

## Sorokhaibam Rajen sworn in as Member Elect of Manipur Legislative Assembly



IT News  
Imphal, March 13:

Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh was sworn in as Member Elect of Manipur Legislative Assembly today. Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan administered him the oath of office.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Darbar Hall of Raj Bhavan in Imphal. Caretaker Chief Minister N.

Biren Singh, Th. Biswajit Singh, Y. Khemchand Singh, Govindas Konthoujam, L. Sushindro Singh, Chief Secretary, DGP and top officials attended among others in the ceremony.

After the ceremony, talking to media persons, S. Rajen Singh said, as a senior member he has been appointed as the person before whom newly elected Members of the Manipur Legislative

Assembly shall make and subscribe an oath of affirmation until a Speaker of the 12<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly is elected. When asked about a new government formation in the State, he said, BJP is a well disciplined Party and all elected Members will abide by the decision taken by the Party's High Command. There is no in-fight for Chief Ministerial Post, he added.

## Former Minister Biswajit says no camp held for CM race; All members will follow Party's Parliamentary Board decisions

IT News  
Imphal, March 13:

Former Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, who is a top profile MLA of the BJP legislatures today said that rumours spreading around in connection with the formation of the next government are baseless and unfounded.

While talking to media persons after the while talking to media persons after the swearing-in ceremony of Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh as Member Elect of Manipur Legislative Assembly today at Raj Bhavan Biswajit said that some baseless news reports have been coming in about the formation of new



File Photo- A Sharda Devi (President State BJP) & Th. Biswajit

Government in the State. The former Minister was reacting to news reports appeared at some of the electronic and print media at which they report that he himself has been camping for becoming

the Chief Minister in the next government. Media speculated about probable differences among the elected BJP legislatures on whom to be elected as the Chief Minister. "Those

reports are not true and are being made up to create misunderstanding and confusion among the BJP legislatures and the state party leaders", Biswajit said and added that there is no in-fight or Camp among the elected Members of BJP for the time being.

"All members will adhere to the decision taken by the Party's Parliamentary Board and within a few days we will come to know that who will lead the new Government in the State", Biswajit added.

The same has been stated by the State President of the BJP while talking to various media persons earlier.

## BJP team reached Jiribam, appeals for calm after post poll violence

IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, March 13:

A team of BJP led by General Secretary, Manipur Pradesh P. Premananda Meetei reached at Jiribam to take the stock of violence and has called for calm though they had blamed the JD(U) workers for the violence.

Today in a press conference held at Joyraj Hotel, Kalinagar, Jiribam P. Premananda Meetei said after the election result was declared, violence erupted in Jiribam district as some miscreants allegedly assaulted the family members of Imphal West BJP Minority Morcha Vice President M.M. Hassan@Saddam including his parents and his pregnant



wife at his residence at Lalpani, Jiribam.

He alleged that the offence had carried out by JD(U) workers and supporters. Condemning such act, today the BJP team along with office bearers of BJP, Jiribam Mandol met with the victim family members

and discussed about the incidence as well as share their pain and grief.

P. Premananda Meetei also appealed to all the people of Jiribam to maintain peace and harmony and to shun from post poll violence.

Today's press meet was

attended by Ph. Phoni Meetei, President, BJP Imphal West District; Kh. Haridas, President in-charge, BJP Jiribam Mandol and A. Dorendro Meetei, General Secretary, BJP Jiribam Mandol and Office Secretary of election Management Committee.

## COVID-19: Positivity Rate 1.4%, 2 deaths in Manipur

IT News  
Imphal, March 13:

The country recorded 3,116 new Covid-19 cases, 47 deaths in the last 24 hours, pushing the total death toll to 5,15,850, according to the data released by the Ministry of Health on today. The active cases stand at 38,069.

In Manipur COVID-19 cases in the state of Manipur has been reduced to 1.4 % however 2 persons, one from Ukhrul and another from Kangpokpi district has been reported died of COVID in the last 24 hour as per report state authority.

Number of sample tested in the last 24 hour is 1,111 and the number of positive cases found is 15 with eight cases in Chandel district. A total of 15,88,560 has been tested for COVID-19 till today and

among these 1,36,991 has been found positive. Number of death so far due to COVID-19 has reached 2,118.

As for the Country a decrease of 2,490 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The country also recorded 5,559 recoveries today, taking the total number of recoveries to 4,24,37,072.

The active cases account for 0.09 per cent of the total caseload, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has further improved to 98.71 per cent, the ministry said.

Additionally, the cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive have exceeded 180.13 crore. As many as 7,61,737 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours to detect the presence of the virus.

Meanwhile, the global coronavirus caseload has topped 455.6 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 6.03 million and vaccinations to over 10.68 billion, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 79,508,508 and 967,158, according to the CSSE.

The second worst hit country in terms of cases is India (42,987,875 infections and 515,803 deaths), followed by Brazil (29,313,228 infections and 654,843 deaths)

## MLA elect S. Rajen says, people who voted for NPP in Lamsang AC will not get government benefits

IT News  
Imphal, March 13:

Former Education Minister Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh said those who voted for NPP in the 12<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly election will be deprived of all the government benefits.

The video that has gone viral on various social media platforms has been uploaded by multiple handles criticizing the statement Mr. Rajen has made in his victory speech in his constituency.

"With the first phase poll on February 28, the 12<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly election

concludes. Those who voted for National People's Party yesterday have sold their values of five years. They have no rights to get the government benefits under Lamsang Assembly constituency," Rajen said.

With his speech, the MLA-elect is certain that he represents only for those people in the Lamsang Assembly Constituency who have voted for him, a political analyst told the *The Imphal Times*.

Mention may be made that S Rajen has been embroiled a series of controversies in his five years as an MLA and Education Minister of the state.

PIB  
New Delhi, March 13:

Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbanand Sonowal was inaugurated Yoga Mahotsav 2022, an event to commemorate 100 days countdown in run up to 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2022 today at New Delhi. Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Sikkim Prem Singh Tamang, Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Environment Bhupender Yadav, MoS for Ayush Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai and MoS for External Affairs and Culture Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi and Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President, Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh were also present on this occasion.

This year the International Day of Yoga 2022 campaign will focus on the theme 100 days, 100 cities and 100 organizations

till 21st June, 2022 across the globe. For the first time to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, it will demonstrate Yoga at 75 Heritage Heritage/Iconic cultural sites on 21st June, 2022. Other program includes Yoga programs, Yoga demonstrations, workshops, seminar to be held not only in India but across the globe. Ministry will propagate benefits of using WHO mYoga App, Namaste App, Y-break App. Various people centric activities and programmes will be launched on MyGov platform including Photo contest, quiz, discussion, pledge, poll survey, jingle etc.

In his inaugural address Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said that IDY 2022 will be the 8th edition of International Day of Yoga organised by us. It's an opportunity for a mass movement to promote health, wellbeing and peace across the globe. It is worth mentioning

that 100-day countdown will formally mark the beginning of journey towards celebration of IDY-2022, which will be journey towards freedom from disease, stress and depression. The Minister said that as WHO's Global Centre for Traditional Medicine is being established in India, it has incumbent upon India, which is equipped with deep wisdom of yoga and traditional health practices, to lead the world on the path of peace, well-being, better and affordable health.

He added that Under the leadership of our Prime Minister, since 2015 it has become a mass movement and has been recognized as biggest public initiative in the world – more than 250 million people are practicing common yoga protocol developed by Ministry of Ayush. My ministry has taken initiatives to make yoga an Indian brand for world peace and also to promote motto of

promote motto of "Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat".

On this occasion, Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar said that Haryana is first state in India to establish Yoga Commission. We are in process of establishment an Ayush University in kurukshetra, Haryana in 100 acre area. We have also taken initiative to make it mandatory to make available an Ayush Doctor in almost 2000 Public Health Center of Haryana.

Prem Singh Tamang, Chief Minister of Sikkim proposed to establish National Yoga and Meditation Institute at near Kritunga Lake in Sikkim. It will be a global institution which will impart knowledge about the yoga. He added that Yoga is part of the school curriculum of Sikkim and around 500 teachers are imparting these services.

In his Address, Bhupender Yadav said that on the path of

environment friendly lifestyle, Yoga and Ayush as a whole, have a lot to contribute. We are amending the Bio-diversity Act which will have lasting impact on the advancement of Ayush systems. He requested Ayush Minister to also organise Yoga programmes during this countdown series at prized sites like 49 select lakes and 52 tiger reserves.

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush citing an example of the utility of Yoga in the current scenario, said that AIIMS Delhi did a project to see the efficacy of Yoga in holistic health. AIIMS studied the impact of Yoga in comparison with Gym goes. The physical improvement in both the groups were almost same but whereas Gym goes were seen to have enhanced 'Rajo-gun' and 'Tamo-gun', the yoga practicing group was seen to have enhanced 'Sato-gun'.

## India is well positioned to become global leader in Yoga and traditional medicine - Sarbananda Sonowal

# Entrepreneurs are really dedicated & disciplined

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



IIT Bombay conducted a survey of the lifestyle and habits of its students. The survey revealed some surprising facts about the students, such as

56 percent students spend less than 60 minutes on social media accounts and 80 percent students do not smoke cigarettes. In today's time, both these habits are very common among the youth. The reason behind not spending time on social media was given that they do not get enough time due to their studies. The load of books is so much that 50 percent of the students do not even take bath everyday. But awareness can be one of the reasons behind no indulgence in smoking. Actually, at the top of the worst habits for health is the consumption of tobacco in any form. Cigarettes used to be very popular among college students two decades ago, as they considered it a way to de-stress and in doing so they wanted to prove themselves to be cool. One thing is clear from this survey that the youth who pass out of IIT definitely deserve better jobs. The students of IIT Bombay are really immersed in studies. Really a good thing.

The New Zealand government has become very strict regarding smoking. The government there has made up its mind to completely eliminate smoking from the country and is going to bring a new law for this. New Zealand has set a target to reduce the smoking rate to 5 percent by the year 2025. People born there in 2008 or after will not be able to buy cigarettes and other tobacco products this year onwards. Tobacco kills 8 million people in the world every year. These include 1.2 million people who do not use tobacco themselves, nor do they smoke cigarettes, but who live with those who smoke. According to an estimate, 1.3 billion people in the world smoke or use other tobacco products, such as chewing gutka. People spit a lot after chewing a paan or gutka. There is a ban on spitting in public places in India. Despite this, there are people who do not obey this rule. They keep spitting here and there. Due to this, not only the government buildings, but the Indian Railways is also worried. Railway has to spend 1200 crore rupees every year to remove the spit stains. Water is also wasted in the process. For the convenience of those spitting after chewing gutka, spitter kiosks are being set up at 42 stations in the country, where spitoon pouches will be available.

Most of the youth who have taken a degree from IIT or IIM prefer to do their own business. If someone wants to start a business of up to ten lakh rupees or to expand the existing business, the government's Mudra loan can help. No guarantee is required from the banks or lending institutions and no processing fee is levied to avail the benefits of Mudra Yojana. Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) issues this loan. Being a citizen of India is the first condition for availing Mudra loan. There are three slabs of loans up to 50 thousand rupees, five lakh rupees and ten lakh rupees, which are given to different categories of businesses.

# Congress leadership has to do real introspection on its poll debacle

*There is still a period of two years to make corrections before 2024 Poll*

By Arun Srivastava

Just a day ahead of the counting of the votes, March 10, for the assemblies of five states, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi had observed emphatically that soon India will be a Congress Free Bharat. His tone bore the impression of an assertive authority. Ever since taking over the office of the premier he has been busy planning decimating Congress.

An insight into the functioning of the Congress would reveal that the party in fact on the verge of getting disintegrated and losing the identity. The results of the assembly elections to the five states – Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur – have made it absolutely clear that Congress has lost its relevance and existence. It is an irony that on most of the seats in Punjab, where till a day Congress was in power, in this election its candidates failed to even protect their deposits. This is worst to happen with the Congress. It may not be exaggeration to say that the Congress lost Punjab due to arrogance and utter lack of understanding of the ground realities by the leadership. They treated the Congress as its fiefdom.

Rahul Gandhi went around UP and held public meetings. He ought to have realised that mere addressing of rally does not fetch votes. Your lecture and appeal must convince the people of your intention. But in Congress its words and intentions do not match. Leadership has to connect and motivate workers, cadres and members. But Congress campaigning made it clear that he did not have that perspective. Fighting and winning an election needs a concrete strategy and machinery. Sonia Gandhi cannot say that she

has built a strong electoral mechanism and committed rank of cadres. Ironically the Congress leadership always relied on the charisma of Nehru-Gandhi family members without realising that the political economy has changed drastically.

Congress leadership tried to perpetuate it even after it has lost relevance. I remember one incident. It was in 1983 a group of dedicated Youth Congress cadres in Kidderpore of Calcutta who had taken out a rally in emergency protesting against imprisonment of Chandra Shekhar, who was at that time the CWC member had organised a meeting in a library for the first time to oppose "parivarvad", dynasty.

But it did not alter the Congress leadership. However the worst is before us now. Congress lost Punjab due to the arrogance attitude of the Congress leadership. When everything was going well, what was the reason to sack Amarinder Singh as the chief minister. Again what made Rahul Gandhi to install Navjot Sidhu when he had already earned severe criticism and had become most unpopular. Ever since Channi was made the CM, he has been busy launching a venomous campaign against Channi. He was not publicly pulled up for being the associate of Rahul. – Priyanka. Strangely, interest of the party was ignored to protect a personal friend.

The situation was used by the AAP. What was quite interesting that instead of targeting the BJP, the AAP also targeted the Congress. Otherwise too the primary reason has been the BJP does not have base in Punjab. Besides targeting the Congress provided much better leverage to the AAP. It would claim

to be a national party.

The Congress might not have lost if its leadership could have shown some amount of pragmatism and the leadership must not have treated the Congress leadership as pariahs. An election of mega character and dimension needed huge man power to steer electioneering, but strange enough the Congress leadership must not use its tested and tried leaders. They were pushed on the periphery. They were kept isolated from the electioneering and campaigning. Almost all the senior leaders in Uttarakhand lost the election.

Rahul took upon the sole responsibility of calling upon the people and motivate them to vote for Congress. But probably he had forgotten that he was fighting Modi, who has more pronounced support and followers has been proved beyond doubt that he is the only leader superior to others. In this backdrop a collective leadership campaign would have been helpful to meet the challenge.

The atmosphere was congenial for the defeat of the BJP in UP. Though the Congress was not a main opposition player, even the ground work done by Priyanka Gandhi failed to yield results. This primarily owes to the lack of motivated and committed cadres. In elections campaigning and holding of public rallies are not only the key factors, for ensuring the victory of candidate it is imperative that the party must have well organised cadres to move door to door and take the voters to the polling stations. But Congress utterly lacked it.

BJP losing nearly 60 seats in comparison to what it achieved in

2017 is testimony to the fact that its support base has been on sharp decline. Though yet to be officially substantiated it cannot allege some amount of loot has been made in the EVM, nevertheless the detection of such large number of buses and truck carrying EVM in the dead of night underline that huge electoral has taken place. It cannot be denied that this manipulation should not have helped the BJP electorally. The BJP can claim to retain its hold on UP, but the fact is it is truncated and reflects people's disappointment.

If Congress really intends to keep its position at the national level and continue to play a major role, it must bring about fundamental organisational changes. The word dynasty which has become pariah for common people must be abandoned by bringing a new face as the party chief. Sonia must remember in politics sacrifice has much value, in fact more than getting power. By doing this Congress will get back the prestige and respect on the people, it will never be a loser.

This victory will help the BJP to consolidate and strengthen its position at a time the party has been getting ready for a major electoral show in 2024. But it cannot be claimed that it would strengthen its political grip and ideological stature. It has lost much of its moral clout. People have been some wrong play. This victory has some different structure and paradigm. It cannot be related to the uniform structure. A victory in UP alone cannot be taken as the indicator for 2024 possible win. The peoples' mood is decisive. It is for the opposition to mould and win people's perception.

(IPA Service)

# India has lowest female labour force participation rates in the world

By - Dr. Lakshmi Lingam and Dr. Ipsita Sapra

March 8 is the International Women's Day [IWD]. The history of IWD is linked to women protesting for their rights as workers and thereafter receiving official recognition through this day from the United Nations [UN] in 1975. Each year, women's movements in India mobilize on critical concerns impinging on women in the country. The UN has declared the theme for 2022 as "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" with a specific focus on climate change issues and women's leadership, and contributions to mitigate climate change problems and build resilient societies.

Oblivious to women's rights issues and climate change concerns, most people and companies selling cosmetics, gadgets, holidays, beauty treatments flood print, digital and social media, thanking women for the sacrifices they make or for breaking male bastions. At both ends of the spectrum of this acknowledgement, there is a reinforcement of what industry, society and families want of women. The rules of the game are not what women set for themselves. Among many such commercial messages, advertisements and online videos,

we have come across an early video entry by Prega news (a home pregnancy testing kit company). Prega news' viral ad campaign, which has already garnered over 56.33 lakh views on YouTube, celebrates Women's Day with a short 3:27-minute video with the hashtag #SheCanCarryBoth. The video grapples with motherhood and employment choices, which is a vexed question given the declining women's labour force participation in India.

The video opens with a young woman walking on a railway platform anxious about her pregnancy as she fears that it will terminate her modelling career. She enters a railway ladies' waiting room which has a sariclad woman trying to comfort a wailing infant, a woman in formal pants working on a laptop and a housekeeping woman mopping the floor. A feeding bottle rolls down on the floor from the hands of the woman struggling to comfort the baby. The young model chooses to ignore and walks past the feeding bottle on the floor, symbolic of her mental state. The housekeeping woman picks up the bottle, hands it to the mother, and shares some wisdom on calming the cranky baby. As part of the conversation, she mentions she has three children.

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# Medical studies : need to increase MBBS seats



By: Vijay Garg

The recent death of an Indian student in the Ukraine war has drawn attention to the hardships faced by thousands of Indian students trapped there. A large number of those who study medicine abroad from India go to Ukraine, however, Russia and China are the most preferred places. Many students also go to study in Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

There are currently 605 medical colleges in India, with an annual recruitment capacity of 90,825 for MBBS courses. About half of the medical colleges are government, while the rest are private or run by a trust/society. The annual fee for MBBS course in government medical colleges is less than Rs 10000 (AIIMS) to Rs 1.5 lakh (Kerala) but in private colleges from 83 lakh (Mulana) to 1.15 crore (DY Patil Medical College, Navi Mumbai) for the entire course. Takes till.

Why do students go abroad to get medical education? About 15 lakh students are estimated to appear in the NEET entrance exam this year for the total of about 90 thousand seats available across the country. Due to different types of reservation quota and high fees in

private colleges, the candidates who have got a score as high as 35000 are also not able to get the seat, while someone getting less number gets admission from the deemed university or under management quota. Students who do not have the financial status to get admission in private colleges, have to go abroad because the cost of the entire course there is Rs 20-30 lakh. Apart from these, there is a category, which neither passed NEET or found the place so low that it is not possible to get admitted in the indigenous medical college.

In 2002, in the TMA Pai case, the Supreme Court had ruled that private educational institutions that do not receive grants from the government are free to fix professional course fees as they wish. After this, fee fixation committees were formed in every state, which had the right to fix fees keeping in mind the immediate infrastructure and expansion plans etc. Its purpose was to discourage donation-recruitment and promote merit. In November last year, the National Medical Commission, which replaced the infamous Medical Council of India, had suggested fixing fees for 50 percent seats in private medical colleges. Each such institute will have to give 50% seats on the basis of merit (NEET rank), for which the annual fee will be 6-10 lakhs. Rest of the seats will be under management quota, whose annual fee will be 15-18 lakhs. The annual fee in a deemed university can be up to 25 lakhs. Till the year 2016, it was mandatory for private colleges to run courses on non-profit basis. But the government removed this section and approved to increase the fee by 10 percent every year.

It also allowed doctors trained abroad to register to practice in India and pursue postgraduate education in Indian medical colleges on passing the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) examination. However, in the last five years, the pass percentage of FMGE has been 16. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi recently said that 90 percent of those pursuing medical studies from abroad fail to clear the qualifying examination in India. This statement, on the one hand, shows the poor level of studies conducted there, but it also tells about the merit of the students who aspire to become a medical doctor despite getting a lower rank in the NEET exam. That's why out of about 30000 degree holders who get foreign medical education every year, less than 5000 have authenticity to do valid medical practice, the rest either have to re-exam or start illegal practice in small places, or choose some other profession. take. So the chances of becoming a postgraduate doctor are very less.

Suggestions to increase medical college seats in India keep on coming. According to the recommendation of having 1 doctor for every 1000 people in the country, there should be about 13 lakh 80 thousand doctors. Whereas the number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 10 lakh 20 thousand. In the last 8 years, MBBS seats in the country have increased from 51,500 to 90,000. It is a common debate among experts whether to increase their number further or not. Increasing seats requires not only additional infrastructure but also appropriate facilities. If, after this increase, the economically affordable seats are able to increase

by very little, then it will be like further deepening the problem.

Another serious issue that is not discussed much is how much one earns after Rs 50 lakh to 1 crore spent in getting MBBS degree. An MBBS doctor gets a monthly salary of around 30-40 thousand in a private hospital (can earn more by running a private clinic) and almost double the salary in a government job. Some doctors use unfair means to make ends meet for their education. A few years ago, the British Medical Journal published an anecdote by Australian government servant Dr. David Berger in India, titled: "How the crumbling rubies the doctor-patient relationship in India-2014". Dr. Berger was surprised to see that even patients with common symptoms such as high blood pressure were asked to undergo echocardiography every three months from private medical examination centers. His colleagues government doctors told that for every recommendation, he gets a few hundred rupees as commission. His comment was: "This is how the doctors of India live in the midst of a 'virtuous cycle' of recommendation-commissions.

There is a need to find a way out of this situation. Of course, recently the structure has been changed through the National Medical Commission, yet a lot more needs to be done. Medical education should be streamlined, starting with rationalizing the ratio difference in fees and MBBS/PG seats in private medical colleges. To increase the MBBS seats, it is necessary to assess the employability in the mind. Parents and students aspiring to become doctors should be warned about the reality of post-medical education abroad.

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# PPFA bats for declaring 'The Kashmir Files' tax-free in Assam



IT Correspondent  
Guwahati, March 13:

'The Kashmir Files', which is based on the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 and has been released this week in cinema halls, should be declared tax-free in Assam, stated Patriotic People's Front Assam (PPFA). The forum of nationalist citizens argued that nobody made a film based on this subject till today even though India produces hundreds of feature films

on various issues every year.

"The film has already been declared tax-free in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. Initially set to release worldwide on 26 January 2022, coinciding with the auspicious Republic Day, but director Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri had to postpone because of the Omicron variant spread in the country, and finally it's released on 11 March," said a PPFA statement.

The film narrates the story of hundreds of

thousands Kashmiri Hindus, who were forced to leave the Kashmir valley by the Islamists and Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. In late 1980s, terrorists in the valley started killing the Kashmiri Pandits with impunity. The then J&K chief minister Farooq Abdullah did nothing to prevent the cold-blooded murders. Kashmir had a rich art, culture, music and food, but the Islamists have destroyed it totally.

Produced by Tej Narayan Agarwal, Abhishek

Agarwal, Pallavi Joshi and Vivek Agnihotri for Zee Studios, the movie has casts including Mithun Chakraborty, Anupam Kher, Darshan Kumar, Pallavi Joshi, Chinmay Mandlekar, Prakash Belawadi, Puneet Issar, Bhasha Sumbli, Sourav Verma, Mrinal Kulkarni, Atul Srivastava, Prithviraj Sarnaik, Amaan Iqbal, etc. It has cinematography by Udaysingh Mohite and music by Rohit Sharma while editing was done by Shankh Rajadhyaksha.

# AR foils terrorist attack along Indo-Myanmar Border

IT News  
Imphal, March 13:

Chassad Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Army Bomb Disposal Squad foiled a terrorist strike asking the Indo-Myanmar border on 11 March.

A statement by the IGAR

(S) said that based on inputs of terrorists planning to infiltrate in to India from Myanmar to target local populace and security forces, an operation was launched on 10 March.

On 11 March, the explosive detection dog with one of the columns detected one IED which had been planted by the terrorists on a village track

near Skipe village.

Thereafter, the Army Bomb Disposal Squad recovered and detonated the IED on the spot by carrying out a controlled detonation.

The timely neutralisation of IED foiled the nefarious designs of the Myanmar based terrorist groups and prevented possible loss of life and property.

# Zelianrong organisation congratulates three Zelianrong MLAs

IT News  
Imphal, March 13:

The Zelianrong Football Association (ZFA), The Zelianrong Civil Organisations (ZCOs) Zelianrong Baudi, Zelianrong Youth Front and Zelianrong Student's Union has congratulated to the three Zelianrong MLAs who were successfully elected in the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 2022 from Tamenglong and Noney (Longmai) District.

In a statement the ZFA sent its warm congratulations to

Awangbou Newmai, re-elected from 52-Tamei (ST) AC, Janghemlung @ Ahem Panmei, from 53-Tamenglong (ST) AC and Dingamlung @ Dipu Gangmei, the newly elected representative from 54-Nungba (ST) AC on their victory and our best wishes for their success as they prepare to take up the responsibilities and challenges of their high office.

"As they embark upon their new responsibilities, we look forward to working with them not only to develop closer relations between our community but also to concert

our efforts in the cause of peace and the brotherhood of all peoples living in Manipur. We have full belief and confidence in you and we know you will do amazing as an elected MLA of the Zelianrong community", the statement said.

Meanwhile, the ZFA Executive members share its moment of pride and happiness on winning of election by Shri Dingamlung @ Dipu Gangmei from Nungba AC, who is also the present Organizing Chairman of the Jadonang Memorial Football Tournament.

Contd. from Page 2

# India has lowest female labour force.....

The woman wearing trousers and working on a laptop (a representation of career conscious women) chides the housekeeping woman (representing a working-class woman) for having three children. She turns her attention to the woman in sari (representing a housewife) asking if she has foregone her desire to pursue her freedom, dreams and her individuality by having a baby. When the woman with the baby replies that motherhood adds to her identity, the career conscious woman dismisses it as a filmy dialogue from a housewife who never had to balance work (career) and life (family and motherhood).

The door opens, and a policewoman constable announces, "Madam, your vehicle has arrived". Upon the model enquiring about who she is, to everyone's surprise, the sari-clad woman with a calm baby in her arms reveals she is a Senior Superintendent of Police, managing law and order of a district - Jhansi along with her responsibility as a mother. The aspirant model gets her message. The ad closes with the woman police officer in uniform receiving a complimentary copy of a magazine with the model, visibly pregnant, on the cover. The ad ends with the tagline "Because she can carry both". "Carrying both" envelops her and the baby and also motherhood and all the ensuing responsibilities and a challenging career.

The four women in the waiting room characterised stereotypically in terms of their class, education, occupation status, attire and aspirations are tied to the motherhood and career

dilemma. Does a woman's role as a mother conflict with her desire to have an individual identity and pursue a career? Do women who seek both compromise on their freedom and choice? Should women remain single or not have babies to remain in employment and be successful?

Of course, the women in this video never ask why women's choices, whether to pursue solely a career, or career and motherhood, or motherhood alone, are placed on a hierarchical scale. Do women across all classes have these as free-wheeling choices, or are they conditioned in their thinking about their appropriate role and their socially acceptable choices?

The video is problematic on several counts. The entire conversation is among women grappling with the question of motherhood and career, placed antithetical to each other for argument and resolved as a matter of nazariya (perspective), that women have to imbibe to be able to carry out both and without any complaints. This often is also the popular perception which undermines women's complaints of the triple burden of income earning work, domestic work and child care. The video seems to celebrate that most women can (or have to) single-handedly manage care work and employment.

It talks about nazariya, making it an individual issue and not a social one. Women are thus seen as atomised entities who must learn to embrace motherhood while managing

demanding professions.

In other words, women's attempts to achieve 'equality' has to be at the cost of undermining the question of 'difference', and not have it recognised through public policies. It reminds one of Wollstonecraft's dilemma that expects women to "become men" to achieve equality, or have their 'differences' recognised and remain lesser citizens.

A little unboxing of this 'managing both' in the context of India with macro data might be useful to understand what it implies for women. According to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), women in India spend about 5.8 hours or 352 minutes a day on domestic work. This is about 577 per cent more than men, who spend about 52 minutes in a day on the same. Compared to BRICS countries for which data is available, this is 40 per cent more than what women in South Africa and China spend. This indicates a severe 'time poverty' for women who in the process of balancing might be required to give up on rest and leisure, with severe consequences for their physical and emotional well-being.

It is therefore perhaps not a random occurrence that India has one of the lowest female labour force participation rates globally. The emphasis on women's role as mothers, caregivers and solely responsible for domestic work haunts employment decisions. The World Bank data for 2020 illustrates that only 19 per cent of women in India are

in the labour force, a fall from 26 per cent in 2005. In comparison to India, the female labour participation rate is 30.5 per cent in Bangladesh and 33.7 per cent in Sri Lanka.

Women's work has always been a domain of societal scrutiny, especially when it is seen as a matter of choice. The Director of this video harks back on a clichéd narrative where women are pitted against each other, and the sanskari woman who mouths patriarchal values of women's commitment to responsibilities rather than rights and choices, triumphs. Also read: Address the needs of female seasonal migrant labourers

In the midst of this, it is pertinent to ask how we as a society remove dilemmas around marriage, motherhood, and employment. How do we bring men into the picture shouldering domestic and caregiving work? Feminists like the British political theorist Carole Pateman suggest the resolution of this dilemma by eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and the defeminisation of care work. We need to work towards supportive public policies, starting from maternity benefits, paternity leave, public-funded crèche facilities and so on. The existing policies in India are not universal across all sectors of the economy and are dogged by exclusions. A commitment to gender equality, after all, is the nazariya that is most needed now and ever.

(IPA Service)  
Courtesy: The Leaflet

IT News  
Imphal, March 13:

Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted health lec by RMO/ARMO for AR families to commemorate the nation wide event of Azadika Amrut Mahotsav in Keithelmanbi Gm. The Lec on Breast & Cervical cancer, Depression & Diarrhoea prevention was conducted incl medical counselling for families of Assam Rifles troops.

The families benefitted immensely from the lecture and counselling session which would be a right step towards imbibing a healthy lifestyle and better hygiene. On the other hand the Churachandpur Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (S) distributed ten Sewing Machines and six Water tanks (1000 litres) to Zomi Youth Association (ZYA), a philanthropic organisation, in Churachandpur on 12 March. The sewing machines will be given to women of needy households by ZYA to strengthen their hands and make them financially stable, thereby promoting Women Empowerment. The water storage tanks will be handed over to villages facing water scarcity in remote areas of Churachandpur district. The Zomi Youth Association, Churachandpur and local population acknowledged the efforts of Assam Rifles towards promoting Women Empowerment and alleviating the daily struggle involved in storage and management of

water. Phundrei Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(S) also distributed water sintex tanks in Sangaiyupham village, Thoubal district, Manipur on 12 Mar 2022.

To alleviate the problems of water storage faced by the ladies during summer season water tanks were distributed under Assam Rifles Civic Action program to Sangaiyupham Weavers Cooperative society, which is run by ladies of Sangaiyupham village. The Assam Rifles through its various schemes under Civic Action Project provides welfare and basic items to the local populace to improve the basic infrastructure in the remote areas of Manipur and also to strengthen the bond between the people and the Security Forces.

Loktak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(S) also constructed and handed over 1000 feet of drainage system and handed over to local populace of Khousabung village of Churachandpur district, Manipur on 12 March 2022. In continuation of its sustained efforts to reach out



and assist the local populace of the region in development of basic infrastructure, the Assam Rifles built a 1000 feet long cemented drainage system in Khousabung village. This project was planned and executed in consultation with the villagers who had sought assistance from the unit for the same.

The villagers were delighted on witnessing the prompt execution of the project, which brought a hygienic drainage system to their remote village. They wholeheartedly expressed their gratitude towards the Assam Rifles for their thoughtful action which would further strengthen the bon homie between the local populace and the security forces.

# Mark sheet lost

I, the undersigned, Nongthombam Bidyananda Singh, have lost my mark sheet for 1<sup>st</sup> Semester examination of Diploma in Operation Theatre Technician, Shija Paramedical Research Academy, Langol bearing Roll No. 194012 of 2020, Registration Number 1910111 of 2020 issued by the Manipur University on the way between Thoubal to Imphal on March 3, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Nongthombam Bidyananda Singh  
Contact No. 6009971797

# North India's First centre for Space Science Inaugurated: A march of Space Journey from Kerala to Kashmir

Source AIR  
Jammu, March 13:

Asserting it as a "historic decision & a historical day" in furthering the strength of science in the nation, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated North India's first-ever Space Centre in Jammu. Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Science at the Central University of Jammu, this year will offer the first course – B.Tech in Aviation and Aeronautics, with an intake capacity of 60 students.

**Why the need is felt for this?**

It has come to the notice that most space technology institutes were in the past confined to the Southern States and the only-of-its-kind Indian Institute of Space and Technology imparting Engineering, Aeronautics and other streams were located in Thiruvananthapuram.

"Most of the Space Technology from the last seventy years has been confirmed to South India mostly to the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala which was an anomaly in the spread of the space technology in the country. The government is steadfast to take space technology to the remote corners of the country which is evident today with the inauguration of the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences at the Central University of Jammu," Union



Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said.

According to the Science & Technology Minister, the opening of the Space Centre and India's second-of-its-kind Space Training Institutes in Jammu & Kashmir in 75th years of independence simultaneously marks the march of space journey from Kerala to Kashmir.

**The Facility:**

The Indian Space Agency – ISRO, in October 2018, had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central University of Jammu to set up the centre with facilities for geospatial data analysis, that will aid in sustainable use of natural resources and plan land-use patterns. The newly-inaugurated centre has ground-based observations for atmospheric studies, a

research lab for astrophysics, atmospheric sensing and glacier studies lab for better use of large quantities of water stored in the form of seasonal snow, ice and glaciers in the rivers of North India.

**Big boost to Space Technology:**

According to Dr Singh, the future of the world will hugely depend on three things – Space Economy, Space Collaboration and Space Diplomacy. Referring to the space economy, he mentioned that India is already receiving revenue worth millions of European Euros and US Dollars through the launching of foreign satellites. Referring to space collaboration, he cited the example of the SAARC satellite which was visualised and developed on the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

which caters to the needs of most of the neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, etc.

Addressing the conference on 'Frontiers of Space Technology and Applications for Humanity' at CUJ, Dr Singh stressed that with the inauguration of Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Science at the Central University of Jammu, this institute would be an institution for startups in space technology as well, especially in J&K. The Minister said that the people from this region should use this enormous opportunity to shape their future. Dr Singh added that the Ministry of Science and Technology will start the awareness programs related to Startups across the country from the next month.

# Putin's Russian empire ambitions may encompass Africa

Extending Russian culture, language in a new continent

By James M Dorsey

Russian civilisationalism is proving handy as President Vladimir Putin seeks to expand the imaginary boundaries of his Russian World, whose frontiers are defined by Russian speakers and adherents to Russian culture rather than international law and/or ethnicity.

Putin's disruptive and expansive nationalist ideology has underpinned his aggressive approach to Ukraine since 2014 with the annexation of Crimea and the stoking of insurgencies in the east of the country. It also underwrites the brief intervention in Kazakhstan, even if it was in contrast to Ukraine at the invitation of the Kazakh government.

Putin's nationalist push in territories that were once part of the Soviet Union may be par for the course even if it threatens to rupture relations between Russia and the West and potentially spark a war. It helps Russia compensate for the strategic depth it lost with the demise of communism in Europe and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

However, equally alarmingly, Putin appears to be putting building blocks in place that would

justify expanding his Russian World in one form or another beyond the boundaries of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

In doing so, he demonstrates the utility of employing plausibly deniable mercenaries not only for military and geopolitical but also ideological purposes.

Standing first in line is the Central African Republic. A resource-rich but failed state that has seen its share of genocidal violence and is situated far from even the most expansive historical borders of the Russian empire, the republic could eventually qualify to be part of the Russian world, according to Putin's linguistic and cultural criteria.

Small units of the Wagner Group, a private military company owned by one of Putin's close associates, entered the Central African Republic once departing French troops handed over to a United Nations peacekeeping force in 2016. Five years later, Wagner has rights to mine the country's gold and diamond deposits.

Perhapssurprisingly, the Russian mercenary presence persuaded President Faustin-Archange Touadera that the African republic should embrace Russian culture.

As a result, university students have been obliged to follow Russian-language classes starting as undergraduates in their first year until their second year of post-graduate studies. The mandate followed the introduction of Russian in the republic's secondary school curriculum in 2019.

Touadera is expected to ask Putin for Russian-language instructors during a forthcoming visit to Moscow to assist in the rollout. Neighbouring Mali could be next in line to follow in Touadera's footsteps.

A couple of months ago, units of the Wagner Group moved into the Sahel nation at the request of a government led by army generals who have engineered two coups in nine months. The generals face African and Western sanctions that could make incorporating what bits of the country they control into the Russian world an attractive proposition.

While it is unlikely that Putin would want to formally welcome sub-Saharan and Sahel states into his Russian world, it illustrates the pitfalls of a redefinition of internationally recognised borders as civilisational and fluid rather than national, fixed, and legally enshrined.

For now, African states do not fit Putin's

bill of one nation as applied to Ukraine or Belarus. However, using linguistics as a monkey wrench, he could, overtime or whenever convenient, claim them as part of the Russian world based on an acquired language and cultural affinity.

Putin's definition of a Russian world further opens the door to a world in which the principle of might is right runs even more rampant with the removal of whatever flimsy guard rails existed.

To accommodate the notion of a Russian world, Russian leaders, going back more than a decade, have redefined Russian civilisation as multi-ethnic rather than ethnically Russian.

The Central African Republic's stress on Russian-language education constitutes the first indication in more than a decade that Mr. Putin and some of his foreign allies may expand the Russian world's civilisational aspects beyond the erstwhile Soviet Union.

Some critics of Putin's concept of a Russian world note that Westerners were allegedly waged out of self-defence and concern for human rights were also about power and geopolitical advantage.

For example, pundit Peter Beinart notes that NATO-led wars in Serbia, Afghanistan, and Libya "also extended American power and smashed Russian allies at the point of a gun."

The criticism doesn't weaken the legitimacy of the US and Western rejection of Russian civilisationalism. However, it does undermine the United States' ability to claim the moral high ground.

It further constrains Western efforts to prevent the emergence of a world in which violation rather than the inviolability of national borders become the accepted norm.

If Russian interventionism aims to change borders, US interventionism often sought to change regimes. That is one driver of vastly different perceptions of the US role in the world, including Russian distrust of the post-Soviet NATO drive into Eastern Europe and independent former Soviet states such as Ukraine.

"People with more experience of the dark side of American power—people whose families hail from Guatemala, Chile, Brazil, Haiti, or Mexico, where US guns have sabotaged democracy rather than defended it—might find it easier to understand Russian suspicions. But those Americans tend not to shape US policy towards places like Ukraine," Beinart said.

(IPA Service)  
By arrangement with the Arabian Post

# Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates seminar on "25 Years of TRAI Act

PIB Delhi  
New Delhi, March, 13:

Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) organised a seminar on "25 Years of TRAI Act: Way Forward for Stakeholders" (Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, AERA and Aadhaar)" here today. The seminar was inaugurated by Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, to commemorate the 25 years long journey of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act. In the year 1997, TRAI Act was enacted to regulate the telecommunications sector in India. It also provided for a mechanism of dispute resolution among the stakeholders of telecom sector. It was amended in 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI.

Ashwini Vaishnaw congratulated the TDSAT for holding this seminar. The Unique character of Telecommunications sector, the Minister said, is because of the nature of spectrum which is indestructible and completely reusable. The other unique characters of the sector pointed out by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw included its highly capital intensive nature, sensitivity to the technology

changes and the strategic importance, which has become more relevant today as compared to the time when TRAI Act was formulated, 25 years back. He said that now the whole policy discourse is defined by Post-COVID scenario where the digital technology has become more significant.

Elucidating on the thought process with which the government is moving ahead in terms of policies and initiatives, the Minister said that 'Antyodaya' and inclusive development is the first and foremost philosophy behind the decisions and initiatives of our government and with this thought the government wants to narrow down the digital divide in the country. 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', he said, is the second dominant philosophy guiding the strategy and approach of government. 4G technology stack has been developed by Indian brains in record 14 months with fraction of costs compared to the other systems have been developed, he said. Further, the Minister highlighted the role of Indian institutions and scientists in development of 5-G core. Simultaneously we have started working on 6G technology so that we can take lead in 6 G and can set the direction for the whole world, he stated.

While concluding his remarks, Shri Vaishnaw, sought the suggestions from members of bars associations,

judiciary, industry, media etc. for making telecommunications sector as sunrise sector.

Ms. Justice Indira Banerjee, Judge of the Supreme Court, shared her experience of working in judiciary and the simultaneous growth in technology over a period of time. Speaking about the journey of TRAI and evolution of telecommunications sector in India, She said that National Telecom Policy, 1994, allowed entry of private entities in telecom sector and with entry of private sector, need was felt to have a regulator for this sector. This led to establishment of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in 1997 through enactment of TRAI Act. Initially, TRAI played the role of regulator as well as adjudicator. The TRAI Act was amended by an ordinance, effective from 24 January 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI.

Referring to the importance of regulation in telecommunication sector, Ms Justice Indira Banerjee said that regulatory measures are important considering the large scale of people using telecom and internet services. However, She said that the regulatory measures should not impede the growth of this sector.

Addressing the event Justice Shiva Kirti Singh,

Chairperson TDSAT and former Judge of Supreme Court of India, stated that TDSAT deals with matters in very important Sectors, many of them being regulated because of their sensitive nature. These sectors are bound to become more and more significant in the modern technological era. He said that TDSAT needs to avoid arrears beyond a year. That will have a favourable impact on the overall health and growth of all the concerned sectors which are very important for our Nation.

Talking about the need to increase strength of TDSAT, Justice Shiva Kirti Singh, said that in spite of impressive figures of disposal, during pre-covid years, the number of filings as well as the pendency has kept on increasing. By end of 2019 the pendency was 2068. After the Covid pandemic, the pendency has now risen to 4019 cases. He said, "At least two more Benches are required. For that in addition to the Chairperson, the strength of Members / Judicial Members needs to be raised to five." Number of ministerial and supporting staff also need to be increased suitably, he said.

Sharing his concern for the IT sector, Shiva Kirti Singh said that unlike Telecom; it does not have the guidance, monitoring or regulation by a permanent expert body like TRAI. It is urgently needed. It would be in larger public interest to expand the

regulatory areas of TRAI to all digital communications and IT or else to have another suitable expert body to take up the challenges relating to IT.

The objective of the seminar was to enhance awareness regarding regulatory mechanism, including dispute resolution, amongst stakeholders in Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, Airport Infrastructure and Aadhaar Sectors. The subject was deliberated by dignitaries from the Government, Judiciary, representatives of various stakeholders, Sector Regulators, eminent lawyers etc. It is expected that these discussions would throw light on key areas, emerging trends and challenges thrown by fast changing technology concerning the sectors.

At the event, Vaishnaw also released the updated TDSAT Procedures 2005 and TDSAT Rules, 2003, along with Ms. Justice Indira Banerjee, Judge of the Supreme Court and Justice Shiva Kirti Singh, Chairperson TDSAT and former Judge of Supreme Court of India. Mr. Justice Navin Chawla and Ms. Justice Prathiba M. Singh of Delhi High Court, Shri K. Rajaraman, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications as well as Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology as well as Chairman and Members of TRAI, Chairman and Members of AERA attended the event.