

## No announcement of CM made by PM; National Media speculated over a 'tweet'

IT News  
Imphal, March 16:

When curiosity looms large among the people of the state, a news report cracked by some National media spread unofficial news about Pramod Sawant and N. Biren Singh to be continued as the Chief Ministers of Goa and Manipur.

The report was based on Prime Minister Modi's tweet congratulating both the Chief Ministers for the BJP's stupendous victory in the recently concluded Assembly Polls.

As the report appeared in India Today, Times Now, Aaj Tak as well as at some national media based on the congratulatory remark tweeted by the Prime Minister, there is no mention of them to continue as the Chief Minister of their

respective state, Imphal Times contacted the BJP head office at New Delhi to confirm the news report.

A highly reliable source told Imphal Times, that during the Parliamentary Board meeting which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, National BJP President JP Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari among others reviewed the election result of the five states and discussed the need for formulation of more effective election campaign in the coming days. Before that, the Prime Minister reportedly appreciated all the state BJP leadership for their tireless and dedicated service to make BJP win with big numbers.

There was no discussion took place regarding the election of the BJP Legislature

Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) · Twitter



Wing leader or on who will be the Chief Minister during the meeting with the central leadership of the BJP with any of

the state, which the BJP got absolute majority, the source said.

The source further added

that in connection with the electing of the state BJP legislatures, particularly for Manipur, two observers – BJP leader Nirmala Sitharaman, who is also the Union Finance Minister, and Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Law and Justice has been appointed to oversee on who should be the new leader of BJP legislature wing in Manipur. Both are still to arrive in the state.

BJP being a discipline political party will take the opinion of all the BJP MLAs and that will be the moment that the Center will announce the name of the Chief Minister or the leader of the BJP Legislatures, a party man told Imphal Times.

Source also told Imphal Times that A Sharda Devi, N. Biren Singh, and Th. Biswajit may return to Imphal today evening.

## The Editorial Let the breaking news makes no broken hearts

The grass is greener on the other side; the English proverb seems true when it comes to the state of Manipur. People of the state assume whatever comes from outside the state – let it be fabrics, edibles, or even news reports to be better and more credible than what is here in the state of Manipur. Even songs from outside are taken to be better than the songs of Manipur.

When some national media like - India Today, Aaj Tak, or any other national newspaper wrote something about the state of Manipur, people counted those as reliable, and the real news published in the state are often considered as non-reliable. That was what is happening today.

A tweet to congratulate the Chief Minister of Manipur and Gao by the Prime Minister congratulating them for the stupendous victory of the BJP in both the states was reported as if the Chief Minister of both the states has been announced.

The fact is that, as of now, the name of the Chief Minister for the state of Manipur, where the BJP got absolute majority, is kept in suspense. Yesterday's meeting of the BJP Parliamentary Board Committee has not discussed or even mentioned the issue of the Chief Minister as it has to be done as per the report of the observers appointed for each state. The two observers for Manipur are yet to arrive, and there is no logic in the news report as the appointment of the Chief Minister will be depended on the opinion given by the elected MLAs of the BJP.

Since the declaration of the Election on March 10, people have been expressing opinions on whether the former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh will continue in the same post or the BJP leadership is opting for a change of the post. Speculation about the replacement of N. Biren Singh by other BJP faces is spreading like wildfire. However, many still believe that caretaker Chief Minister N. Biren Singh will continue to stay in the post for another five years. There are reasons to believe that N. Biren Singh may be the choice of the BJP Central leadership, as the performance of the BJP in the recently concluded election is commendable. Winning in 33 seats out of the 60 is a laudable performance of the Party and the credit certainly goes to Chief Minister N. Biren Singh who led the campaign for the BJP.

There are also hard-core BJP legislatures who had worked tirelessly to make sure that BJP retain the absolute numbers. For example former Minister Th. Biswajit, who is also the National Executive Member of the BJP had also work not less than N. Biren Singh in making the BJP gets the absolute majority. Moreover, Th. Biswajit is the only legislature in 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly and who had strengthened the BJP party in the state along with the veteran politicians like former Minister Th. Chaoba, Ksh. Babananda, Meinam Bhorot etc. .

Saying so, one cannot claim to be better for becoming the Chief Minister based on this. It is ultimately the elected MLAs of the BJP that will decide on who will be the legislature wing leader of the BJP in Manipur. And as of now no such opinions of the BJP MLAs have been taken.

One more thing needs to highlight here is the PM speech during the Parliamentary Board Meeting at which he is reported to have stated about family politics. As per source, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Family politics won't be allowed in the party. Dynastic politics in other parties have to be fought. So if anyone's kin was denied a ticket, I take responsibility."

This is a serious statement and so it is too early to celebrate or assume by any based on the report by some National Media.

## MPCC President resigns from the post of President following Sonia Gandhi's directives

IT News  
Imphal, March 16:

A day after the Congress President Sonia Gandhi has asked the PCC president of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur to put in their resignations in order to facilitate the reorganization of the PCCs, Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee President N. Loken has submitted his resignation to the AICC president today.

"Taking responsibility for the major defeat of the candidates of Indian National Congress (INC) in the last 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 2022, I do hereby submit my resignation tender from the presidency of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) of the INC on moral ground with immediate effect," N. Loken, who also defeated in the concluded Manipur Legislative Assembly Election from

Nambol Assembly Constituency wrote in his resignation letter.

It may be mentioned that Congress faced a massive defeat in all the five states where elections were conducted. When Congress lost to BJP in four states, it also lost to AAP in Punjab.

Punjab Congress President Navjot Singh Sidhu also tender resignation today.

Sonia Gandhi even offers to resign along with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as the "ultimate sacrifice in the interest of the party", according to the party leader. But it was rejected by the party leaders.

"Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi said that she along with her family members Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are ready to sacrifice their posts for the party, but we all rejected this," senior leader Adhir Ranjan Choudhary told news agency.

## Horse Show of The Best Manipur Pony Stallion 2022 held

IT News  
Imphal, March 16:

The Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association, Manipur Equestrian Association and Manipuri Pony Society under the Sponsorship of Mangal Foundation organised the "Horse Show of The Best Manipuri Pony Stallion, 2022" at the Manipuri Pony Breeding Farm, Lamphelpat today.

Doctors and interns from Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Services, Manipur judged the stallions based on various criteria as per International Conformation and Soundness of Horses. Dr. Padam Kumar Singh, Dr. Romi Maibam, Th. Premananda and Seram Ratan Singh conducted the conformation and soundness of the ponies.

Stallion Poirou, owner Th. Kaoba won the Best Manipur Pony Stallion, 2022. Stallion



Lamyamba and Stallion Karu of Imphal Riding Club, Uripok won the 2nd Best and the 3rd Best Manipur Pony Stallion, 2022 respectively.

Cash Prize of Rs. 8000, Rs. 6000 and Rs. 4000 will be awarded to the Best, 2nd Best and 3rd Best Pony of the Horse Show of the Best Manipuri Pony Stallion, 2022 respectively. The prizes will be distributed tomorrow, the

17th March, 2022 at the closing function of the 1st State Women's Polo Tournament, 2022 at Manipuri Pony Breeding Farm, Lamphelpat.

Dr. Ksh. Chourjit Singh, Hony. President, Manipuri Pony Society, H. Deleep Singh IAS (Retd.), Hony. President, MHRPA and Dr. Th. Chaa Mangial Hony. Secretary General, MHRPA were also present during the function.

## FOB Senapati organizes ICOP on Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and Covid-19 vaccination

IT News  
Senapati, March 16:

Field Outreach Bureau, Senapati under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting organised an Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) with two-day photo-exhibition on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Covid-19 awareness at Mount Everest College, Senapati District on 14th and 15th of March.

Nongthombam Suran Singh, SDO/BDO, Willong Sub-division, Senapati District, Government of Manipur, Meithuanlungpou Gonmei, Principal, Mount Everest College and Roshan Shagolsem, Academic Dean, Mount Everest College attended the

programme as Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and Special Guest respectively. Dr. Ng. Peter, District Immunization Officer, Senapati District and Alen Chiru, Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, Mount Everest College also attended the programme as resource persons.

In her keynote address, Waribam Umlia, Field Publicity Officer, Field Outreach Bureau, Senapati stated that Field Outreach Bureau is the field publicity unit of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and that the unit goes to various schools, colleges, and villages to organise various programmes on different schemes and policies of the central government from time to time. She further stated that



the Integrated Communication & Outreach Programme on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Covid-19 awareness was organised to celebrate 75 years of India's independence and pay tribute to the unsung heroes who contributed in our freedom struggle

and also to create awareness on Covid-19.

Speaking as the resource person, Dr. Ng. Peter appealed the students to convince their parents about the need to get vaccinated against covid-19 to prevent from severe form of the dis-

ease. He mentioned that the vaccine has been scientifically proven to help in fighting covid and assured that there is no vaccine without side-effect but with time and proper treatment, side effect is reduced and minimized.

Chief Guest, N. Suran Singh, stated that Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was launched by the Government of India on 15th August 2021 and will continue for 75 weeks till 15th August, 2023. Within these 75 weeks, a series of events will be conducted to commemorate India's 75 years of Independence. He encouraged everyone to contribute for the betterment of our nation like our forefathers contributed for the country.

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## District Disaster Management Authority, Thoubal issue notice of Ex-gratia for Covid-19 related death

IT News  
Thoubal, March 16:

In pursuance of the order by Directorate of Relief & Disaster Management, The District Disaster Management Authority, Thoubal is notifying information to all the concerned that the Application Form for Ex-gratia assistance to the next of the kin of the deceased due to Covid-19 of the Thoubal District will be available from the Relief

Section, (Room No.25) of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner Thoubal on all working day during the office hour.

The Applications/claim of Ex-gratia should be submitted to the office of the concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrate during office hour. For more details you can visit:

<https://thoubal.nic.in/document/application-form-for-ex-gratia-assistance-to-next-of-kin-of-the-deceased-due-to-covid-19/>

# Withering Opposition



By: M.R. Lahu

The greybeards in the Congress Working Committee (CWC) have once again pressed the support button for its interim president Sonia Gandhi. The committee tried to disentangle the party's washout in the recently concluded elections in five states. The party had its worst level of performance in all the states and the CWC once again ensured not to pin blame on anybody for the collapse. With every single election from the panchayat to the parliament becoming an uphill task for the party, the Congress with its practically rudderless cadre has begun to face a massive existential crisis. This appears to be the toughest time that the party is passing through. With the fall of the Congress comes a vacuum that most of the regional parties want to fill. But at present, India's political scenario is terribly unbalanced, with no credible opposition to raise its eyebrows over the government's policies on issues of national interest. Passing the baton of responsibility for its failure time and again, the leadership of the party mostly forgot the values that a leadership is supposed to uphold. Until recently the fight was almost between a belligerent BJP and a critically downsized Congress, but a mettlesome contender. But the results of the state elections in Punjab brought an interesting picture to the political pundits. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has crushed open the last ounce of air that the Congress held tight in its chest. Neither its interim president nor her children would be held responsible for the defeat. Undoubtedly, the party is in search of someone from the middle of nowhere, on whom it can pin the blame on.

While proffering his resignation after the 2019 general election debacle, Rahul Gandhi was candid presenting his justification for the defeat in his tweet. The rank and file of the Congress was flabbergasted at his plain writing of words by passing the blame from his shoulder to someone who he did not want to shout the name of. For him, it was he who stood against Modi and the RSS, fighting a lone battle. Since 2014, the party has lost almost every election. Rallying its cadre to multiple humiliating defeats was the job that its leadership has been diligently executing. Unable to accommodate and incapable to mobilize and practically away from building an emotional connect with the essence of India, the party has been through an irreparable and turbulent internal rift. Unrealistic in strategizing and sharpening its weapons of political diplomacy against the BJP, the party has mostly concentrated on triggering its guns against a person, who indeed has managed to consistently find place in the hearts of the electorate. Every unplanned, immature attack that the Congress made against Modi, turned out to be a blessing in disguise for him, strengthening him brick by brick, consolidating more power. Though the CWC pronounced the party's commitment to remain a vigilant and vibrant opposition, it does not hold the strength to try an arm twist with the BJP at present. For the party, it is Rahul Gandhi in whose hands, its future is going to remain safe. The reforms that he promised to bring in the Congress as its president, blowing a fresh flow of oxygen, could not happen for long, except for the party's loss in every election that it suffered under his presidency.

The AAP with its renewed vigor is mindless about the existence of Congress. It sees a gigantic potentiality in itself to face the BJP nationally. At present the AAP is gaining from the Congress's fall and is trying to fill the gap. Adding fuel to the fire, the already rebellious cohort, the G-23 is once again active, calling the conch of rebellion louder than before, shrieking at the blindfolded leadership to open its eyes. Murmurs from the G-23 kitchen reveals that the group wants the present leadership, who ruled the party for decades, to step aside and pave the way for a more creative, diplomatic, accommodative and open-minded leadership. For them, a last attempt of its revival was possible only, if the Gandhi family withdrew from the key posts and helped the party reestablish its relevance in India's Modi dominated politics. The AAP, with its grand victory in Punjab, has a reinvigorated fertility to gain more seats nationally and accepts to have got enough power to dismantle the Congress. This appears to be possible as Arvind Kejriwal does not come with the baggage of any particular language or region on his back. He can more easily connect with the people of the country than any other regional leaders who are inarticulate beyond the restricted stretch of their local language. There is no denying the fact that the Congress had won multiple elections under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi. But the party began to tremble and stumbled on to the rise of the Modi blitzkrieg in Indian politics in 2014. India's political scenario is changing on a daily basis. My personal understanding about Rahul Gandhi suggests that there is a certain level of innocence that he maintains as a leader, beyond which, he finds it difficult to hold a credible space among the galaxy of leaders cutting across multiple parties. The Congress faced a consistent fall in many key states where the party was once a strong force. States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana and West Bengal, where the party once enjoyed a sound political legroom, as inching to 2022, it is facing a terrible existential crisis.

Vituperative of Modi in public, but being unable to show better alternatives, the Congress has probably been biting its own tongue all the time. The politically intellectual Shashi Tharoor understands it better than anybody. He finds it not uncomfortable to offer an olive branch of appreciation to the Prime Minister when the government makes any tenable and remarkable achievement in the larger interest of the nation. Calling PM Modi, a "man of tremendous dynamism", Shashi Tharoor was trying to take an out of track approach in the Congress recently. At the same time, he never forgets to question the politically disagreeable policies by the Modi government. With Priyanka Vadra at the party's helm of affairs of the party in the state of Uttar Pradesh, the Congress had planted 148 women candidates in the election fray, out of which only one could relish the laddu of victory. The political scenario emerging in India is totally unfriendly for the traditional tactics of the grand old party. Its leadership needs to learn new strategies to keep the party relevant in the new dynamics of Indian politics.

# Battles Ended-War Continues

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh  
Asst.Prof.JCRE Global College, Babupara, Imphal

Much ahead of the just concluded 12th Manipur State Assembly election, intending candidates of various political parties started their election activities just to win or just to get the party ticket amid global pandemic. As election drawn closer, election activities intensified with wide-spread violence prior to the announcement of the election schedule and Election Model Code of Conduct came into force. Ahead of the election, the Election Commission of India (ECI) reviewed poll preparedness in Manipur, focusing on the conduct of safe elections earlier in January. In that review meeting, the political parties from Manipur expressed concerns to ECI over pre-poll violence and urged to deploy adequate security forces during the poll process.

Manipur this year witnessed a massive rise in pre-poll violence in several constituencies. Starting from the Heirok Constituency which was under CRPC 144 after a series of pre-poll violence occurred including killing of a college going student to assailing stones between political rivals. Another gruesome pre-poll violence of Heirok AC was reported on 19th February, when the brother of an Ex-MLA, with his gang badly thrashed a worker of his political rival at the latter's residence at around 8.30pm. Meanwhile, on 19th February several houses and vehicles were demolished, while six persons sustain injuries as pre-poll violence contrives mayhem in Andro AC. The violence transpired when workers of a political party and other party workers swapped blows in two different places under Andro AC. The dubious incident began around 11.30 pm from Yairipok Tuliha when the candidate of a political party and his 50/60 workers attacked the workers of another political party. They also reportedly fired a gunshot at them. As many as six workers were injured in the spell. The armed men also smashed twelve houses and several other vehicles in the foray. The JD (U) Kshetrigao candidate was also shot at, highlighting the

cheapening of human lives. A National Political party did not refrain from using the SoO groups in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi to influence the voters either with money or gun power. Meanwhile, pre-poll violence ahead of the second phase continued with report of attacks on 30/40 households in Sagunu associated with Congress and CPI and damaged to polling booths and around 12 vehicles. There were reports of voters in Wanging being thrashed and intimidated that no agent except that of a particular party should be allowed in polling booths. Even Killing of a person and burning down of a house was reported in that AC. The open intimidation by armed ethnic militants groups, forcing members of its ethnic community to vote for one particular political party is a matter of grave concern. Most stakeholders interviewed expressed the possibility of violent incidents continuing even in the post-election period. Apart from the few incidents mentioned above, pre-poll violence were reportedly brewed up at several other constituencies too which were alarming.

High number of candidates with criminal records is another concern. Interestingly, most candidates with criminal backgrounds are documented corepatti. Out of 53 with criminal background, 31 are corepatti (58%). The poll violence seems to be closely linked to muscle power, as constituencies with more than one candidate with muscle and money power have seen more violent incident. Flow of large sums of money, drugs and liquor during the campaign period has been an evident part of this election. Details of seizures made by officials, released by ECI till February 25 revealed shocking fact. A total of Rs 167.83 crore was seized by officials, including drugs (Rs. 143.47 cr), precious metals (Rs 12.17cr), cash (Rs 4.17cr) and liquor (Rs 0.65 cr). Not only are these figures alarming but it also supports the general perception of extensive use of money power dur-

ing election. The total values of the seized items so far in this election is already more than 26 times higher than total value seized in 2017 Manipur election, which was Rs 6.42 cr. Even though no vote buying is reported with evidence, the voters are quite certain that it is already taking place widely. The campaign expenditure of almost all candidates is believed to be far exceeding the ceiling of Rs 28 lakh rupee imposed by the ECI. Different parties from the poll-bound state also flagged concerns over the use of money power, illicit liquor, narcotics drugs and intimidation to influence voters, the ECI said in a statement. The question of false information submitted in the affidavit by candidates, which has passed scrutiny, is also a matter of concern. There were a total of 265 candidates contesting from 60 assembly constituencies, 173 and 92 in Phase-I and II, respectively. Among these candidates, the total number of women candidates is 17(of which 5 won), which is almost negligible. This is shocking as it reflects the continuing male dominance in formal politics in the state. Meira paibi even commented that in the period leading to the elections, discussion programmes in the media conducted on various electoral issues hardly had any women participant. On the issue of media freedom and neutrality, no major incident of undue media restrictions in the pre-election period is reported. However, stakeholders opined that there is a need to have a closer look at the issue, as there is a speculation of growing bond of selected media groups with those in power. To have an environment in which the CSOs effectively perform their role by participating in the electoral process, it is important that officials concerned and stakeholders address the issue of CSOs abstaining from election process despite their active involvement in other socio-political issue.

Reports of vandalizing EVMs, Poll rigging, snatching of EVMs, and violence at the polling stations were also reported in many places result-

ing re-polling.

With hue and Cry and chaos the electoral battle of 12th Manipur state Assembly ended with BJP-32, NPP-7, INC-5, NPF-5, JD(U)-6, Ind-3 and KPA-2 when the Pandora Box were opened on 10th March. But the post-poll war still continues. Day after the results of the election to the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly were declared, post-violence gripped Jiribam district on Friday with outbreak of vandalism and burning of vehicles leaving several people injured. On Friday morning, a group of people who are suspected to be supporters of a party candidate assaulted a frontal organization leader of a national political party and his family members at their house located at Lalpani, Jiribam. Mobile data services had been suspended for five days and district Magistrate had already clamped curfew in Jiribam district. A bomb blast at a grocery shop rented by a candidate in recently concluded two-phase elections killed a salesman in post-poll violence incident at Churachandpur district. Miscreants attacked the house of a defeated candidate with guns in Andro AC as poll-related violence incidents unabated in Manipur. No causality was reported in the gun attack at the house of lost candidate. Miscreants opened fire several round of guns towards the house, damaging the GI-sheet roof of a front structure of the candidate's house. Police conducted a spot inquiry after the gun attack, recovered several empty cases. Arresting workers of an elected representative by police for alleged post-poll violence is also reported. At the same time, the war of electing leader of the government to be formed and which political party/parties are to be in the government is also still going on. **Thus the battles of electing 60 MLAs is over but the war of hatred and post-poll violence due to money-effect, muscle-effect, and gun-effect of pre-poll menaces continues.**

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# AFSPA in North East is a never ending trauma for activists and citizens

## Act gives immense powers to the Centre to ignore views of State Govts

By: Ravi Nair

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act [AFSPA] was passed by the Indian Parliament on September 11, 1958. The Parliament was told it would last no longer than a year. In 2022, we are still waiting for that year to end.

The Act contains immunity clauses for the armed forces even if they are involved in violations of the right to life or torture.

In theory, the Union Government could give permission upon application for prosecution of armed forces personnel accused of offences. According to a question raised in the Rajya Sabha (upper house of Parliament) in 2015, a total of 38 requests for the sanction of prosecution under AFSPA and the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990 were made between June 1991 and March 2015. Of the 38, permission was denied in 30 cases while the remaining eight requests were pending as of March 2015.

Following public outrage in the wake of the Oting massacre in Nagaland in December last year, in which security forces shot and killed 13 miners returning home from work, one more committee in a long list of committees was constituted by the Union Home Ministry in December 2021 to study the withdrawal of the AFSPA from Nagaland. It was to submit a report within 45 days. On De-

cember 20, the Nagaland Assembly passed a unanimous resolution demanding repeal of the AFSPA and an apology from the "appropriate authority" for the botched Army operation.

The six-member committee headed by the Registrar General of India, Vivek Joshi, made one visit to the state in January. Nagaland Chief Minister [CM] Neiphiu Rio stated on December 26, 2021 that the panel would complete its task in 45 days. That period came to an end on February 9, 2022. We are now told by former Nagaland CM T.R. Zeliang of the Naga People's Front that the committee had sought an extension for three-months. This is to end on March 26.

Last month, The Hindu filed a Right to Information Act (RTI) application requesting details of the terms of reference, the composition of the committee and the date on which its report was expected.

The Union Home Ministry replied that "it is not possible to reply to your RTI application" as "disclosure of information will prejudicially affect the security of state".

The story is no different in each state of the north-east: obfuscation, denial and falsehoods mark the union government's response to demands for accountability.

The AFSPA was imposed in

Assam in November 1990. On January 1, 2022, the Assam CM stated: "As far as AFSPA is concerned, Assam will see some rationalising in 2022... how and when we don't know. But I am an optimistic man. We are looking at 2022 as a year of hope. There will be some positive moments regarding AFSPA." On February 28, 2022, the Government of Assam once again declared the entire state of Assam as a Disturbed Area for a further period of six months.

In the Imphal Valley in Manipur, one could perhaps metaphysically partially ascribe the public attitude towards the AFSPA to the duality in the Vaishnavite faith that permeates Meitei life. The repeal of the AFSPA is certainly an issue of discussion in the public discourse. Yet, when it comes to taking the bull by the horns, all earthly rationalisation fails.

The fractiousness of Manipuri political parties and formations was evident when they turned their backs on civil rights activist from Chanu Sharmila. Sharmila had been on a hunger strike from 2000 to 2016 to demand the repeal of AFSPA and justice for 10 civilians killed by security forces in Malom in 2000. She lost her electoral deposit when she ended her strike and contested state assembly elections in 2017 with the repeal of AFSPA as her main agenda.

It is even more difficult to fathom

the ambivalence of the Nagas in the hills. Mainly Baptist Christians, the Tangkhuls amongst them were the bedrock of Naga armed struggle. The Government of India perhaps lives in the hope that when T. Muivah is no longer on the scene, they will be able to reconcile the Tangkhuls with a measure of autonomy that seems to have satisfied the Naga tribes within Nagaland. The 89-year-old leader of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM) is not in the best of health and is currently at a hospital in Dimapur.

In addition to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] in Manipur, almost all the political parties, including the BJP's state allies, have supported the withdrawal of the AFSPA from the state. However, this matters little as the 1972 amendment to the AFSPA allows for the imposition of the AFSPA by notifying an area as "disturbed" directly by the union government without the consent of the state government.

In Manipur the AFSPA lapsed on November 30, 2021. It was not renewed until January 8, 2022. This, after prodding by the union government. The extension was for a year, contrary to the recommendation of the Supreme Court that each extension should not last longer than six months.

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# ‘Important day in India’s efforts...’: PM as 12-14 age group gets Covid vaccine

Agency  
New Delhi, March 16:

As India vaccinates its teenagers aged 12-14 beginning Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter to hail the “important day” in the country’s efforts to inoculate its citizens amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the outbreak of which was reported in 2020. Modi also traced the country’s journey from the time the pandemic began and scientists, innovators, and the private sector rose to the occasion to make the vaccines, to the time India began its vaccination drive, with it later being expanded to cover people of different age groups.

“Today is an important day in India’s efforts to vaccinate

our citizens. Now onwards, youngsters in the 12-14 age group are eligible for vaccines and all those above 60 are eligible for precaution doses. I urge people in these age groups to get vaccinated,” Modi wrote in a long thread on Twitter.

Calling India’s vaccination drive, which is said to be the largest in the world, “science-driven”, Modi added, “We began work to create vaccines in early 2020, to protect our citizens and strengthen their fight against the pandemic.”

“The manner in which our scientists, innovators and the private sector rose to the occasion is commendable. In late 2020, I had visited three of our vaccine manufacturers and got firsthand details of their efforts to protect our citizens,” he

showed.

“In January 2021, we began our vaccination drive for doctors, healthcare and frontline workers. The aim was to ensure those at the forefront of the fight against COVID get proper protection at the earliest,” Modi further wrote.

“In March 2021, vaccination was opened to those above 60 and those over 45 with comorbidities. Later, the vaccination opened for all those above 18,” he said, adding it should “make every Indian proud that the vaccines are free of cost for those who want it”.

Modi also thanked state governments for their support towards India’s vaccination drive. He also outlined India’s efforts in the global fight against the Covid-19 disease.

“In line with India’s ethos of caring for the entire planet, we sent vaccines to several nations under the Vaccine Maitri programme. I am glad that India’s vaccination efforts have made the global fight against COVID-19 stronger,” he said.

“Today, India has many ‘Made in India’ vaccines. We have also granted approval to other vaccines after a due process of evaluation. We are in a much better position to fight this deadly pandemic. At the same time, we have to keep following all COVID related precautions,” he added.

India has expanded its Covid-19 vaccination drive by including children in the age group of 12-14 to be vaccinated beginning today. Those above 60 years are also eligible now for the precaution dose.

# UGs apprehended by Security Forces



IT News  
Imphal, March 16:

In three separate joint operations with Manipur Police, troops of Assam Rifles under

the aegis of IGAR (South) apprehended three insurgent cadres (including a woman cadre) of PLA and UNLF from Moreh, KeinouThongka and Oinam in Bishnupur district re-

spectively on 14 March.

The apprehended insurgents were handed over to Moreh, Bishnupur and Nambol Police Stations respectively.

# Assam Rifles provides Medical Assistance at Sangaikot

IT News  
Imphal, March 16:

Churachandpur Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) extended emergency medical assistance to an individual who got his leg injured while operating heavy machinery in Tuining, Sangaikot, Churachandpur district yesterday.

The individual was brought to Assam Rifles Camp in Sangaikot with a deep cut in his leg and bleed-

ing profusely bleeding. The Assam Rifles medical staff immediately attended to him and rendered emergency medical aid.

The individual was pro-

vided with necessary medicines for speedy recuperation and he left after expressing gratitude towards the Assam Rifle for timely assistance provided to him.

# AR conducts Interaction and Coordination Meet

IT News  
Imphal, March 16:

Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted an Interaction and Coordination Meet at Thoubal Company Operating Base in Thoubal district yesterday.

The meet was attended by MeiraPaibis, school teachers, students and village authorities. During the meet the locals were sensitised and updated about prevalent security situation and measures being taken by Assam Rifles to main-

tain peace and tranquility in the area. An emphasis was also laid on necessary measures required to be undertaken by locals in synergy with Assam Rifles for maintaining a strict vigil against illegal activities in the area specially extortion and smuggling.

The locals expressed their gratitude and appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles for conduct of the meeting and ensuring peace in the area and assured their commitment and assistance in maintaining the same.

# Name Change

I on behalf of my minor daughter ATIFA ANJUN have declared that her old Passport her name is AATIFA ANJUN BEGUM and her Aadhaar Card and Birth Certificate her name is recorded ATIFAANJUN from today as per document’s her name is known as ATIFAANJUN.

Sd/-  
Md. Mainul Hoque  
Father of ATIFA ANJUN  
RK Tyre Service  
Khoyathong Road, Imphal West  
Manipur

Contd. from Page 2

# AFSPA in North East is a never ending....

Manipur CMN. Biren Singh said that while the people of Manipur, including himself, wanted the AFSPA withdrawn, “national security” was the higher priority. The “ground situation” needed to be assessed, he said, pointing to the turmoil in neighbouring Myanmar that had led to the movement of few Myanmar nationals to Manipur. A much larger number went to the state of Mizoram.

Mizoram shares a longer and more porous border with Myanmar but it has clearly not felt the need to re-impose AFSPA, which was fully withdrawn from the state in 1986.

In Manipur, the AFSPA is applied to the entire state barring the state capital Imphal and its surrounding areas. The BJP draws its strength and support from the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley and bagged 75 per cent of its seats in 2017 from this area. All but two of its 21 legislators then

electd on its ticket are Meiteis. Its constituency remains relatively unaffected by the AFSPA in its current form.

In July 2016, in a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court had ordered the investigation of 1,528 cases of alleged fake encounters, a euphemism for extrajudicial executions, by the Manipur Police and the Assam Rifles in Manipur over the last 20 years.

The Extrajudicial Execution Victim Families Association, a Manipur-based civil society organization, has pointed out that between 2016 and 2021, the state government has not initiated a single investigation in the alleged fake encounter cases and the union government had denied sanction to prosecute the cases being investigated by other agencies on the directions of the Supreme Court.

In February 2022, Agatha Sangma, a Member of Parliament from the Tula constitu-

ency of Meghalaya demanded the repeal of the AFSPA, stating, “There are Naxal areas in the country as well. But why does AFSPA apply only to J&K and the North East... I understand the needs of the security personnel but it cannot come at the cost of human rights.”

Earlier, though Meghalaya is not notified as a “disturbed area”, AFSPA allows army personnel located in neighbouring states to conduct operations within 20 kilometres of the state border. On November 25, 2015, the Gurkha Regiment stationed in Assam’s Rangjuli town shot dead two unarmed civilians, a few kilometres from Kharkutta Bazaar in the Garo Hills area of Meghalaya.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the AFSPA is effective in the three districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding. The Act is also currently in force in the regions falling within the jurisdiction of two police stations

of Arunachal Pradesh districts bordering the state of Assam. Tripura withdrew AFSPA in 2015 under the then Left front government. It had been in force there since 1997.

The 2006 Kakopthar killings in Assam, the 2018 Bomdila incident and the Longding killing in 2020 in Arunachal Pradesh, the strafing from the air in 1966 in Aizawl, Mizoram, the killing of two unarmed civilians near Kharkutta Bazaar in the Garo Hills area in Meghalaya in 2015.

Operation Bluebird in Oinam in 1987 and the Malom killings in 2000 in Manipur, are all part of a long list, to which Oting was only the latest entry.

Periodic massacres, little domestic concern, and inadequate international scrutiny are signposts that belie the lie that we are a civilian democracy.

(IPA Service)

Advt/IT-B-03

# GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, MANIPUR (NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT)

E-Tender Bid Reference No. : NHP-2021-2022-MN-370063

Reference to the Notice Inviting Tender No. EE/WRD/NHP/1-1/2021-22/133 dated 10th January, 2022 for the bid document No. WRD/NHP/1-70/2021-22, the following online tender is invited by the Water Resources Department, Government of Manipur from eligible bidders under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) and with the approval of Election Commission of India where no objection, from MCC angle, to float tenders and publication for publicity under National Hydrology Project vide Letter No. 437/6/CG/LA-Multi/ECVLET/FUNCT/MCC/2022 dated 4th February, 2022 and approval of the Government vide Letter No. CSS-SP-803/1/2022-WR-WR dated 26th February, 2022.

Details: Procurement of Mobile Water Quality Laboratory for the State Hydrological Data Centre, Manipur. Availability of bidding document from website is 07/01/2022; 10:00 HRS (System Server Time). Last date of online submission of bid through electronic mode is 28/03/2022; 15:00 HRS (System Server Time). Details of the document can be downloaded and is to be submitted on-line through e-procurement/e-tender portal <https://manipur.tenders.gov.in> (e-Tender reference No.: 2022\_WRD\_1792\_1). It is also available on <http://nhp.mowr.gov.in>. All correspondence/communication shall be made to the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Investigation Division, Water Resources Department, Lamphel, Imphal-795004, Manipur, India, telephone & Fax No. 03852955821, e-mail ID: [nhpmanipur@gmail.com](mailto:nhpmanipur@gmail.com).

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
IID, Water Resources Department  
Government of Manipur  
State Project Management Unit (SPMU), Manipur

# Career Guidance

# How to protect yourself from chemical filled colors Holi festival?



By: Vijay Garg

Who does not like to play with colors on Holi? The more joy it takes to play Holi, the more effort it takes to get

rid of those colors. Many times people use such strong colors that even after the festival is over, the colors of Holi are visible on their faces for a few days. So on the other hand, many people also get skin reaction with these firm colors. In such a situation, we should take some measures in advance so that the color does not stay on the skin for a long time and the skin should not be harmed by it. Today we have brought some such special tricks for you, by

which you can play with colors all over your mind and you will not suffer any harm.

**How to take care of yourself**

1. Apply a mixture of almond powder and milk on the face one night or two hours before playing Holi. Wash the face after about 20 minutes. With this, problems caused by colors can be avoided.

2. This time, don’t forget to buy a box of mustard/coconut oil or Vaseline along with the colors. Before play-

ing with colors on the day of Holi, massage your entire body with mustard or coconut oil. Apply a little more oil so that it stays on the skin. Due to the greasiness of the oil, no color will get on your body and will also be easily cleaned.

Do not forget to apply sunscreen before playing Holi. The reason for this is that while playing Holi, we are also in the sun and without sunscreen, the rays of the sun can also damage our skin.

4. While playing Holi, it has often been seen that the color gets lost in the eyes and it is not good for our eyes. To protect your eyes from colours, you can wear goggles available in different types of markets. This will not harm your eyes and you will also look cool.

5. The more part of the body that is saved from colors, the better it remains. For this you can also wear full sleeve clothes. Due to this the color will not apply directly on your body and you will be able to protect yourself from the colors to some extent.

# 'Put an end to interference in democracy by Facebook, Twitter': Sonia tells govt in Lok Sabha

Agency  
New Delhi, March 16:

Expressing concerns over the "rising danger of social media being abused to hack the democracy", Congress president Sonia Gandhi asked the government to "put an end to the systematic interference of Facebook and other social media giants in the electoral politics of the world's largest democracy".

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha Wednesday, Gandhi said global companies like Facebook and Twitter are being used to "shape political narrative by leaders of political parties and their proxies".

"It has come to public notice repeatedly that global social media companies are not providing a level playing field to all political parties," she said. Gandhi referred to a report published in Al Jazeera and The Reporters' Collective claiming that Facebook had offered the ruling BJP cheaper deals "by bending their own hate speech rules" for election advertisements



as compared to other political parties and suppressed "the voice of all those who were speaking up against the government".

Stressing that the issue is of "paramount importance", Gandhi said, "The blatant manner in which social harmony is being disturbed by Facebook,

with the connivance of the ruling establishment, is dangerous for our democracy. Young and old minds alike are being filled with hate through emotionally charged disinformation and proxy advertising. Companies like Facebook are aware of this and are profiting from it. These re-

ports show a growing nexus between big corporations, the ruling establishment and global social media giants like Facebook."

Gandhi said, "This is beyond partisan politics. We need to protect our democracy and social harmony regardless of who is in power."

## U.S., EU, India, S.Africa reach compromise on COVID vaccine IP waiver text

Agency  
New Delhi, March 16:

The United States, European Union, India and South Africa have reached a consensus on key elements of a long-sought intellectual property waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, according to a proposed text reviewed by Reuters.

Sources familiar with the talks described the text as a tentative agreement among the four World Trade Organization members that still needs formal approvals from the parties before it can be considered official. Any agree-

ment must be accepted by the WTO's 164 member countries in order to be adopted.

Some elements of the consensus deal, including whether the length of any patent waivers would be three years or five years, still need to be finalized, according to the text. It would apply only to patents for COVID-19 vaccines, which would be much more limited in scope than a broad proposed WTO waiver that had won backing from the United States, according to the document.

The document authorizes use of "patented subject matter required for the pro-

duction and supply of COVID-19 vaccines without the consent of the right holder to the extent necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic".

It said IP rights would also be waived for ingredients and processes necessary for COVID-19 vaccine manufacture, a move aimed at granting critical know-how to many countries lacking expertise, especially for advanced mRNA-type vaccines.

The text contained several limitations, including that the waiver is only available to WTO member countries that exported less than 10%

of global exports of COVID-19 vaccine doses in 2021.

The tentative agreement does not include COVID-19 treatments or tests, and the limitations would likely exclude China from any waiver, a source familiar with the negotiations said.

The text, which was produced in negotiations last week, was being circulated to officials in Brussels, Washington, Johannesburg and New Delhi before being presented to other WTO members. Adoption of the IP waiver by the consensus-driven organization is far from certain.

## Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann swearing-in ceremony: 'Even a rooster sports a crown, those who rule win hearts', says AAP leader

Agency  
Chandigarh, March 16:

Bhagwant Mann took oath as the 18th Chief Minister of Punjab on Wednesday. At the swearing-in ceremony at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of Bhagat Singh, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supporters turned up in 'basanti' turbans and dupattas, the colour commonly associated with the freedom fighter.

At the ceremony, Mann said people will visit Punjab just like they visit Delhi to see its schools and mohalla clinics. Before ending his speech with 'Inquilab Zindabad' and 'Jo Bole So Nihal', Mann quoted another verse: "Hukumat vo karte hain jinka dilon par raj hota hai, yun to kehne ko murge ke sar pe bhi taaj hota hai" (The ones who rule are those who rule hearts, crowns even rest on roosters' heads)."

The 'pandal', with yellow drapes and 50,000 chairs, has been set up on 40 acres land near the Bhagat Singh memorial in the village in Nawanshahr district.

Besides newly-elected AAP MLAs, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other senior party leaders were also present at the ceremony. The



Aam Aadmi Party romped home winning 92 seats in the 117-member Punjab Assembly, decimating the Congress and the SAD-BSP combine.

Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann quoted Bhagat Singh after taking oath of the office in Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of celebrated freedom fighter Sardar Bhagat Singh.

"Ishq karna sabka paidaishi haq hai, kyun na is baar watan ki sarzamin ko mehboob bana liya jaye."

"I am the chief minister of even those who did not vote for me; this is their government as well and we will work for them as well. This is a democracy and everyone has the right [to choose a political ideology]. I don't want people to think I am arrogant," he said.

The Prime Minister,

Narendra Modi has congratulated Shri Bhagwant Mann on taking oath as Chief Minister of Punjab.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister said; "Congratulations to Shri @BhagwantMann Ji on taking oath as Punjab CM. Will work together for the growth of Punjab and welfare of the state's people."

Delhi CM and AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal has congratulated Bhagwant Mann on becoming the CM of Punjab. On Twitter, Kejriwal wrote in Hindi, "Many many congratulations and best wishes to Bhagwant Mann on becoming the Chief Minister of Punjab. I am sure that under your leadership, prosperity will return to Punjab, there will be a lot of progress and people's problems will be solved. God is with you."

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## FOB Senapati organizes ICOP....

Alen Chiru spoke about the Indian Freedom Struggle during the colonial rule while giving focus on local unsung heroes like Bir Tikendrajit, Paona Brajabashi, Rani Gaidinliu and Haipou Jadonang. Later he conducted a quiz competition where the students participated actively.

A two-day photo exhibition on Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav was also organised as part of the ICOP. It was inaugurated by N. Suran Singh, SDO/BDO, Willong Sub-Division, Senapati District, Government of Manipur. Forty photos including ten photos of local unsung heroes who contributed to India's freedom struggle were exhibited. Thang-ta performances by

M/S The Thang-ta cultural research academy, a Private Registered Troupe (PRT) under Regional Outreach Bureau, Imphal at the Integrated Communication & Outreach programme was well received by the audience. The programme ended with Shri A.S George, Field Publicity Assistant, FOB, Senapati giving the vote of thanks.

## Sports

## Manipur's Hormipam Ruivah is Hero ISL's 'Emerging Player of the Month'

Agency  
Imphal, March 16:

Hormipam Ruivah, a resident of Manipur's Ukhrul district, has been adjudged the 'emerging player of the month' for March by the Hero-Indian Super League.

Ruivah, who is currently playing for Kerala Blasters FC as a defender at the country's top tier men's professional league, was given the emerging player of this month title following his outstanding performance at the ISL 2021-2022 season.

Taking to its Twitter handle, ISL wrote "Presenting to you, the Emerging Player of the month for March 2022 - @Hormipam."

So far, Ruivah has played 11 matches for Kerala Blasters in the Indian Super League this season.

It may be noted that the 21-year-old football player from Somaal village has been called up by the Indian football



coach Igor Stimac for the preparatory camp ahead of the two international friendly matches to be played in Belarus and Bahrain later this month.

He will be joining the professional squad after complet-

ing the ISL commitment for his club.

On Tuesday, after beating Jamshedpur FC in the semi-final at the Tilak Maidan Stadium in Vasco Da Gama, Kerala Blasters FC reached the Hero-ISL 2021-2022 finals spot.

## ISL: Kerala edge Jamshedpur 2-1 over two legs to book final berth

Agency  
Vasco, March 16:

Kerala Blasters FC split honours with Jamshedpur FC on the night playing out a 1-1 draw, but rode on two top-draw defensive displays to pip the League Shield winners 2-1 on aggregate over two legs and qualify for their first final since 2016, in the 2021-22 Indian Super League at the Tilak Maidan Stadium here on Tuesday.

Adrian Luna (18th) opened the scoring for Kerala with a stunning goal before Pronay Halder (50th) pulled one back for the Red Miners who needed one more goal to take the game to extra time, but another solid performance by the Kerala backline ensured they held firm and confirm a place in the summit clash since their defeat to ATK FC six years back.

In the first leg, Sahal Abdul Samad scored the only goal in a 1-0 win for Kerala who made it to their third ISL final. They were the finalists in the inaugural 2014 edition as well.



The yellow shirts started the second leg without the injured Sahal but showed no signs of slowing down, almost taking the lead inside the first two minutes had Alvaro Vazquez not tried to be cheeky when one on one with the keeper, dinking the ball over T.P. Rehenesh in Jamshedpur goal and wide of the far post.

Four minutes later, Vazquez got possession deep inside his own half to then set up Ayush Adhikari but Rehenesh was alert to the danger, coming out of his line in time. Kerala found

a lot of joy as Jamshedpur full-backs pushed forward leaving a lot of spaces for their rivals to exploit.

Adhikari got another chance from a Jorge Diaz cross but Jamshedpur skipper Peter Hartley put his body on the line to snuff out the danger. Vazquez atoned for his miss earlier in the half soon after, flicking on a delightful pass from the left flank for Luna who darted in, dropped a shoulder and curled a side-footed effort past Rehenesh and into the right corner.

After the cooling break, Daniel Chima Chukwu thought he had pulled Jamshedpur back in the game but his stab from close was ruled offside, albeit belatedly after keeping his flag down initially.

Prabhsukhan Gill was then at fault in Kerala goal as he punched a Greg Stewart free-kick over his head with Jamshedpur players all surrounding him, but eventually, the referee blew the whistle for a foul, much to the keeper's relief. At the break, Kerala led 2-0 on aggregate. Five minutes into the restart, Halder nicked one in to get Jamshedpur back in the game, poking in a Stewart corner which was initially met by Chima whose header lacked power and fell to Halder who netted from two yards out.

One minute later, Vazquez could have all but sealed the tie for Kerala but Rehenesh was on hand to save from a chip after the Spaniard was one on one with him. The ball, though, kept rolling goalwards with Eli Sabia but the Brazilian did enough to clear it off the line.