

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh tabled Demands for Supplementary Grants and Budget Estimates

IT News
Imphal, March 24:

In the afternoon session of the ongoing 1st day of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh tabled Demands for Supplementary Grants 2021-2022 and Budget Estimates 2022-2023 in the House. N. Biren Singh also presented the first report of the Business Advisory Committee, 2022. He also laid the Annual report of Manipur Information Commission for the year 2018-2019 and Annual report of Manipur Lokayukta 2020-2021.

After the Governor's address and motion of thanks to the Governor's address, Obituary reference was conducted on the demise of the 5 (Five) former members of the



Manipur Legislative Assembly. The 5 former members are Leitanthem Tomba Singh of 31- Thoubal Assembly Constituency, A. Aza of 45-Chingai ST/AC, Wahengbam Angou Singh of 21- Naoriya

Pakhanlakpa A/C, Mayengbam Manihar Singh of 36- Wabagai A/C and Athuibo Daimai of Aimal A/C.

During the Obituary reference Chief Minister N. Biren

Singh said that losing the prominent members of the Assembly is a great loss for the State. Their deeds and dedicated services to the people will always be remembered.

Opposition Leader O.

Ibobi Singh, MLA Khasim Vasum, MLA Usham Deven Singh and Minister Awangbow Newmai also expressed their profound grief and sorrow to the departed souls.

Satyabrata elected as Speaker of Manipur Assembly

IT News
Imphal, March 24:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Thokchom Satyabrata Singh was elected unanimously as the 12th Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

Forty eight year old Satyabrata Singh, a legislator from Yaikul assembly constituency, was elected Speaker "unanimously" when the house of 60 members assembled this morning ahead of the first session of the 12th Manipur assembly with state governor address.

Satyabrata holds a Master's degree in science stream from Manipur University and is a resident of Singjamei. Wangma Bheigyabati Leikai in Imphal East district.

Elected for the first time from Yaikul seat in 2017 assembly elections, Satyabrata was the Consumers Affairs and Public distribution minister (2020-2021) in the previous BJP led coalition government in the state.

He was re-elected from Yaikul seat in the recently



concluded assembly election by defeating his nearest contender and National People's Party candidate Huidrom Vikramjit Singh by a margin of 632 votes.

On Monday, newly elected BJP legislative party leader N Biren Singh (Heingang) was sworn in as the chief minister of the state for the second term consecutively along with five other MLAs-Th Biswajit (Thongju), Y Khemchand (Singjamei), K Govindas (Bishnupur), Nemcha Kipgen (Kangpokpi) and Awangbow Newmai (Tamei) as cabinet ministers. Chief Minister Biren Singh is yet to distrib-

ute the portfolios to the newly sworn ministers. At the same time he is yet to induct six more ministers in his council of ministers.

Later sharing a picture in which he along with congress legislature party leader O Ibobi Singh escorted the new speaker Satyabrata to his chair, in a tweet, Chief Minister Biren Singh wrote, "Heartiest congratulations to my colleague, Thokchom Satyabrata Singh on being unanimously elected as the new Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. I wish him the very best on his new endeavor!"

Appeal to SAPO and Governments of Manipur & Nagaland

IT News
Imphal, March 24:

The Central Executive Committee, World Meetei Council (WMC) in a press release express its shock to learn the decision of Southern Angami Public Organisation (SAPO) for extending the bandh on National Highway 2 (NH2) in the Angami dominated areas which was to end today.

The Press release said, "We all know that this is a very important lifeline of Manipur. WMC understands the sentiment of SAPO. But SAPO must also understand that they cannot take the people of the region into ransom while they demand something from the government. The last three days of bandh had already put the people into much trouble and now to extend the bandh indefinitely is extremely unjustified. Blocking a National Highway, a National property as a means to protest at the cost of innocent people who have nothing to do with the issue is a serious violation of human rights. It is the

common people who suffer the most from such bandhs. Therefore as a fraternal people WMC in the native people in the region earnestly appeal SAPO to end this road blockade."

WMC urged the state governments of Manipur and Nagaland to settle the issue at the earliest before it creates more problems

NEDF condemns the killing of Ningthoujam Lanthoibi

IT News
Imphal, March 24:

North East Dialogue Forum (NEDF) with serious concern condemn the inhuman behaviour of Khagembam Ashok aged 28, S/O Kh Naran of Khurai Ahongei Leikai. In the gruesome incident, Khagembam Ashok shot a 22 year old woman at Sabungkhok Khunou of Yaingangpokpi area on 20th March. The man is reportedly to have used a shot-gun to commit the crime.

The accused eloped with the deceased woman Ningthoujam Lanthoibi alias Ichal on March 6 2022 and was staying at the brick farm owned by the accused. The accused Ashok is already married and has two children.

It is really unfortunate to see such heinous crime in our state where guns are available and used freely by many citizens. It is time for the government to review to whom the gun licence shall be issued so that it can curb unwanted mis-

hap like the above incident. Many licence gun holders allow their friends, family members to utilize the gun they obtain under their name. Such shouldn't be allowed and guns issued to the owner's name should be strictly used by the owner only, a press release by NEDF said.

NEDF urged the government for speedy justice delivery to the victim's family and to impose legislation where guns are strictly to be used by owners' only.

Naga Students Federation condemns

IT News
Kohima, March 24:

The Naga Students' Federation in a press statement, condemns the arguments forwarded by Minister and State BJP President Temjen Imna Along Longkumer against the stand of the Naga people for the Flag and the Constitution to be accepted and recognized by the Government of India through the proposed solution, to the protracted Indo-Naga political issue during his recent speech in the Nagaland Legislative Assembly. His insinuation that

certain Naga political groups are indulging in delaying tactics for their selfish gains only reflects the shallow understanding of the issue that is just, fair and righteous.

While he indulges in rhetoric's that pleases his political bosses at the centre, he has altogether forgotten the blood, sweat and tears of those who gave up their everything in order to usher in a solution that is inclusive, honourable and acceptable to every Naga individual, said the press release by the Students Body.

The press release by the Student's body further said, "His public advocacy for the Naga solution to be brought within the framework of the Indian Constitution undermines the founding principles of the Naga homeland and the same is not accepted by the Naga youth and students' community. More so, his conviction that separate flag and constitution shall not form a part of the 'solution' reeks of a conspiracy to deprive the Naga people our legitimate rights wherein he is an integral part of, if not the mastermind of the same."

The Federation, therefore, is constrained to caution the state Minister on issues wherein he has very little or no knowledge about. Being a first time elected member of the state Legislative Assembly does not automatically qualify him to make sweeping statements on an issue that is more than a century old and involves the sacrifices of the entire Naga people. The Federation demands that the sentiments of the Naga people are truly respected by him and that no further attempts to placate his alter-egos are made, it added.

IMA Manipur mourns Dr. Motilal's demise

IT News
Imphal, March 24:

The Indian Medical Association Manipur (IMA) State Branch expresses its heartfelt condolences on the unexpected death of Dr. W. Motilal Singh, senior member of the Indian Medical Association (1947 to 2022). He earned his MBBS from CMC Vellore in 1967 and his Mch (Neurosurgery) from NIMHANS in Bangalore in 1982. He was crucial in the establishment of the Department of Neurosurgery at JN

Hospital, Porompat, and has treated residents of our state as well as those from neighbouring states. Later, he was promoted to the position of Medical Superintendent at the same hospital. He was the Medical Director of State and Family Welfare prior to his retirement in January 2010. He was the driving force behind the establishment of JNIMS, Porompat, which he renamed JNIMS from JN Hospital.

Following his retirement, he joined Rajmedicity, which was then known as Rajpoly

Clinic, and began working in the Department of Neurosurgery. He was employed there till November of 2016.

The Indian Medical Association Manipur State Branch held a 'Condolence Meeting' at the IMA Hall in Lamphel in memory of the departed soul yesterday. In honour of the departed soul, a 'one' minute silence was observed.

The Associated mourns this loss and prays that the Lord will provide the strength and comfort needed to overcome it.

Indians ahead in enjoying public holidays

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's government declared a public holiday on Martyr's Day (Shahidi Diwas), thus increasing the loss of working

hours and productivity. What does the government want to convey after announcing a new public holiday? Actually the new Chief Minister is expected to follow the path of extra work, instead of making the government machinery idle by declaring one more holiday. The closure of government offices ultimately causes trouble to the public and increases the burden on the government exchequer. Taking this move seriously, the Chandigarh administration and the Haryana government also announced a holiday on Shahidi Diwas, closing all government offices for a day. That's not a good idea. This indicates that the Aam Aadmi Party believes in leisure rather than increasing productivity.

On the other hand, there is the example of Uttar Pradesh, where Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of the BJP had announced the cancellation of 15 public holidays as soon as he took office in April 2017 during his first tenure. These holidays were related to the birthday or death anniversary of some prominent persons. These holidays were started by the previous governments of Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Yogi Adityanath had said that "due to so many birthday related holidays, the education session of 220 days in schools was reduced to 120 days." Here, I must tell you that it is a fact that we Indians enjoy the most public holidays in the world. A 2014 report by Mercer revealed that India and Colombia are the two countries in the world which have the most number of public holidays, while the US and Mexico have the fewest public holidays. In 2015, hotels.com, a travel related portal, again ranked India above Colombia in terms of having maximum public holidays.

In 2003, George Fernandes, the then Defense Minister of India, had also raised concerns about declining productivity due to the high number of public holidays in the country. He considered the high number of holidays as a hindrance to overall economic growth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, despite being on the other side of age, works continuously every day and till date he has not taken a single day off after assuming office at the PMO. Punjab needs to be more productive to get out of debt and the menace of drug abuse. People have entrusted the responsibility to Bhagwant Mann with great expectations. It is to be expected that he will contribute to increasing the productivity and prosperity of the state, and not worsen its already dilapidated financial condition. The intention of the political leaders behind declaring new public holidays is to please the different castes and communities so that it helps in garnering their votes. At that time they forget that the people of the state have to pay the price for inefficiency. It should be that on the memorial day of a great person, more work should be done than other days and a record of productivity should be made. There would have been happiness when the leaders, officers and employees of Punjab would work more than usual on Martyr's Day and set new records of higher productivity.

Little learning



By: Vijay GarG

Rigour and depth of learning are no longer of value. The new curriculum for the four-year undergraduate course proposed by the University Grants Commission reduces the proportion of the honours or major subject in the workload to 30 per cent from around 73 per cent in the choice-based credit system of 2015. More, the proposed credit system is so arranged as to include an array of subjects unrelated to the central one. The compulsory 'common courses' in the first three semesters are, apart from a regional language and English, 'understanding India' — whose India? — and yoga education. Environmental science and sports, reminiscent of school, must be read too and, alarmingly for humanities students shaky in mathematics, mathematical and computational thinking and analysis as well as digital and technological solutions. The logic is enigmatic. Since every credit matters, a brilliant history student might end up doing badly in this segment of 24 credits after struggling with subjects far afield of his discipline. Is the UGC aiming at mediocrity and ignorance all round? The curriculum appears to undermine intellectual maturity by forcing students to spread themselves thin and that, too, possibly without any interest.

What is noticeable is the lack of choice. Freedom of thinking is being squeezed out. It is the same with universities, which, according to another UGC proposal, will have to accept a fixed number of PhD students on the basis of two central tests instead of having their own admission criteria. The constriction of choice begins from the undergraduate level. Even when students start on the major subject, one of the two minor subjects, earlier meant to complement the major one, has to be vocational. Specialization becomes a hollow word with 27 credits to be earned from three 'elective' subjects from the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. The concept is absurd, with multiplication of labour and overlapping of disciplines. The UGC cannot be unaware of the effect that this curriculum will have on the learning, thinking and research capabilities of young people. Is it to be inferred that the grinding down of the country's intellectual potential is deliberate? One of the meanings of the Latin root of the word, education, is to lead forth, or out. That can be imagined as being from darkness to light, not into outer darkness.

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Why is the BJP unable to win Elections in Kerala?

The Modi juggernaut is the electoral victories of the BJP since 2014 are ornamentally described as. Winning the Hindi heartlands of India, the BJP has always been making consistent progress in electoral politics. But towards the south, its influence was exiguous except in Karnataka which the BJP managed to make it a party stronghold. The party enjoyed meagre support or no support in the remaining south Indian states. But it never hesitated to painstakingly toil to make its presence felt. Among those, Kerala was the only state that rigorously kept the BJP at a distance from winning elections, except once in 2016 the saffron party managed to win one seat in its history, sending the party veteran O. Rajagopal to the state assembly from Thiruvananthapuram. When it comes to the parliament, the party had multiple arduous experiments during elections but it was never successful. Kerala's political intransigence remained unblemished all through the Modi wave, as a large area of the country conceded to the saffron dominance. Interestingly, the BJP has been actively present in the state ever since its first incarnation, the Jan Sangh. The Jan Sangh had its 14th National Plenary session conducted in Kerala in 1967 in which Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was crowned as its National President. There has always been an inflow of congruent Sangh ideologies into the social life of Kerala. Contribution of intellectuals like P. Parameswaran a senior RSS pracharak and ideologue, who rose to become the National Vice-President of the Jan Sangh, brought great fertility to the saffron thoughts in Kerala. He later chose to leave electoral politics completely and pursued and propagated cultural nationalism.

Year 1967 was again crucial for the Jan Sangh as the party was catapulted to the level of a political pressure force against the E.M.S. Namboodiripad led Communist government. Kowtow to the demand of the Indian Union

Muslim League (IUML), the state government decided to trim-size a new district chiseled out of Palakkad, Kozhikode and Kannur districts. This was purely on religious lines as the Malappuram District as it is today, was then a Muslim dominated area. In line with the creation of Pakistan, the IUML wanted a 'Mappilasthan' carved out of the three districts in the Malabar region. The Jan Sangh had fought against this move with great vigor, sending almost all its veteran leaders to jail. Again in 1975 during the emergency, many of its senior leaders were arrested under Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). So, the presence of RSS, Jan Sangh and the right-wing ideology have always been a part of Kerala's political spectrum. Yet the party despicably failed to make inroads into electoral victories. With all his Chanakya tantra, Amit Shah failed to send his men from Kerala to the parliament, not even once.

The BJP's electoral politics has been consistently progressive increasing the number of votes but inadequate to make any structural impact in the state's political scenario. In the assembly election-2021, the party managed to garner 11.3% of the total polled votes slightly increasing its vote share from 2016, which was 10.53%. Both the Left Democratic Front (LDF) headed by the CPI(M) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) led by the Congress have always been cautious to spread wet blankets on BJP's electoral prospects. They could engineer it by helping each other in case a BJP candidate was predicted to be the winner. The cross-voting trend in Kerala began in 1991, when K.G. Marar, a senior RSS pracharak deputized to BJP, failed to win the election from the Mancheswaram constituency by a thin margin of 1000 votes. Political



By: M.R. Lahu

revelations after the elections stunningly disclosed the secret that made Marar bite the dust. This continued in the same constituency and in many other constituencies until the last election. Again, K. Surendran, the present party president was defeated on a thin margin by the same unprincipled cross-voting and it is a worst kept secret in Kerala politics.

The BJP has consistently been upfront in trying to establish ties with the minorities especially the Christians. In a pragmatic move, the long-standing dispute between the Jacobite and Orthodox church in Kerala was brought to Narendra Modi's table for a consensus, with the present Goa governor also a BJP veteran P.S. Sreedharan Pillai mediated it. The saffron party has made concerted efforts to make inroads among the unimpressed minority. This being the case, the party could seldom make any impulse in the direction of winning hearts of the 18.4% Christians in the state. Elections 2021 in Kerala was seen as an opportunity for the party to improve its tally, becoming a perceptible opposition in the assembly. Interestingly, the BJP enjoyed the presence of metro man E. Sreedharan, retired civil servant C.V. Ananda Bose, former IPS officers Jacob Thomas and T.P. Senkumar (both retired DGPs) and many more reputed personalities in its bandwagon. Both the IPS officers had burnt their fingers for being truthfully resisting the ruling establishment's unwarrantable propaganda. Despite the party leadership's reach out to the minority, a visible consolidation of votes against the BJP remains a reality in the state. Still unconvinced about the genuineness of the party's secular credentials, the minority is still at a distance from the saffron cohort. Mostly in triangular fights, the BJP slips to triviality and the intense in-

fighting of the party's state leadership hammers the last nail on its coffin in every election.

Though the party manages to increase its vote share every time, the 'zero tally' pulls it down to the level of a chronic insignificance. The RSS initiative to lift the ailing party to a significant political pedestal has been a routine, per se. Bringing senior RSS pracharak Kummanam Rajasekharan to the party's rescue as its state president could give the party an ideological makeover. His simplicity, commitment and soft-spoken leadership received huge acceptance. He rose to popularity in Kerala as a mass agitator for the Hindu rights. His agitations during the famous Nilakkal violence in 1982 in connection with a church being allegedly built in the forest land of Sabarimala temple and the Marad massacre of 2002 in which eight Hindus were killed by an islamist mob in the Marad beach of Kozhikode got him win a superstardom among the Hindus in the state. But internal feuds in the party could not give him a breathing space, he was later enthroned as the Mizoram governor. The Ezhavas, the caste among the Hindus, predominantly lenient to the Communists, occupy about 24% of the state population as per the last census. The support that it extended to the left parties remained rock-hard until recently, though ripples of denial are surfacing with a slow pace. The Nairs, the second largest Hindu community comprising 14% of the population, is frequently flexible with its votes scattered among various parties. The BJP victory, with Modi taking the center stage winning elections, is still a mirage in the state of Kerala. The RSS keeps drawing discipline lines for the party leadership, but it fails to remain a unified cohort bringing good results in its electoral progress card. Winning elections in the God's own country is still an uphill task for the BJP and Modi.

(The writer is a Freelance Journalist / Social Worker)

Ensuring Price Stability In Economy Must Be RBI's Prime Focus

Centre Must Plan To Deal With Fresh Impact Of War In Ukraine

By: Anjan Roy

The Reserve Bank governor, Shaktikanta Das, has reiterated that the primary objective of the monetary would continue to be price stability. In an environment of unprecedented uncertainty and flux, maintaining stable price line could be a daunting task. All principal variables which would critically determine the course of prices in the economy are gyrating wildly.

Take the price of crude oil in the global markets. It had crawled up from early \$70 per barrel to as high as \$140 per barrel only couple of weeks back. It now is hovering around \$90 per barrel. The model predicting price line drifts has to take into account not just the price level in last, say, month but the troughs and highs in the recent context. Since, the global price of crude will translate itself in the overall price level eventually, it is therefore tricky to estimate what the levels should be and then work on that figure.

It is however at best a kind of guessmate that the RBI can reasonably base itself for formulating the monetary policy stance. It is learnt that the RBI works on a middle figure of between \$80 to \$85 per barrel for working out its inflation estimates and thus broadly fix the stance of its monetary policy. Going forward with a benchmark oil price is critically important. Oil prices will determine a whole series of variables.

A variation in oil price will leave the rupee go up or down. Only recently, we have seen the rupee coming under huge pressure as the crude prices lurched up. The Reserve Bank has a policy of seeking to maintain the exchange rate of the Indian rupee. The

rupee has depreciated in the last couple of weeks as the oil prices fluctuated.

Manning the rupee exchange rate means somewhat oblique interventions in the foreign exchange market. These interventions have unavoidable impact on the domestic liquidity and the overall foreign exchange balance. An effort to shore up the rupee against steep downward pressure raises domestic liquidity and thus it should work on the price line.

When there are secular trends operating, such as the global flows of capital and investments, adjustments in the interest rate in the US Federal Reserve or some turbulences in the trading markets, central bank interventions to hold up currency rates are inevitably defeated. Just recently, with the announcement of sanctions, the Russian rouble slid down precipitously even though the Russian central bank had raised its policy rate to a suicidal level of 20%. That did not need to say stop the rouble's slide against the US dollar.

It is against this context of the global turmoil that the RBI governor's statements have to be read. Only on Monday, responding to industry's queries about the central bank monetary policy goals and actions, Shaktikanta Das assured that he would ensure adequate liquidity and credit for the domestic industry and business.

For the assembled industry representatives, it might have been sweet music. However, here the governor was not adding any fresh information. After all, RBI has been merrily adding to domestic liquidity in conjunction with the government.

Finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, has been singing praise for the RBI in recent interactions with the press and referring to the wonderful co-operation between the RBI and the North Block. That is the expression of satisfaction of the government for the liberal accommodation whenever North Block was under pressure during the Covid pandemic.

However, these have obvious implications for the rice level. In the recent days, we are seeing a stiff rise in prices of essentials. The core inflation is rising. The consumer price index (CPI) which has been adopted as the benchmark for deterring monetary policy stance, is hovering invariably above the Reserve Bank's band of 4%, plus minus 2.

For the last three months, the CPI had shown crossing that limit. However, RBI did not kick in any of the conventional anti-inflationary measures. As a matter of fact, the RBI has kept the interest rate unchanged. The question is will the RBI be successful in maintaining a stable price regime.

Underlying the question is the central bank's perpetual dilemma. How to maintain price line stable in times of great stress. A stick conventional regime of price control would create other problems like setting off a contractionary trend.

The RBI has preferred the growth path. He has argued that the "momentum of inflation" is falling since the last three months and hence he does not expect the price line to remain definitely high pace. He is saying that the song inflation print is more a statistical phenomenon than real. One of course has

to see the future course. Hence, on the basis of this comfortable interpretation of the inflation figures he is predicating its expansionary stance of monetary policy.

Of course, there is some justification for taking such a risk.

When the Indian economy had emerged from a devastating phenomenon of a shrinking national income only last year, what do you do? At least, maintain the pace of economic recovery or throttle the rising prices. The RBI is hopefully projecting a growth for the Indian economy at over 8.5%. This also could be seen as an act of faith.

As if there was no dearth of problem woes for the global economy since the outbreak of the pandemic and frustrating lock-downs in major economies, the Ukraine war is another of those blights. Again, governor Das believes that the European war should not touch the Indian economy. But the way the principal combatant behaving, you never know where we should stop.

The dogged resistance that Ukraine has already demonstrated, halting Russian advance in the last three weeks, Russia has been totally humiliated. Before the hostilities started, no one doubted that Ukraine would be overrun in a matter of days. The fact, in broad daylight is that the Russians have not achieved even remotely what they hoped for.

It appears as though, the world economy, including India's, is following a path which is difficult to predict. So the only dictum, hope for the best, prepare for the worst.

(IPA Service)

India Reports 1,938 Covid-19 Cases in Last 24 Hours; Actives Infections Decline to 22,427

Agency
New Delhi, March 24:

With 1,938 coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's total tally of cases rose to 4,30,14,687, while the active cases further declined to 22,427, according to Union health ministry data updated on Thursday. The death toll has climbed to 5,16,672 with 67 daily fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.05 per cent of the total infections, while the national

COVID-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.75 per cent, the ministry said. A reduction of 660 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate has been recorded at 0.29 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 0.35 per cent, according to the ministry. The last 24 hours saw a total of 6,61,954 COVID-19 tests being conducted in the country and so far, over 78.49 crore tests have been done.

The number of people who

have recuperated from the disease has increased to 4,24,75,588, while the case fatality rate has been recorded at 1.20 per cent. The cumulative doses administered, so far, under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 182.23 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed two crore cases on May 4 and three crore cases on June 23. The 67 new fatalities include 61 from Kerala. A total of 5,16,672 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,43,769

from Maharashtra, 67,476 from Kerala, 40,042 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,148 from Delhi, 23,492 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,197 from West Bengal.

The health ministry said 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.

Noney Battalion of AR organised Employment Generation Scheme Programme



IT News
Noney, March 24:

Noney Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of Headquarters 22 Sector Assam Rifles and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organised an Employment Generation Scheme Programme for the locals of Toudaijang Village of Nungba Sub-Division, Noney District on 24 Mar 2022 with an aim to increase awareness about the "Right to Work" and to motivate

the unemployed youth to choose the right career and to curb their mindset to join Under Ground (UG) groups.

The event began with an informative lecture on various Govt Employment Schemes wherein the villagers were enlightened about the various employment options available for their sustainable living. The programme covered various initiatives taken by Govt, such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guar-

antee Act (MGNREGA), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) which aim to alleviate poverty and foster economic growth.

Later, refreshments were also distributed to the participants. A total of 40 villagers participated in the event with utmost zest and zeal while aptly abiding to the adequate COVID-19 protection measures.

India needs over 2,000 new aircraft in next 20 years: Airbus

Agency
New Delhi, March 24:

India will require 2,210 new aircraft over the next 20 years, according to Airbus' latest India Market Forecast. That fleet could comprise 1,770 new small and 440 medium and large aircraft.

Over the next decade, India will grow to have the largest population in the world, its economy will grow the fastest among the G20 nations, and a burgeoning middle class will spend more on air travel. As a result, passenger traffic in India will grow at 6.2 per cent annually by 2040, the fastest among the major economies

and well above the global average of 3.9%.

India has witnessed an upward trend in the growth of air traffic over the last ten years with domestic traffic growing almost threefold and international traffic more than doubling.

On international routes, India has only about 1/10th of the wide body fleet installed in similar markets, depriving homegrown carriers of a larger share of the profitable long-haul routes now dominated by foreign airlines.

"We have seen India's domestic market develop strongly with our flagship A320 aircraft. It is time now for

Indian carriers to unlock the potential of international travel in and out of India, leveraging the country's demographic, economic and geographic dividends," said Remi Maillard, President and MD, Airbus India & South Asia.

"Whether it is expanding existing airlines or supporting new airlines, there must now be a re-fleeting and rethinking about future-oriented solutions with technology that paves the way for sustainable long-range travel. The A350 is the perfect solution for that," Maillard said, announcing the India Market Forecast on the opening day of the Wing India air show being held at

Hyderabad from March 24 to 27, 2022.

To serve its growing aviation industry, India will require an additional 34,000 pilots and 45,000 technicians by 2040.

The complete Airbus product line comprises the only aircraft specifically designed for the small single-aisle market, the A220, the world's best-selling A320 Family, the mid-size wide body A330/330neo and the Long-Range Leader, the A350. In the freight market, Airbus aircraft are available with the A320/321P2F (Passenger to Freighter), the A330-200F and A330P2F as well as the world's newest freighter, the A350F.

Career Guidance & Counselling Event Organised

IT News
Imphal, March 24:

44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of 22 Sector Assam Rifles/Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organised a Career Guidance & Counselling Camp at Tamenglong Town yesterday.

The event was aimed to guide the young students of the district for shaping their future in the right direction. An information centre was also displayed by unit to motivate the youth for joining Indian Armed Forces and provide them the

right path to choose among the various options in the defence forces. The students were very keen and inquisitive throughout the lecture. A total of 200 students along with teachers and parents joined the event and got enlightened regarding various career options.

Taking the opportunity the Commandant addressed the youth to dream big and then work relentlessly to pursue the dream. He asked them to join the armed forces and don the uniform with honour so that they can contribute positively to the

nation building. During the lecture also emphasis was also laid upon the importance of a healthy education system for a progressive society. It was stressed upon the fact that education helps in curbing social menaces like drug abuse etc and advised the students and parents to make maximum use of the education facilities available. The students were motivated to go for higher education which will help them in getting good jobs and thus contributing to their growth as well as the growth of the society.

Naval Uprising Commemorative Event organized in Mumbai

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, March 24:

The wreaths were laid and memories of the pre-Independence Naval Uprising were revived at a Naval Uprising Commemorative Event, organized by the Western Naval Command, located at Coopers, in South Mumbai on Wednesday.

The event was organized at the Naval Uprising Memorial, as part of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" (75 years of Independence) in which veterans, school children, and people in large number participated.

On the occasion a Prabhat Pheri (a short awareness morning march) was organized from the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) complex at Nariman Point to Marine Drive, accompanied by the Navy Band playing patriotic tunes. It comprised Sea Cadet Corps cadets, school children, and members of the public.

Maharashtra Minister for Tourism and Environment Aaditya Thackeray, who was the Chief Guest at the main event, laid the wreath, followed by serving personnel, veterans, and invited dignitaries, in a solemn naval ceremony. The contribution of the uprising of Navy ratings to the Independence movement was discussed and reminisced through an event planned at the lawns of the Sailors Home, adjacent to the Memorial, subsequently.

In the evening the Naval Band performed at the Marine Drive, even as a large number of Mumbaiers made a beeline to pay floral tributes and light candles.

It may be recalled that the Naval Uprising started onboard



HMIS Talwar in Mumbai on February 18, 1946, against the then British government in India. From that initial flashpoint, it spread rapidly and found support throughout India, from Karachi to Kolkata, and ultimately came to involve over 20,000 sailors in 78 ships and

shore establishments.

The movement also received an upsurge of support from civilians across the country. The people of Mumbai took to the streets in thousands to strengthen the uprising which shook the very foundation of the British government in India

and has since been viewed as a key event of the freedom movement.

To commemorate the Uprising, the Memorial was erected at Coopers in Colaba in South Mumbai, by the Western Naval Command on December 04, 2001.

PEACE Crafts Bazar

Venue: Khoyol Keithel, Moirang Lamkhui
Bishnupur District, Manipur

Date: 26th March, 2022 4th April 2022
Time: 10:30 a.m.



Item Display of Sales

*Cane & Bamboo *Hand Embroidery *Artistic Textile
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শ্রীশ্রী গৌরচন্দ্রায় নমঃ



পূৰ্বব্ৰহ্মাণ্ডৰ ঐশ্বৰ্য্যে স্বাহে ইন্দ্ৰজ্ঞান তীৰ্থীৰ শাশ্বতপুৰাণ "খোৰা শিংহনা মণ্ডী নুংজিৰাৰা ইমুং মনুং শাংগে নাটে অমনি মৰপ মপাং ঐশ্বৰ্য্যে স্বাহে পুন্মকপুৰাণে কল্যাণ হোঁবাৰা তাং ১৬/০৩/২০২২ ইং, লমতাসী ১৩ নি পানবা হুন্মকপা নুংমতাসী শ্রীশ্রী গৌৰচন্দ্রায় নমঃ গুণনা শ্রীকৃষ্ণ চৈতন্য দাশ হাৰাৰা নাম কং জুনা বৃন্দাবন প্ৰাপ্তি ওইব্ৰে, লাক্ষ্মীৰা তাং ২১/০৩/২০২২ ইং, লমতাসী ১৮ নি পানবা নিংখোঁকাৰা নুংমতাসী অগ্নি সঙ্কৰ লোখৎচল্লগা, লাক্ষ্মীৰা তাং ২৬/০৩/২০২২ ইং, লমতাসী ২৭ নি পানবা লৈবপোঁকপা নুংমতাসী চিৰা উৎসব দিন খোঁক্ৰে। নুংমং অসিনা লৈবপোঁকপা আৰা শান্তিসীমক ওমজবা বহু খৰদং হৰি সন্তোষনা লোয়ননা শ্রীশ্রী গৌৰচন্দ্রায় মহাপত্নী চৈবপা কচগদোঁৱ।

উপলব্ধ অসিনা ব্ৰাহ্মণ বৈদ্য, অহল লমন মৰপ মপাং স্বাহে বিবিত্তা মন চ্যনা লেউবিত্তনা হৰি নাম শ্ৰবন তৌবিত্তনা পত্না নিমন্ত্ৰণ কৰি। পত্না নিমন্ত্ৰণ কৰবগী অপৰাধ খিৰিক ওকপিগনি।

বিনিতগণঃ

শাশ্বতপুৰাণ ওংবী সলাখুং দেবী (লোউবিত্ত)

খোংমন জোনঃ ৪।।

India has been ranked third largest primary energy consumer in the world

PIB
New Delhi, March 24:

The Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Rameswar Teli in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today informed that the as per India Energy Outlook 2021, published by International Energy Agency (IEA), India has been ranked third largest primary energy consumer in the world.

India's Hydrocarbon requirements are met through

domestic production as well as through imports. The country imports oil and gas from various geographical regions including countries from the Middle-East, Africa, Europe, North America, South America and South-East Asia.

As per World Energy Outlook 2021 of IEA, the current share of India in global primary energy consumption is 6.1% and is likely to increase to about 9.8% under stated policies scenario by 2050. To meet the increased requirement of

hydrocarbon fuel, major strategies adopted inter alia include: attracting investment in Exploration & Production to enhance domestic oil and gas production, shifting to gas based economy, technological upgradation to improve refinery processes, energy efficiency and productivity, accelerating bio-fuel economy, expanding overseas oil and gas portfolio, diversifying oil and gas supply sources, etc. Government has taken up development of National Gas Grid, City Gas Distri-

bution Networks to cover major demand centres across the country to provide clean and green fuel to Public. As per Ministry of Power, significant addition to Thermal (28,460 MW), Large Hydro (12,663 MW) and Nuclear Energy (8,700 MW) capacity is underway.

The Government has also announced its aim of achieving 500 GW installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based capacity (Hydro, Nuclear, Solar PV, Wind, Biomass etc.) by 2030.

Assam-Meghalaya border dispute resolved at six points; Centre to remain a facilitator in states' boundary clashes: Govt

Agency
New Delhi, March 24:

The government, on Wednesday said that Assam and Meghalaya have agreed for permanent settlement of inter-state boundary disputes at six locations. Speaking in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said that the central government has maintained its role as a facilitator in inter-state boundary

disputes.

"As a result of these discussions, the CMs of Assam and Meghalaya have agreed for permanent settlement of the inter-state boundary in respect of six areas of difference out of total 12 areas of difference between the states of Assam and Meghalaya," Rai said in Rajya Sabha.

Rai said that discussions have been going on at various levels between the states of

Assam and Meghalaya to arrive at an amicable solution to the border issue at the remaining flashpoints along the border.

He further stressed that the inter-state boundary issues should be resolved only with the cooperation of individual state governments concerned and the Central government will act only as a facilitator for amicable settlement of boundary issues in the spirit of mutual cooperation.

Commenting on Census 2021, Rai said that the notification for the same was issued on March 28, 2019. However, it was postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19. "The conduct of Census 2021 and the related field activities have been postponed until further orders... The Questionnaire for the first phase of Census i.e. House listing and Housing Census was notified in the Gazette of India on 9th January 2020," Rai said.

Shaheed Diwas Observed

IT News
Imphal, March 24:

Manipur observed Shaheed Diwas yesterday at Maharaja Chandrakirti Auditorium, Palace Compound, Imphal with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh gracing the function as Chief Guest.

The observation was jointly organised by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Department of Art and Culture, Government of Manipur, paying tribute to Revolutionaries and Martyrs as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Celebrating 75 Years of India's Independence.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh expressed the need for thorough research and study on history of the State and added that the Government would make provision to provide financial assistance to those Writers and Researchers who want to dedicatedly work on collecting historical documents and compile good books on Manipuri History. He also stressed that knowing our history would help in instilling

a sense of brotherhood among different communities of the State.

He continued that Shaheed Diwas is observed in honour of the valour and commitment of those freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country. He stated that the Ministry of Art and Culture, Government of India under the supervision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been putting efforts to figure out unsung heroes and freedom fighters of the country and honour them during the year-long celebration to mark 75 years of India's Independence. He added that every citizen should feel proud with such initiatives of the Government to honour our freedom fighters.

Mentioning that the sense of nationalism and respect among people seemed to fade gradually, he maintained that one should show his love for the motherland with his work and commitment for the development of the country. He also assured that the State Government would always work for development of the State and

welfare of its people and would never break their trust.

As a part of the observation, N. Biren Singh led the other dignitaries in paying floral tribute to portraits of freedom fighters of the State. Play on Rani Gaidinliu by Prospective Repertory Theatre Manipur, screening of AKAM Film and short movie clip on 'Digital Jyot' were the main highlights of today's Shaheed Diwas observation.

Ministers Thongam Biswajit, Yumnam Khemchand, Govindas Konthoujam, Nemcha Kipgen, Awangbong Newmai, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Director General of Police P. Doungel and other senior officials of the State Government attended the function among others.

It may be mentioned that March 23 every year is observed as Shaheed Diwas to mark the death anniversary of freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar and to pay tributes to all the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country.

Closing function of State Handloom Expo held

IT News
Imphal, March 24:

The Closing function of State Handloom Expo 2021-2022 was held today. The State Handloom Expo was organized by Manipur Apex Handloom and Weaver And Handicrafts Artisan C.S. Ltd., Paona Bazar, Imphal under the sponsorship of Development Commissioner for Handloom Ministry of Textile Govt of India, New Delhi.

The key note address of the closing function was given by S. Bhulol, Vice President, Manipur Apex Handloom Weaver And Handicrafts Artisan C.S. Ltd., Paona Bazar. He stated that the Expo gives the chance to all Weaver as well



as Artisan for knowing the market value and bring the handloom and Handicrafts product in special level and the Expo is held in the form of market event.

The Guest of Honour of the function was AK. Sushila Devi, Assistant Registrar (Audit)

Cooperative Society, Manipur and the president of the function is A. Ronika Devi, President Manipur Apex Handloom Weaver And Handicrafts Artisan C.S. Ltd. and the guest of Honour of the function is Y. Shanktikanth, Officer in charge NHDC Ltd., Imphal.

Constantly review data of new Covid cases: Centre to states

Agency
New Delhi, March 24:

With the country continuing to report a decline in Covid-19 cases, the Health Ministry on Wednesday directed the states for constant review of emerging data of new cases based on sustained testing at the district level.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan told chief secretaries of the states that

restrictions and relaxations should be taken after proper analysis of the local situation, including emergence of new clusters, case positivity, the geographical spread of cases, and hospital infrastructure preparedness.

Bhushan specifically reiterated to the states that they need to watch the trajectory of cases in areas reporting positivity rate - above 10% and bed occupancy more than 40% on either oxygen

support or ICU beds - and implement containment and restriction measures in these areas.

"Taking into account the sustained and steep decline in Covid-19 cases across the country, the states have been undertaking various measures to reopen social and economic activities. There is a need to follow a risk assessment based approach on the opening of economic and social activities without los-

ing the gains made so far in the fight against the pandemic," Bhushan wrote.

Bhushan reiterated the continued focus on the five-fold strategy of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour.

With a continuous decline in cases, Bhushan asked the states to resume social gatherings and congregations and offline classes in academic classes.

Sports

India lose to Bahrain 1-2 in international friendly

Agency
Arad, Bahrain, March 24:

The Indian football team fought hard before going down to higher-ranked Bahrain 1-2 in an international friendly here on Wednesday. Mid-fielder Mohammed Al-Hardan struck the game's opening goal - a volley in the 38th minute at the Al Muharraq Stadium.

Al-Hardan's strike did not prove to be enough for the home side as the Indian team, seven of whose members could not reach Bahrain with the rest of the squad on Tuesday owing to visa-related issues, hit back in the 59th minute through a Rahul Bheke header.

Head coach Igor Stimac's move to introduce Naorem Roshan Singh at the start of the second half proved to be decisive as it was through his assist that India managed to restore parity. However, India's joy was short-lived as Mahdi Humaidan struck the all-important goal in the 88th minute to seal the deal in

favour of Bahrain.

Up against the 91st-ranked Bahrain, Stimac's side, which is currently placed at 104 in the FIFA rankings, found the going tough from the word go and, had it not been for a fine save from the spot by skipper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, the Indians would have trailed by a bigger margin at half time.

Bahrain were awarded a penalty as early as the sixth minute of the game after a hand ball by Indian defensive mainstay Sandesh Jhingan but goalkeeper Gurpreet, diving to his left, led by example to deny the hosts an early lead with a brilliant save.

Undeterred, Bahrain pressed hard and pushed India on the back foot with their attacking game, even as Mohamed Marhoon struck the woodwork after getting the ball in the box. Mahdi hit the ball on the bounce but his attempt went wide.

Meanwhile, in one of their better chances, India's Danish Farooq received Anwar Ali's lofted ball from the right but his header was not on tar-

get. Gurpreet showed good anticipation at the post but he could not stop Al-Hardan's volley from finding the back of the net.

Stimac made a change to the XI at the start of second half, bringing in Naorem Roshan Singh on place of Liston Colaco, and the move soon paid dividends as the former played a role in India's much-needed equaliser against the run of play.

Having got the better of the off-side trap, Bheke headed in the ball into the back of the net after Roshan Singh put in a cross from the right. Bahrain tried to control the game by keeping possession but India stood firm, their defense frustrating the opponents no end.

However, Bahrain had the last laugh thanks to Mahdi's winner. India are playing the friendly as part of their preparations for the Asian Cup Qualifiers in June.

India have never defeated Bahrain. In the six last fixtures between them, India's best result has been the 0-0 draw in 1982.

I-League: Neroca FC will look to keep their unbeaten run going against motivated Sudeva Delhi

Agency
West Bengal, March 24:

Agency: Sudeva Delhi FC will be trying to bounce back against the in-form and unbeaten Neroca FC after suffering back-to-back defeats. The latter are heading into this match following two draws in their previous two games. On Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 5.30 p.m. IST, the game will be held at the Kalyani Municipal Stadium.

Mehrajuddin Wadoo, the head coach of Sudeva Delhi FC, is attempting to keep his team motivated ahead of a vital encounter. "We had to suffer two tight defeats in the past two matches." I don't have any issues with them. They performed admirably. Regrettably, the outcomes were not in our favour. However, we are putting in a lot of effort to achieve our goals. It will be a crucial game for us, and we are looking forward to it.

In the pre-match press conference, young midfielder Akbar Khan accompanied the



coach. "The results of the last few games have disappointed us, but we are working hard as a squad to improve." We've made a few errors. "Our goal is to cut them down and beat Neroca FC, who has been playing brilliantly recently," he continued.

Mehrajuddin Wadoo further stated that his side should treat each game as a final from now on. "Neroca FC is, without a doubt, a very good squad. So far, they haven't been defeated. Their performance reflects where they are right now. However, we must carry out our goals

and concentrate on the development of our other players," the coach said.

Neroca FC head coach Khogen Singh, on the other hand, wants to keep the momentum going in the forthcoming matches. "We had to settle for draws against extremely excellent clubs in our past two games." We're doing great, but we're giving up goals in the final minutes. "We have to make sure we finish the game strong," said the head coach.

Prateek Kumar Singh, the goalkeeper, is also pleased with his recent performances.

"In the camp, we're in a terrific mood. Players assist one another in improving. "We want to keep up our good work and win games," he added.

Mehrajuddin Wadoo, the head coach of Sudeva Delhi FC, is attempting to keep his team motivated ahead of a vital encounter. "We had to suffer two tight defeats in the past two matches." I don't have any issues with them. They performed admirably. Regrettably, the outcomes were not in our favour. However, we are putting in a lot of effort to achieve our goals. It will be a crucial game for us, and we are looking forward to it.

Despite the fact that the opponents are in poor form heading into the match, Neroca FC's head coach is aware of Sudeva Delhi's threats. "They aren't in the best of form, but they are performing admirably." They will be motivated to win as well. As a result, we must avoid making unintentional errors. To get all three points, we need to generate chances and complete the game," he said.