



**Setup of
INR 100 Crore
Start-Up
Manipur Fund**

**Mangjil Thaba Manipur,
Mipal Tangdaba Manipur**

BJP Ga Loinana

Thambalgi Markada Namtasi  **BJP Bu Maipakhanlasi**

Re-poll in some polling stations likely where EVM were destroyed

IT News
Imphal, March 2:

The Election Commission is likely to take a decision on re-polling to as many as 9 polling stations where clashed were reported and EVM machines were destroyed. Report said that those polling station include Songsang Mission School, Maite ME School and Tinsuong ME School in the Thanlon (ST) Assembly Constituency; Majuron Kuki, Khoirentak, Molsang, Leinom in the Henglep (ST) Assembly Constituency; and Teikot and Maukot in the Singhat (ST) Assembly Constituency and one at Khundrakpam Assembly constituency.

The first phase of polling for the Manipur Assembly Elections took place on Monday (February 28). As the voting was taking place, several reports of clashes and proxy voting emerged from parts of the state.

FIRs were registered in the incidents of EVM damage in seven polling stations, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Rajesh Agarwal was quoted by news agency.

At least one person was injured in a clash between two political parties in Churachandpur district. An EVM was damaged, and it was later replaced.

Moreover, BJP supporters allegedly destroyed EVM machines at a Polling stations at

Khundrakpam assembly constituency while Congress workers allegedly vandalised a polling booth in Kakwa area in Langthabal constituency in Imphal West district.

Meanwhile, the Manipur Secular Progressive Front – the alliance of 6 political parties including Congress, CPI, CPI (M), and others had submitted a memorandum to the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur urging for a re-poll in the 9 Assembly Constituencies of Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts in connection with the intimidatory statement issued by the banned outfit KNO, which has resulted in destruction of the free and fair election.

People's Election Monitoring cell of the YCM sees Phase -1 Manipur poll conducted amid Violent and Corrupt Environment

IT News
Imphal, March 2:

Even as Manipur witnessed a remarkable voter turnout reaching 88.63% in the phase 1 election held on February 28, People's Election Monitoring cell of the Youth Collective Manipur said that the election was conducted amid violent and corrupt environment.

A statement said that the YCM monitors observed 266 polling stations in 14 out of 38 constituencies where polling was held.

"It is unfortunate that the Election Day also turned out to be violent. Violence was reported in and around the premises of several polling stations causing much public dismay. Reports include terrifying incidents of gunfire in close vicinity of polling stations, blank firing by security personnel on election duty to disperse attempted booth capture, damage of EVM-VVPAT inside the polling station as well as on the way from the polling booths to the strong rooms, aggression among party workers due to alleged proxy voting and

voter disenfranchisement, display of party flags and posters in close vicinity of polling stations in violation of MCC", a statement by Thongam Zingo, Coordinator, People's Election Monitoring of YCM.

The statement added that certain armed groups reportedly voted on behalf of an entire village by preventing voters themselves from voting. There were also instances of voters finding their votes already casted by someone else when they went to the polling booth. A victimized voter was finally allowed to cast a tender vote after his protest video of such denial of voting rights and proxy voting went viral in the media.

"There were also reports of refraining agents of opposition political parties by threatening and intimidating them from observing polling booths. Several polling booths reportedly conducted voting with agents from only one political party observing. A dramatic case in Saitu AC was the arrest of a candidate from the main opposition party who was later released on bail at mid-night. Several

political parties including INC, NPP, JDU and the Shiv Sena staged protests demanding re-poll in some constituencies", the statement said.

It further added that EVM-VVPAT malfunctioning was reportedly widespread. There were confusion and anger it caused among voters present at the polling stations. According to ECI, EVM-VVPAT was damaged in 7 polling stations by unknown miscreants.

YCM monitors observed a higher voter turnout in constituencies with money and muscle power. Among 10 constituencies with highest voter turnout, 9 constituencies have 19 crorepati; while the remaining 1 constituency is constituted of ethnic community that was intimidated by a militant group to vote for a particular party on the eve of election.

Death of two officials on poll duty draws concern of safety measures and precautions provided to officials on duty. This matter must be dealt with utmost urgency to avoid such grave incidents on the upcoming 5 March poll day. To ensure safety and security of poll personnel performing their duty in the field in challenging conditions by the concerned officials, so that they can effectively perform their duties is an integral part of conducting free and fair elections.

The statement also said that long queues and waiting time was observed widely at many polling stations. Voters expressed anger over the issue and also reports of daily wage work being affected. YCM hopes that no voters who came out to vote returned without casting ballots due to long queues and waiting time.

It added that vote buying was reported to be rampant on Election Day as well. From the information gathered from voters in general, the modus operandi of vote buying seems rather sophisticated. It was also observed that CON/ID-19 protocols were not strictly enforced in most of the polling stations visited, the statement said.

YCM appeals all stakeholders a non-violent, free and fair Manipur-2022-Election in the upcoming second phase on March 5, 2022.

One SF on poll duty died, 10 hurt in road accident

IT News
Imphal, March 2:

In a tragic accident, a security personnel of the Indian Reserve Battalion died while 11 others injured in a road accident early today morning in Tamenglong district. The convoy were travelling from Mizoram to

Manipur for the second phase polls on March 5.

Police identified the constable as K Lalawmpuia and said that the injured were rushed to the Tamenglong district hospital. Five of the seriously injured personnel were later airlifted to Imphal for better treatment, police said.

Manipur will go to the second phase of polling on March 5 for the remaining 22 assembly constituencies. The results of the assembly polls will be announced on March 10 along with those for four other states - Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa and Uttarakhand.

Phase-II election campaign gear up Of the 92 candidates in the fray 3 candidates have declared cases related to Crime Against women

IT News
Imphal, March 3:

Of the 92 candidates contesting the 2nd phase Manipur legislative assembly election to be held in 22 assembly constituencies on March 5, three (3) candidates have declared that they have

cases related to crime against women. Of them one candidate has declared case related to rape crime under section 376 of the IPC. As per report of the ADR Manipur Election watch one candidate has declared cases related to attempt to murder under section 307 of the IPC. 2 female candidates are contesting in this election.

The report said that of the 10 candidates of the JD(U) 4 have criminal case, 4 out of 18 candidates of the INC have criminal cases, 2 out of the 11 NPP candidates and 1 out of the 22 BJP candidates candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

Interestingly former Manipur chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh of Congress which is contesting from Thoubal Assembly constituency has the maximum number of criminal cases registered against him among all the 92 candidates for the second phase of polls to be held

on March 5.

According to ADR report Ibobi has declared four cases, which include four charges related to cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property, two charges related to criminal breach of trust by a public servant, or by a banker, merchant or agent, two charges related to punishment for criminal breach of trust, four charges related to punishment of criminal conspiracy, two charges related to dishonest misappropriation of property and two charges related to acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention.

Three of his cases are registered with Enforcement Directorate. The fourth case, which was registered by the state vigilance and anti-corruption wing, was later transferred to CBI. No charges in any of the four cases have been framed yet.

Longmai Youth League and the Longmai Bazar Board reacted to Longmai Pei (Customary Court) statement

IT News
Imphal, March 2:

The Longmai Youth League and the Longmai Bazar Board reacting to the press statement by Longmai Pei (Customary Court) issued in the name of Secretary Pei, Gongjai Kamei which appeared in the Imphal Times evening daily paper on the 28th Feb, 2022.

A joint statement by Keinebon Dangmei, President, Longma Youth League and Gail Gangmei, Longmai Bazar Board clarify that Longmai Pei (Customary Court) which is in custody of Customary Law of Zeliangrong/Rongmei tribe at the grassroot level is highly esteemed by the general public of the village. However, the general public leaders and Pei members were not informed or discussed regarding the matter before the Secretary Pei (Customary Court) issued that statement. Hence, the statement

does not represent the view and opinion of the general public of Longmai Village.

"Even though the Helipad and the ground at Longmai Part-I is owned by the Longmai Churches Fellowship (LCF) but it is the collective property of the village and there was no restriction on the part of LCF to the landing of Chopper carrying the Union Minister of State (Edn, External Affairs) Dr. RK Ranjan campaign trip to Longmai-3 for BJP candidate Dinganglung Gangmei (Dipu, IAS rtd) on the 26th Feb, 2022. They used the names of LCF to conceal their true colour because all those womenfolk and menfolk who participated in that event were family members and relatives of Gaidon Kamei led faction of the Congress party. Gongjai Kamei cannot hide those facts to hoodwink the general public. It was also a fact known that those womenfolk who also started bonfire at the helipad on

that day at LCF ground at the arrival of the chopper of the Hon'ble Union Minister was led by Mrs. Ningthoukalu Kamei @ Athouli (Elder Sister of Mr. Gaidon Kamei), wife of Gongjai Kamei, Mrs. Athiam Kamei (Elder sister of Gaidon Kamei), other women and male accomplice were relatives of Gaidon Kamei Congress supporters", the joint statement said.

It added that during election, all political parties and their supporters have been organising Public meetings and campaigns throughout the state and no permission is sought from any village for the democratic election held under MCC of the ECI. Why the question of prior permission arises when BJP election campaign meeting was organised, and why not the same yardstick applied in the case of Congress party and their meeting? At a democratic election held under the constitution

India, is Longmai Village a foreign land that permission is required? No one is above the law, and the law of the land shall prevail everywhere. This democratic election conducted by targeting a particular community, religious group, village etc. why accusing the election campaign of BJP Candidate by a Union Minister as a breach of integrity of Longmai Village, the statement said.

"This politically instigated statement does not represent the view and opinion of general public of Longmai but of the faction only. Therefore, the Longmai Youth League and the Longmai Bazar Board would like to appeal to the general public not to be misled by such one-sided statement of a handful of individuals in the name of the Longmai Pei. Further, appeal every electorate to exercise their franchise peacefully to make this election a result oriented one.", the statement added.

CorCom clarifies

IT News
Imphal, March 2:

Reacting to news report broadcasted at ISTV News on February 27, armed rebel group CorCom has clarified that the three persons who reportedly threatened Village authority Chairman and Secretary of Poirou Tangkhul Village in Keirao Assembly constituency at around 3 pm of February 26, is not related to the Coordinating Committee (CORCOM).

Protecting Wildlife is for a Healthy Planet



By: N. Munal Meitei

We protect wildlife because they inspire us. We also focus our efforts on prime species—like big cats, rhinos, whales and marine turtles—whose protection supports the survival of other species and their landscapes. Wildlife is essential to the healthy functioning of our ecosystems. But the wildlife loss is presently happening on an alarming rate and declining unprecedentedly in the human history. We must take trans-formative action to address this crisis now.

The 3rd March, the day of the adoption of CITES in 1963, which protect 5,800 species of animals and 30,000 species of plants is celebrated as World Wildlife Day every year to cherish the planet's wild animals and plants and raising awareness on its fauna and flora. The theme for this year is "Recovering key species for ecosystem Restoration", seeking on the crucial need to reverse the future of the most critically endangered species, to assist the rehabilitation of their habitats and ecosystems, and to build a more sustainable future for humanity. This day also remind us of our responsibilities to our world and the life forms we share it with.

This day is an opportunity to recognize many beautiful and diverse species as well as to promote awareness of the numerous advantages that their conservation brings to humans and to combat wildlife crime and human-induced species extinction, both of which have far-reaching economic, environmental, and societal implications.

The World is full of amazing creatures from every possible medium, from the birds of the air to the majestic whales of the sea abounds in all unusual and unexpected places.

WWF's latest *Living Planet Report* estimates that we have lost 68% of all vertebrate wildlife populations since 1970. That's more than half of all birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish gone in just 50 years. During that time, our population has been doubled to 7.9 billion today. A German study found that flying insects including pollinators around the world have crashed by three-quarters since 1989.

In its landmark 2019 report, IPBES warned that one million species are now at risk of disappearing and according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 41% of amphibians, 25% of mammals, 34% of conifers, 13% of birds, 31% of sharks and rays, 33% of reef-building corals, and 27% of crustaceans are threatened with extinction.

Wildlife loss is attributable to several causes but by far the biggest culprits are habitat destruction and over-exploitation of species, driven by our exploding numbers and unsustainable consumption. Wildlife isn't just something that we passively observe; it's part of our world, and something we need to care for.

Earth is home to many, many different species of plants and animals. It is this rich diversity, and the delicate balance between all the different forms of life, that makes life possible on our planet. Each and every species is equally important. One of the aims of World Wildlife Day is to raise awareness of these facts.

We need to live more sustainable lives and to learn to respect nature and its wildlife. Losing wildlife means losing opportunities to improve our lives. About 75% of our terrestrial environment and 66% of marine environments are impacted by our activities and we have noticed the destruction in our personal lives also via the media.

As we step out of our homes, we instantly may feel to enter into the homes of many other animals. Our gardens, streets, public parks, river banks and roadsides may not be the home for our iconic species but they are the homes for many other animals and birds. By protecting our local natural spaces, we protect and preserve for the plethora of wildlife. This give us the opportunity to rejoice in the intrinsic value of nature as we watch the birds nesting in spring, the squirrels and jays caching their food supplies in the autumn, and the arrival of the migratory birds on our wetlands in the winter months. The joy of seeing life in all of its forms from the new growth on the spring trees to the emergence of butterflies and bees, and the development of new parent-infant relationships each spring as we exit the colder months and welcome milder temperatures.

These natural wonders happen before our very eyes and noses every day. It is these animals that need our support. They need our respect to ensure their habitats be protected from destruction. Across the world, and mainly in Asia, wild animals are being taken from the wild, torn away from their family groups, or bred in captivity, to be used in the tourism entertainment industry. Forced to endure painful and intensive training to make them perform, and to interact with people, they live their entire lives in captive conditions that cannot meet their needs. A life in tourist entertainment is no life for a wild animal. It is inherently cruel and abusive.

Wild animals belong in the wild. We're calling for an end to the abuse of wild animals used in tourism entertainment. Make ethical tourism choices and be part of the solution. Avoid wildlife abasement parks and boycott the travel companies that promote and/or sell tickets to them, and don't indulge in animal tortures.

Future of Wild life conservation depends on the action and values of people. Local authorities and governments are in the best position to reach out to citizens and involve, enable and inspire local stakeholders. Cultural diversity and biodiversity (Wild Life) exist hand in hand. By facilitating a deeper bond between the environment and the mankind, the world's Wild Life can be protected and conserved for the future. Therefore, with coming of the World Wildlife Day, 2022, let's not harm the Wild life and before that, think twice for an earth without the Wild life.

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Russian Invasion of Ukraine

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh
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Ukraine- the second largest country by area in Europe after Russia – was briefly independent in the early 20th century, before becoming part of the USSR in 1922. When the Soviet Union was collapsed, Ukraine once again declared their independence in 1991. But, Ukraine and Russia continued to retain close ties. In 1994, Ukraine agreed to abandon its nuclear arsenal and signed the Budapest Memorandum in Security Assurance on the condition that Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States would provide assurance against threats on use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine. As a part of negotiation with the newly minted post-soviet Russian government, Ukraine returned soviet era nuclear weapons to Russia and allowed Russia to keep its Black Sea Fleet stationed in Crimea under a lease agreement. Ukraine in the post-soviet era then continued to develop its economic and diplomatic relationship with Western Europe. In 2018, NATO hinted at future membership for Ukraine and its fellow former Soviet Republic Georgia. Russia invaded Georgia soon after. Five years later, Russia was one of the signatories of the Charter for European Security where it reaffirmed the inherent right of each and every participating state to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance as they evolve. In 2004, Viktor Yanukovich, then prime minister was declared the winner of the presidential elections, which had been largely rigged, according to a Supreme Court of Ukraine ruling. The result caused a public outcry in support of the opposition candidate, Viktor Yanukovich, who challenged the outcome. During the tumultuous months of evolution, candidate Yushchenko suddenly became gravely ill and was soon found by multiple independent physicians to have been poisoned by TCDD dioxin. Yushchenko strongly suspected Russian involvement in his poisoning. All of this eventually resulted in the Peaceful Orange revolution, bringing Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko to power, while casting Yanukovich in opposition. In 2008, Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke out against Ukraine's potential accession to NATO. In 2009, Romanian analyst Iulian Chifu and his co-authors opined that in regard to Ukraine, Russia has pursued an updated version of the Brezhnev's Doctrine, which dictates that the sovereignty of Ukraine should not be much larger than that of Warsaw pact's member states prior to the collapse of the Soviet Sphere of influence during the late 1980s and early 1990s. In 2009, Yanukovich announced his intent to again run for president in the 2010 Ukrainian presidential election. He won and was inaugurated in 2010.

The Euromaidan protest began in 2013 over the Ukrainian government's decision to suspend the signing of the European-Ukraine Association Agreement, instead choosing closer ties to Russia and Eurasian economic Union. Following weeks of protest Yanukovich and the leaders of the Ukrainian parliamentary opposition signed a settlement agreement on 21st February 2014 that called for an early election. The following day, Yanukovich fled from Kyiv ahead of an impeachment vote that stripped him of his powers as president. In response, Russian President Vladimir Putin offered support to Russian-speaking separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk, which are part of the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine. Leaders of the Russian-speaking eastern region of Ukraine declared continuing loyalty to Yanukovich, causing the 2014 pro-Russian unrest in Ukraine. The unrest was followed by the annexation of Crimea by Russia in March 2014 and the war in Donbas, which started in April 2014 with the creation of the Russia-backed quasi-states of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republic. Putin's annexation of Crimea peninsula located along the northern coast of Black Sea, was widely denounced by international community, which still recognizes the territory as being part of Ukraine. The fighting which has continued sporadically despite a 2015 cease-fire agreement has killed an estimated 14,000 people. On 14 September 2020 Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, approved Ukrainian's new national Security Strategy" which provides for the development

of the distinctive partnership with NATO with the aim of membership in NATO. On 24 March 2021, Zelenskyy signed the Decree No.117/2021 approving 'strategy of de-occupation and reintegration of temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. Russia had said that a possible Ukrainian accession to NATO an alliance of European states with the U.S and Canada NATO enlargement in general threaten its national security. In turn, Ukraine and other European countries neighboring Russia accused Putin of attempting Russia irredentism and pursuing aggressive militaristic policies.

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared war on Ukraine on Wednesday the 23rd February 2022's night, launching airstrikes and plunging Europe into a nightmare not seen since the darkest days of World war-II. Putin declared that Ukraine was not a standalone nation but rather "an integral part of Russia" created by USSR. Why did we have to be so generous and then give these republics the right to leave?, the Russia leader asked at one point, making a clear reference to the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. The conflict began with a major military build-up from March to April 2021 to February 2022. During the second military build-up Russia issued demands to the United States and NATO advancing two draft treaties that contained request for what it referred to a "security guarantee" including a legally binding promise that Ukraine would not join NATO as well as a reduction in NATO troops and military hardware stationed in Eastern Europe and threatened an unspecified military response if NATO continued to toe an aggressive. On 24 February 2022, Russia launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine, its neighbor to the south west on the north shore of the Black Sea, making a major escalation of the Russo-Ukraine war that had been ongoing since 2014. Days prior to the invasion, Russia recognized two self-proclaimed Ukrainian states, the Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic, followed by an incursion of the Russian Armed forces to the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine on 21st Febru-

ary. At about 03:00UTC (06:00 Moscow Times) on 24 February, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a military operation in Eastern Ukraine; minutes later, missiles strikes began at location across Ukraine including the Capital Kyiv in the north. The Ukrainian Border Service stated that its border posts with Russia and Belarus were attacked. Two hours later at around 05:00 UTC, Russia ground force entered the country. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy responded by enacting martial law serving diplomatic ties with Russia and announcing general mobilization. Loud explosions and air raids sirens have come to dominate the soundscape in Ukraine's biggest cities Kyiv and Kharkiv since Russia declared war on its neighbouring nation on February 24. On Tuesday the 1st March 2022, the Government headquarters in Kharkiv suffered significant damage after a missile struck the building. Shelling in the city on Monday the 28th February killed 17 people, the governor claimed. In Kyiv, loud explosions have been heard. Satellite images show several home and buildings burning nearby as a 40-mile Russian convoy makes its way to the city. The last time Kyiv and Kharkiv were rocked by bombs and under major attack were in the mid-20th century when Adolf Hitler initiated World War-II in Europe. The explosions in the Kyiv and Kharkiv rake up memories of Nazi German's assaulted on the cities in 1941. In September 1941, German forces entered Kyiv and massacred more than 30,000 Jews in two days as per reports. In the following months several thousands more people were killed by German authorities stationed in Kyiv. The October 1941 battle for the city of Kharkiv was fought between Germany and Soviet Union. The German army captured the city within four days of reaching its border. Ukrainian leaders have drawn a parallel between the Russian invasion of 2022 and attack on Kyiv and Kharkiv in 1941 during World War-II. The invasion received widespread condemnation, including sanction being imposed on Russia, while anti-war protests in Russia were met with mass arrest.

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There is a need for tremendous improvement in the mental health infrastructure

The Mental Health Care Act of 2017 has a systematic framework for mental health and effective provisions from the identification of patients to rehabilitation. But even after five years, this law has not been implemented in all the states of the country. The state governments that cry for the federal structure are not showing any seriousness on this issue.

Mental illness has emerged as a serious threat in the country after the Covid pandemic. In Madhya Pradesh, seven people committed suicide in the last ten days due to mental depression. Everyone made and shared videos before committing suicide. Even before this, especially in the last two years, the incidents of suicide have increased rapidly. These incidents are a clear indication that people are increasingly becoming victims of mental ailments due to the situation.

The seriousness of the situation is revealed by the statistics presenting about the mental health of the people in the country. According to an estimate, a total of twenty crore citizens in the country are suffering from some kind of mental illness. That is, every seventh Indian is ill on the parameters of mental health. Only one

person in every ten gets standard treatment for mental ailments. There is no authentic mechanism in our public health infrastructure to characterize whether a person is mentally ill along with physical illness. In this year's Union Budget, the government has made special announcements to deal with the challenges of mental health.

Common people hardly know that the National Mental Health Program is in force in the country since 1982 and the District Mental Health Program since 1996. But the ground reality is that these programs are only nominal. The Mental Health Act was also enacted in the year 1987. The present government tried to make this 1987 law inclusive in 2017 by redesigning it, but more than a dozen states of the country have not implemented it yet.

For the first time in this year's budget, budget allocations have been seen on other provisions including nationwide tele-counselling for mental health. This time around 12 per-

cent of the total health budget has been allocated for spending on mental health. This is a good start, but the fact remains that the challenge before the country to deal with the mental problems of the people is increasing day by day.

The loneliness of Covid has surrounded not only the financially prosperous, but also the enlightened and poor class with mental disorders.

There are only forty seven mental hospitals in India, out of which only two or three are equipped with standard facilities. That is, there is only one mental hospital in our country for three and a half crore people. The Mental Health Care Act of 2017 has a systematic framework for mental health and effective provisions from the identification of patients to rehabilitation. But even after five years, this law has not been implemented in all the states of the country. The state governments that cry for the federal structure are not showing any seriousness on this issue at all.

Eighty three thousand crore ru-

pees have been allocated for the Health and Family Welfare Department in the Union Budget for the financial year 2022-23. This is an increase of about thirty three percent compared to the financial year 2019-20 before the Covid epidemic. The proposal to set up a National Tele-Mental Health Program is important for quality services related to mental health.

Twenty-three centers in the country are claimed to provide tele-consultation services to citizens. This service will be provided through technical collaboration of IIT Bangalore with supervision and regulation of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences. Despite this, the goal of mental health for the common man of the country still seems very difficult because if we look carefully at the increase of 12 percent in the mental health budget, then basically it is two institutions being funded by the central government-mental health. Institute is for Bangalore and Tezpur only. What is needed is a major overhaul of the National Mental Health Mission, which has no specific allocation and has been left to the states, which are already indifferent.

contd. on page 3



By: Vijay Garg

“Manipur witnessed a record voter turnout in an Inclusive, Accessible and Participative Elections”

IT News
Imphal, March 2:

The Grand Festival of Democracy was celebrated across 38 Assembly Constituencies for the First Phase of Manipur Assembly Elections, which ended peacefully yesterday with a record voter turnout with 88.63% of the total 12,09,439 voters in the state turned out to exercise their franchise as per report available from constituency upto 5pm on 28th February, 2022. Voter turnout of Male is 87.29% and that of Female is 89.96%. Not only females outnumber the male electors in the Gender Ratio, female electors have displayed more enthusiasm in the voter turnout as well.

Old aged/ young ones/ PwDs, women, Transgenders/ 1st time voters, middle aged and electors of all age groups casted their votes. IT applications used for booking of wheelchair and checking queue waiting time period at Polling Station was a true boon for PwD electors as around 176 wheelchairs were booked through it and were made available. Special efforts were made to ensure hassle free voting by elderly voters and all arrangement were accordingly made, resulting in over 97% of the 100+ electors visiting the Polling Stations to exercise their adult franchise. 79 (seventy nine) and 381 (three hundred eighty one) Polling Stations were earmarked as Model and women Polling stations respectively in Phase-I where the Polling Stations were colourfully decorated and voters had a mesmerizing voting



experience. First time voters, elderly voters, transgenders and early voters etc. were given special merchandise gift items by the Polling Teams. Over 90% of the Transgender Voters enrolled as Elector have exercised their adult franchise. In Imphal East district, each of them were given a certificate signed by DEO. Participation of women has been overwhelming showcasing the true women empowerment.

A total of 247 out of 253 SoO cadres voted from the 13 designated camps spread in Churachandpur, Pherzawl, Bishnupur and Kangpokpi. The Commission had directed special arrangements for their voting which were made at each of the Polling stations for their voting through the postal ballot.

All Polling teams have safely returned to the reception centres and the EVM/VVPAT have been sealed in the Strong

Rooms in presence of the Observers and the Polling agents and placed under the three-tier security cover. Presiding Officers and EVM machines of Seventeen Polling Stations of 55-Tipaimukh Constituency were airlifted from Jiribam. It will now be opened only on the date of Counting in presence of the Election Agents.

Scrutiny of Form-17A and other election related documents has been carried out for all Phase-I Assembly Constituencies by the Returning Officer and the Observers in presence of the Candidates/ election agents. Nothing untoward has been observed for majority of the ACs. Minor incidents reported for few polling stations were examined and found that none of them actually had any detrimental impact on the poll process and the votes polled are safely stored and secure in the machines.

However, stray incidents of damaged EVMs have been reported and re-poll has been recommended for those Polling Stations.

Adequate arrangement for COVID safe election was taken up. Scanning of each voter, provision of hand glove, adequate sanitizers, queuing system under COVID protocol, etc. have been a visual delight in the Polling Stations about the safety preparations under the Election Commission of India. Voting by COVID suspects/positive person under strict COVID protocol by wearing PPE took place in the last hour of poll. The bio-medical waste generated therein was systematically disposed as per the guidelines.

Manipur has again shown the way with a record voter turnout and voting in a peaceful manner.

Active Covid-19 cases in India dip to 85,680

Agency
New Delhi, March 2:

India logged 7,554 new coronavirus infections, taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,29,38,599, while the active cases dipped to 85,680, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll climbed to 5,14,246 with 223 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The daily Covid-19 cases have remained less than one lakh for 24 consecutive days.

The active cases comprises 0.20 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has further improved to 98.60 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 6,792 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.96 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded as 1.06 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease surged to 4,23,38,673 and the case fatality rate was 1.20 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 177.79 crore.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

The 223 new fatalities include 168 from Kerala and 10 from Uttar Pradesh.

A total of 5,14,246 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,43,706 from Maharashtra, 65,501 from Kerala, 39,957 from Karnataka, 38,006 from Tamil Nadu, 26,126 from Delhi, 23,466 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,178 from West Bengal.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

“Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research,” the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

All efforts being made to bring back 7,000 to 8,000 Indians from Ukraine, says govt

Agency
New Delhi, March 2:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi “has spoken to the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Slovak Republic and Poland regarding safety and facilitation of evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine” and more flights, including those of the Indian Air Force (IAF), are being sent to evacuate them from the war-hit country, the Union government told the Kerala High Court Wednesday.

The Centre filed an affidavit in response to a petition by the Kerala High Court Advocates Association and the parents of a second-year medical student at VN Karazin National University in Kharkiv seeking directions

to the government to take all earnest efforts to facilitate the repatriation of students from Kerala stranded in Ukraine.

The affidavit submitted by Assistant Solicitor General S Manu said out of the estimated 20,000 Indian nationals in Ukraine, 30 per cent have already crossed the Ukrainian borders and another 30 per cent have reached India. “Out of the estimated 20,000 Indian nationals in Ukraine, 60% (30% reached India and 30% in neighbouring countries) have already crossed the Ukrainian borders and are safe. Government is also taking necessary measures to evacuate the remaining 40% of the Indian nationals by utilizing all its means,” it said.

The Centre also said that “as

on 1st March, 15 evacuation flights have already been operated” as part of Operation Ganga to evacuate stranded Indians “and 26 flights have been planned over 1st to 3rd March that will evacuate about 5500 more Indian nationals”.

“The situation in Kharkiv is volatile and under heavy shelling” and it is, therefore “advisable for our students to stay put wherever they are for their physical safety”.

In addition to the passenger flights, Air Force planes are also being sent to these countries, including two flights to Romania and one flight each to Poland and Hungary on March 2 for evacuation, the Centre said. More IAF flights would also be sent in the coming days, it added.

44 Assam Rifles distributed Sewing Machines for Self Employment

IT News
Imphal, March 2:

With an aim to promote women empowerment, assisting local women to support their families and enhancing their standard of living, 44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of 22 Sector/IGAR (East) distributed Sewing Machines to

the “Manipur Tribal Indigenous Farmers Committee” in Tamenglong district.

As a part “Mahila Shashaktikaran”, Battalion distributed ten sewing machines for the needy women to make them self reliant and provide a source of income to achieve meaningful socio-economic development through

self employment and self reliance. The event was conducted at Battalion Headquarters, Tamenglong and attended by President, secretary and members of “Manipur Tribal Indigenous Farmers Committee”, Tamenglong.

The committee president and secretary expressed their profound gratitude towards

Assam Rifles for supporting women empowerment in the region and praised the thoughtful initiative of the Battalion. This gesture by unit under Operation Sadbhavana shall pave way for socio-economic upliftment and development of the region and in turn, usher peace and harmony in the state.

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There is a need for tremendous.....

In the budgets of the last four financial years, less than one percent of the funds related to health and family welfare have been allocated for mental health services. The coverage of Ayushman Bharat or other insurance was also not given to these diseases. Obviously, it is not easy to solve this problem by relying on the government machinery of the country. Studies have shown that one out of every three people who have been cured of corona are likely to be found with some kind of nervous or mental disorder.

Amidst the government's claims of tele-counselling, we also have to note that according to the National Family Survey, only thirty-three percent of women in India use the Internet. Whereas among

men this number is fifty-seven percent. When only fifty-five out of a hundred people have internet access, the question arises as to how many mental patients will have access to the tele-consultation service starting from twenty three centers? The District Mental Health Program, already running across the country, is a component of the National Mental Health Programme. This program is applicable in six hundred ninety nine districts of the states and union territories. In the last six years, more than fifty percent of the amount released for this was returned without utilisation. Specialist psychotherapists are not available in eighty percent of the districts. Citizens have to go only to big cities for the services of specialists.

The World Health Organization has estimated that India is facing huge economic losses due to mental health disorders. The government has acknowledged in the Rajya Sabha that mental health disorders more disproportionately affect families with low income, low education and low employment. Most of the cost of treatment is direct expenses and there is a lack of state services and insurance coverage in this regard. As a result of which the poor and vulnerable have to face a lot of crisis financially.

In fact, there is a dire need of tremendous improvement in the mental health infrastructure as it has lost its connectivity with the wider system of health system. The corona

pandemic has made this problem worse. Primary physicians are not even trained to diagnose mental illnesses and depression. They are unable to send patients to places where they can get adequate and better care.

The problem has become more serious due to the lack of trained staff. In India, there are only 0.40 psychiatrists per one lakh population, whereas this figure should normally be three. In developed countries, six to seven psychiatrists are available per one lakh population. Surveys conducted by the World Health Organization in several countries have shown that about eighty-five percent of severe cases of mental health are never treated. What could be more serious than this?

Baba Farid College Professor R.K Uppal Conferred “MTC Global Lifetime Achievement Award-2022”

IT Correspondent
Guwahati, March 1:

MTC Global conferred prestigious, MTC Global Lifetime Achievement Award-2022 to Baba Farid College of Management and Technology, Professor Dr. R. K. Uppal, based on individual credentials and achievements in the field of higher education. A propound scholar and a professional par excellence with an impeccable academic background, Dr Rajinder Kumar Uppal is highly respected in the world of academics and has been acknowledged worldwide for efficient and effective propagation of best practices of the area of education and for striving to nurture the intellectual vertical growth and moral development of the students. The academician also excelled through exemplary contribution towards expansion of the boundaries of applications of knowledge through publication of many well researched books and technical papers in national and international journals of repute. His research has special significance in transforming the society through



various research papers.

Has been honored for being a man of letters who expressed his views on burning socio-economic issues and participated in debate/discussions on various regional and national TV Channels/Radios. His views/thoughts have special significance for policymakers, planners and researchers in India and abroad. Research gem in exploring subtleties of challenges faced by the Indian banking sector through presentations of ninety research papers on various socio-economic issues at the forum of National and International Conferences. The citing of his papers bears substantial testimony to the true global standing of his research work.

He is the highly prized research icon as his name got

enshrined in World Book of Records, U.K. for his research prowess. His claim as a researcher was never unfounded as eight of his research papers were duly weighed at different international conferences held at Hawaii, Indonesia, Finland, Costa Rica, Australia, London & Pakistan respectively. His insatiable craving for research got stimulus from UGC, ICSSR, HRD New Delhi as not less than seven post doctorate research projects were funded by these institutions. His monumental work forced various national organizations to acknowledge such an inclusive academic stalwart with jewel of India Award, pride of India Award, 2 Life Achievement Awards and Excellent Research Award by PCMA respectively. His academic and research work holds promise for the society as his plea of merger of banks eight years back has been implemented by the present Indian dispensation. In fact, Plethora of Awards, Degrees, Honours and Accolades bestowed upon him is an endorsement of his nonpareil academic excellence and research acclaim.

Ukraine Crisis: PM Modi, Macron Agree on Need to Reach Ceasefire as Soon as Possible



Agency
New Delhi, March 3:

In their phone conversation on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron focused on the "Russian aggression" against Ukraine and agreed on the importance of reaching a ceasefire as soon as possible. The French embassy in India said this in a readout on Wednesday, a day after the Modi-Macron talks. It said the two leaders underlined the importance of ensuring unhindered humanitarian access and agreed to maintain close coordination on the crisis, particularly at the UN Security Council.

The "tragic" death of an Indian student in shelling in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv

on Tuesday also figured in the discussion. "The discussion focused on the Russian aggression against Ukraine, in particular the issue of the impact on the civilian population at a time when a young Indian national had tragically died in Kharkiv as a result of the shelling," according to the readout. President Macron has been among a few European leaders actively engaged in diplomacy to defuse the crisis in Ukraine.

"The president of the French Republic and the prime minister of India agreed on the importance of reaching a ceasefire as soon as possible, ensuring unhindered humanitarian access, and maintaining close coordination, particularly at the UN Security Council," the French

embassy said. An Indian statement on Tuesday night said the two leaders discussed the ongoing situation in Ukraine and shared their concerns over continuing hostilities and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in that country. It said Modi reiterated India's consistent appeal for cessation of hostilities and a return to dialogue and diplomacy. "He stressed India's belief that respect for international law, the UN Charter and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states underpin the contemporary world order," it said.

It said the prime minister welcomed the talks between Ukraine and Russia and stressed upon the importance of ensuring free and uninterrupted humanitarian access

and smooth movement of all people. "The prime minister also briefed President Macron about India's efforts to evacuate its citizens from the conflict areas and to send urgent relief supplies, including medicines for the affected populations," it added.

Last week, India abstained from voting on a resolution at the UN Security Council that sought to deplore the Russian military attack on Ukraine. But at the same time, India called for respecting the "sovereignty and territorial integrity" of states and sought immediate cessation of "violence and hostilities".

While abstaining from voting on the resolution, India issued an 'Explanation of Vote' (EoV) in which it called for "return to the path of diplomacy" and sought immediate cessation of "violence and hostilities". India also told the UN Security Council that it has been in touch with all parties concerned urging them to return to the negotiating table.

With a number of resolutions coming up at the UN on the crisis, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Tuesday said India will consider them in their "entirety" and on the basis of national interests. "In the UN, we take positions that are based on certain very careful considerations and certainly we do regard the merits of each and every case," he said at a media briefing on Tuesday night.

"We will consider them in their entirety and take decisions in our best interests," Shringla said.

Governor, Arunachal Pradesh Reviews Passing Out Parade (POP) of Mahila Recruits at Assam Rifles Training Centre and School, Shokhuvi



IT News
Imphal, March 2:

In a major event at Dimapur, Nagaland, 868 new Mahila Recruits marched in perfect Rhythm and Synchronisation and passed out of the parade ground of the Assam Rifles Centre and School at Shokhuvi in Nagaland today. The occasion was the special attestation parade to mark the completion of 44 weeks of gruelling training in battle craft, weapon handling, jungle lane shooting and other specialization in Counter Insurgency operations. This POP was unique for the fact that it had only Mahila Recruits and the parade was led by Maj Sita Shelke, a lady officer posted at the ARTC & S.

The passing out parade was reviewed by the Brig (Retd) Dr B D Mishra, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in the presence of Lt Gen PC Nair, AVSM, YSM, Director General Assam Rifles and other senior officers of the Indian Army and

the Assam Rifles.

Addressing the recruits, the Governor highlighted the rich history of the Assam Rifles as the oldest paramilitary force of the country and its diversified role. He congratulated the recruits and their proud parents on successful completion of training and wished them success and happiness in their future endeavours. The Hon'ble Governor called on the Recruits to serve the Nation with all sincerity besides asking them to keep pace with technology. He also stated that as Mahila Soldiers their job was even more challenging than their male counterparts given that besides their job responsibility they would also have to shoulder the responsibility of their families. Hon'ble Governor added that he was pleased to be attending this unique POP which was all women and had perhaps the longest number of Mahila Recruits passing out from any Academy or Training Centre anywhere in the

country.

Assam Rifles is the oldest Para Military Force of the Nation and has since 2015 inducted Rifewomen in all frontline duties. The brave Rifewomen have proven their mettle not only in the Northeast but also in J&K and UN Missions. As on date Assam Rifles has 36 Rifewomen deployed in the Kashmir Valley and more than 34 have served in the UN Mission at Golan Heights, Israel (UNDOF) and Congo (MONUSCO). Their presence in the frontline duty not only instils a sense of security amongst the local women and children but also boosts the image of the country as being a progressive Women Empowered Country.

The newly passed out Rifewomen (Mahila Soldiers) will now join their respective Units in all frontline duties and will continue to serve the Country thereby making it a moment of glory not only for the Assam Rifles but also the entire nation.

Sports

Jamshedpur FC beat Hyderabad FC 3-0, qualify for maiden ISL semifinal

Agency
Bambolih, March 2:

Jamshedpur FC on Tuesday qualified for their maiden Indian Super League semifinals with a clinical 3-0 win over Hyderabad FC in a top-of-the-table clash here on Tuesday.

The result saw Jamshedpur knocking Hyderabad FC off their perch in the table, besides qualifying for the semifinals for the first time. The only blemish in an otherwise spotless performance for Jamshedpur was the sending off of Mobashir Rahman in the 68th minute.

Chinglensana Singh (5th minute) scored an own goal to help Jamshedpur take the lead before skipper Peter Hartley (28th) and Daniel Chima Chukwu (65th) struck to take the game away from Hyderabad.

Jamshedpur now are in pole position with 37 points from 18 matches, two more than Hyderabad (35 points) with a game in hand.

The result is more creditable as Jamshedpur won against the leaders without Greg Stewart, who has been arguably their best player. Stewart is serving a one-match suspension after picking up four yellow cards.



Hyderabad made a lot of changes to the side from the last game with Bart Ogbache also not kept in the mix.

After the game started on a frantic note, Chinglensana put the ball in his own net after a Mobashir Rahman's low shot took a wicked deflection off his foot and wrong-footed goalkeeper Gurmeet Singh, who was playing for the first time this season in place of seasoned custodian Laxmikant Kattimani.

The early goal hurt the league leaders as they shifted

gears, seeing more of the ball in the final third with Jamshedpur pressing them higher up the park. Aniket Jadhav pulled wide after beating his marker with a neat piece of skill.

But Jamshedpur doubled their advantage from a set-piece. Alexandre Lima swung in a delightful corner for Hartley to leap highest and head home across the face of goal leaving Gurmeet rooted to his spot.

At half time, the Men of Steel led 2-0 and in the second

half, the Owen Coyle-coached side never took their foot off the pedal.

Hartley came close to doubling his goal tally from a corner and Chima dragged wide from close. The in-form Nigerian did not have to wait too long though for a goal, slotting home a botched Khassa Camara clearance which was set up for him by Lima.

Hyderabad could have pulled one back but Javier Siverio missed from close range.



Manipur Apex Handloom Weavers & Handicrafts Artisans' C.S. Ltd.

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STATE HANDLOOM EXPO 2021-22

NOTICE

The 2nd March 2022

No. 16/AWAS/NOTICE-2010-11: Applications are invited from the Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies /Awardees /Individual Weavers /SHGs /Handloom Entrepreneurs /Producer Company /NGOs who have already registered to **Handloom Mark or India Handloom Brand or undergoing for registration** to either of the above that the Manipur Apex Handloom Weavers & Handicrafts Artisans C.S. Ltd. (AWAS), Governor's crossing, Paona Bazar, is organising a State Handloom Expo 2021-22 under the sponsorship of the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India from 11th March 2022 to 24th March 2022 at Urban Haat, Nilakuthi, Imphal East, Manipur. Eligible and interested ones are informed to submit the filled in application forms on or before 7th March 2022 to the office of the undersigned during office hour. Forms are available at the AWAS office during office hour.

Sd/-

(L. Ojit Singh)

Business Manager, AWAS

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