lost Bank Passbook

I, the undersigned have lost my bank saving passbook issued by State Bank of India SBI High court complex branch AC No 30228090834 on the way between Sanggakpam Bazar to Kontha Ahallup on date 5 March 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Laiashram Kedybabu Singh  
S/O L. Kalanjao Singh  
Ahallup Mamang Leikai  
# 8169765674

## The truth is that we live in a connected world

### Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



So many talking points are buzzing in my mind right now, and I am confused about which topic to take for today's column. So much is happening in the world every moment that the mind is confused, or is in a state of indecisiveness. On a personal level, even if everything is under our control, it seems that there are a few things which are out of our control. If our life is happy and relaxed, it doesn't mean that we should start jumping. Most often the mind wanders to that

part of Europe and Asia where tragedy and misery is the only constant. Children, elderly persons and women, all are walking homeless, forced to take shelter in the refugee camps in the neighbouring countries. Whatever had been earned, built and stored up for so many years, has been destroyed. All the possessions are left behind. Everything has gone into darkness, behind extreme sorrow, pain, suffering, frustration, and despair. How the stupidity and ruthlessness of one foolish person destroys

so many dreams, houses, buildings and a nation.

We all weave the fabric of life in our own way, in our own capacity and make plans for the future. We dream so much and try to make those dreams come true. We work hard day and night; then someone sitting faraway takes an absurd decision, full of evil, making your dreams impossible. Think for yourself, one person, one country or a group of mighty mindless people commit a foolish act, which has a far-reaching effect on the lives of millions of people around the world. That one person can be a criminal, a terrorist, a murderer or a political figure. That one person might be implementing his evil plans, but in this world everything is interconnected. Good, bad, happiness, sorrow,

everything creates a mixed effect on everyone. My mind is really troubled in this confusion today.

However, some comforting news is also coming. For example, the successful completion of Operation Ganga to get Indian-origin students out of the war zone. After two full years, the government's decision to resume international flights from March 27. The introduction of a digital payment service (UPI 123Pay) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for simple feature phones having no internet connection; thus connecting 400 million people of India with the new age payment system. Meanwhile, when I met a friend of mine yesterday, he put his hand forward. After two years, I felt

free to shake hands with someone. This is a big change. The unknown fear which used to be sitting in my mind has started disappearing. Slowly but surely people are now returning to their offices. There are very few people who are still on work from home (WFH) mode. As a result, there are reports of a decline in the quarterly earnings of video conferencing company Zoom. According to the latest news, between November 2021 and January 2022, Zoom's business grew by just 21 percent, compared to a growth of 191 percent in the same period last year. It's good to go back to the old times, feel free to meet friends, hang out and have fun.

# Five Assembly poll results jolt for congress, Boost to BJP and Narendra Modi

## A two track approach is the only way for opposition now for 2024 Lok Sabha Poll

By Nitya Chakraborty

The results of the assembly elections to the five states – Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur – have shown that the Grand Old Party the Congress is on the decline. The Party has not only lost its ruling state Punjab miserably to the Aam Admi Party (AAP) but also done badly in the two states Goa and Manipur compared to the 2017 elections when the Party emerged as the largest group. In Uttarakhand, the Party has improved a bit in terms of seats but the BJP convincingly retained the state. In Uttar Pradesh, nobody expected any Congress miracle, but even with the hype generated by Priyanka Gandhi in the poll campaign, the Party ended with a minuscule tally of 2 to 3 out of 403 seats compared to 7 in last assembly elections.

As regards BJP, the Party can claim some satisfaction that it has been able to retain power in Uttar Pradesh despite the lowering number of seats, convincingly won again in Uttarakhand and emerged as the single largest party in two states Goa and Manipur. The BJP with its manipulative power is in a position to cobble a majority in both the states just as it did after 2017 assembly elections. As regards Punjab, BJP leadership had never any big hopes but they should be happy that the AAP has displaced the Congress and this AAP emergence will be a big challenge to the Congress, the main rival of BJP nationally and that has potential for making a success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's divide and rule approach towards the opposition to help BJP to retain power in 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The upshot of the assembly elections is the unprecedented victory of AAP in Punjab assembly elections by getting around 90 out of the total 117 seats. The Congress which ruled after 2017 is a distant second with just 15 seats. This is a

major personal defeat for both Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi who played major role in removing the incumbent chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh before the elections. For nearly six weeks, there was a total mess in congress organisation. The Congress could not get the dividends from the farmers' agitation. The AAP got it. The strategy of Gandhi family regarding Punjab elections boomeranged.

The loss of Punjab and the humiliation of the Party in four other states will be a big disadvantage for the Congress which is very keen to head the combined opposition in the battle against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The regional parties who were waiting for the outcome of the assembly elections are expected to take the position that the Congress has no muscle power to take on BJP on a national plane. The regional parties will have to play the major role in uniting the anti-BJP parties and the Congress will be taken in that front on the terms of the regional parties. Arvind Kejriwal is expected to play a major role in the non-BJP combination and the AAP leaders will like to pitch him as a potential Prime Minister candidate to face Narendra Modi.

AAP is now the only regional party which will be ruling in two states. Delhi may not be a full state but it is the capital and it has special importance. Now with Punjab in its kitty, AAP has vindicated its role as a national player and AAP is in contest with the Trinamool Congress whose supreme Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee sees herself as the potential leader of the opposition. A meeting is likely to be held after the beginning of the Parliament session on March 14 in which the regional chief ministers will be discussing the centre-state relations and also the strategy of the opposition parties to face the challenge from the BJP. AAP will be a prominent player in this

conference. Whether the Congress is invited to this meet, is yet to be seen.

In the recent months, in all the local level elections held in the states ruled by the regional parties, the parties swept the polls- Trinamool in Bengal, DMK led front in Tamil Nadu, TRS in Telangana, BJD in Odisha and YRSRC in Andhra Pradesh. Congress in the latest local poll elections in Assam where it is the second largest party challenging the BJP got only one body out of 80 civic boards while the BJP got as high as 75. This means that the Congress has been further marginalized in Assam and the same may be repeated in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls unless a major rejuvenation of the Party organization and leadership takes place.

In Indian politics, the voters are not static, they change on the basis of their experience. The political parties have to take proper lessons from the results and make due corrective measures. The Congress has got still chance to take necessary measures before the next round of state assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal at the end of this year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leaving for Gujarat to start his yatra in the wake of the results of the five assembly elections. The BJP leadership is now focusing on continuing its electoral success in these two states by retaining power.

The Congress is the main party challenging BJP in Himachal and Gujarat. But the latest success in Punjab will lead AAP to focus more on Gujarat and emerge in the state as a big challenger to the ruling BJP. AAP has already set up its units throughout the state. The party has got some success in the last civic elections. The Congress which did give a good fight to the BJP in the last assembly elections, will have to take into account the challenge from AAP also. That way, it may emerge as a three way fight in Gujarat. The Congress leadership will have to be prepared to offer

a new vision to the electorate in the state who are fed up with the continuing BJP rule in the state.

What will be the next course of action for the opposition will be clear in the next few days. Mamata, K Chandrasekhar Rao and Arvind Kejriwal might like to opt for a strategy excluding the Congress participation but Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin and Maharashtra CM may choose more practical course of associating the Congress benefit of its bargaining power. Mamata might get the support of the Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also.

In any case, there is still time for the Congress to show its mettle. Apart from the two state assembly elections this year end, the elections are due to six more states in 2023. The Congress will be the major challenger to BJP in most of the states. The Party can get back its mojo vis a vis the regional parties if it performs better by retaining the ruling states like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and regaining Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh from BJP.

The regional non-Congress parties can have an understanding with the Congress on the basis of a two track approach to fight the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. All the parties will fight the BJP in their own turfs trying to get maximum mobilization of non-BJP forces. Even when there are fights between the Congress and the regional parties, there will be understanding for forming a non-BJP government in the event of a hung Parliament. The leader will be elected on the basis of the respective strength of the regional parties and the Congress. The present trend of Indian politics has made it clear that the Congress may be weak now, but only a combination of the regional parties and the Congress can take on the muscle power of the BJP in electoral terms.

(IPA Service)

# BJP Win Second Term With 260+ Seats, Break 35-Year-Old Jinx

Agency Lucknow, March 10

The BJP is heading for a big win in Uttar Pradesh and has crossed the 260 mark in latest trends. The party is firmly ahead of Samajwadi Party and Yogi Adityanath set for a second consecutive term as Chief Minister. The majority mark in the 403-member legislative assembly is 202. In the latest trends, the ruling party was ahead in 266 seats, while the Samajwadi Party, whose leader Akhilesh Yadav attracted huge crowds at his campaign rallies, was trailing behind with leads in 132 seats. Among those leading are Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur, Samajwadi chief Akhilesh Yadav from Karhal, Shivpal Yadav from Jaswant Nagar, and Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya from Sirathu. This will be the first time since 1985 that a ruling party will return to power in Uttar Pradesh.

The counting of votes started at 8 am with postal ballots. The

counting of electronic voting machines (EVM) will begin at 8.30 am.

The UP polls are being seen as an indicator of the national mood ahead of the 2024 general elections. "BJPs' model of development, vikas and good governance has been successful in UP and its population of over 250 million people (25 crore people). This along with the fact that BJP takes along all sections of society. We believe in SabkaSaath, Sabka Vikas, SabkaVishwas. The people have seen this and trusted us once again. They have taken a stand to defeat 'parivaarvaad', 'vanshwaad', mafia-waad," Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said while addressing BJP workers. "For the first time, elections that took place peacefully in 7 phases, has re-elected a government with such a tremendous mandate. I congratulate the Election Commission and to all those officials who ensured that the elections happened peacefully and at a time of COVID-19. They have done a stellar job. I would also like to thank the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the BJP President and all the workers of BJP for their love, support and guidance," Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said after the results emerged. The BJP is looking at a 260-plus tally in 403-seat Uttar Pradesh, with the Samajwadi Party, its main challenger, a distant second, election results show. The party is ahead in 267 seats while the SP is likely to win in 131 seats.

The BJP's victory in the assembly polls on Thursday has put the party on a stronger wicket for the election for the post of President expected later this year. The big victory for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh has given Prime Minister Narendra Modi a free hand to decide on the successor to President Ram Nath Kovind, who will complete his tenure on July 24, 2022, political analysts said.

# AAP sweeps state, Mann dedicates victory to Bhagat Singh

Agency Chandigarh, March 10:

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is set to form the government in Punjab as the trends show that the party is likely to secure nearly 90 out of 117 seats. In aor setback to Congress and SAD, their biggest leaders Navjot Singh Sidhu, Charanjit Singh Channi, Bikram Singh Majithia and Sukhbir Singh Badal have lost polls in their seats. Amarinder Singh of the Punjab Lok Congress, who fought the polls with the BJP, also lost.

At 6 PM, EC had declared AAP winner on 88 seats, while Congress had won 15 seats. SAD won 3, BJP 2, BSP and an independent one each. AAP was leading on four seats.

Punjab Chief Minister-elect Bhagwant Mann drew cheers from the crowd on Thursday as he announced that his oath-taking ceremony will be held at Khatakalka in Nawanshahr district, the ancestral village of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

He also announced that government offices will not have the photo of the Chief Minister as is the custom.

"The oath-taking ceremony will not be held at Raj Bhawan, but at Khatakalka. The date will be announced later," he said in his victory speech in Dhuri, where he won by over 58,000 votes.

"No government office will carry a picture of Chief Minister, instead there will be pictures of Bhagat Singh and BR Ambedkar," Mr Mann announced.

Underlining the scale of the Aam Aadmi Party's victory by naming the heavyweights who have lost, the AAP leader said, "Bade (Parkash Singh) Badal Sahib has lost, Sukhbir (Badal) has lost from Jalandhar, Captain has lost from Patiala, Sidhu and Majithia are also losing, (Charanjit Singh) Channi has lost on both the seats."

Mr Mann said his first order of business after taking office will be schools, health, industry, making agriculture profitable, the safety of women and improving sports infrastructure.

"You will start seeing the change in Punjab within one month," he promised. Appealing to people to work

together, he said those who did not vote for the AAP need not worry as the government will work for all sections of the society.

BJP MP Gautam Gambhir congratulated AAP on its Punjab victory but also cautioned party supremo Arvind Kejriwal against the Khalistani threat. "Congratulations to AAP on winning Punjab. Now @ArvindKejriwal must resign in Khalistani elements otherwise Punjab can become Kashmir!" he tweeted.

Bhagwant Mann dedicated his victory from Dhuri seat to Bhagat Singh and Baba Ambedkar.

AAP's Amritsar East candidate Jeevanjot Kaur, who defeated Congress state president Navjot Singh Sidhu and SAD's Bikram Singh Majithia, has said that people of Punjab have overcome identity politics.

"It's the victory of the people of Punjab. My ticket was announced around Dec 3...Got positive indication during door-to-door campaigns that Punjab has overcome identity politics," Jeevanjot Kaur said.

# There are many lessons for congress to learn from its debacle in five assembly polls Aam admi party emerges as a national political player coming out of Delhi

By Harihar Swarup

Election results to five state assemblies have exhibited many firsts. For the first time the Aam Admi Party sprang a surprise when it romped home with a majority in Punjab, leaving far behind the Congress, Akali Dal and other parties. This is also for the first time that APP has stepped out of Delhi. If Kejriwal's party moves at this pace, it is certain to become a national party from a regional set up. Punjab poll has seen Congress in a very poor light. As a columnist wrote the ruling congress party has been working to lose

election. This came literally true otherwise why should Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders remove well entrenched Capt. Amarinder Singh as chief minister who was confident of leading the Congress party to victory. What was a need to make Navjit Singh Sidhu PCC president without consulting CM. From the first day Sidhu started working against the CM. He missed no opportunity to destabilize CM and attacking his own government. Surprisingly both Amarinder Singh and Sidhu lost election. Amarinder is a well established leader of

Punjab and has the credit of defeating BJP's senior leader Arun Jaitley in the last Lok Sabha election. One wonders what will be his future.

Also for the first Yogi Adityanath will be chief minister of Uttar Pradesh for a second term. No chief minister in the most populous state of India got a second term. It is always said in political circles that "one who rules UP rules Delhi".

The poll results also demonstrated a resurgent BJP who may be forming governments in four states, except key state of Punjab, having secured majority.

With Congress putting self destruction button, there appears to be no challenge to the BJP as of now.

How the Congress destroys itself was evident how, having won Madhya Pradesh after a long time, toppled its own government led by Kamal Nath. Joytiraditya Scindia was an important leader of Madhya Pradesh Congress and played important role in congress victory. Kamal Nath and former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh humiliated Scindia so much that he quit the Congress, joined the BJP and now a minister at the Centre. Had Congress given him Rajya

Sabha ticket, Kamal Nath would have been ruling the state.

Congress Party's virtual route in five elections has a lesson. The grand old party has to change its style of functioning; the dynastic dominance has to be cried halt and natural leadership allowed to grow.

These elections have taken place at a time of significant economic distress. Unemployment rates, especially among the youth, continue to be high. Inflation, especially for essential commodities such as cooking gas, petrol-diesel and eatable oils, has been high and things are expected

to become worse given the ongoing geopolitical disruption.

The dependency because of economic situation can be clearly seen in RBI's Consumer Confidence, which shows that consumer sentiment continues to be significantly lower than pre-pandemic levels. Given the fact that the BJP has the burden of double incumbency—it is the ruling party both in the centre and states—the biggest question in these elections is whether economic distress will hurt its political fortunes in future.

Now that the BJP has managed to retain power in the states it is ruling, especially UP, where policies such as ban on cattle slaughter have created the menace of stray cattle, it will mean voters have decided against punishing the BJP politically despite large-scale economic suffering. This will also underline the argument that economic distress per se—the inflation scenario is expected to get worse in the coming days but it should not be a dampening factor for BJP's political fortunes.

(IPA Service)