

Final phase election concludes, but re-polls likely as violence mars the election today



IT News
Imphal, March 5:

Final phase election of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly was held today with the completion of the 2nd phase polling today amidst violence at some polling station, with report of a voter killed and injuring another at Karong Assembly constituency in Senapati district. Re-poll in 12 polling stations in five assembly constituencies have also been completed with high voters turnout. Average Poll percentage recorded at 3 pm was 67.77%.

All together, 92 candidates including 2 women candidates are in the fray in today's election. The number of candidates in first phase election was 173. With the completion of the 2nd and the final phase election fate of the 265 candi-

dates are sealed in EVMs. Even if the ECI announced re-poll of the 2nd phase poll, the counting of vote will be conducted on 10th of March. Election process will be completed on March 12.

A total of 8,47,400 voters including 4,28,968 females and 4,18,432 males had exercised their franchise in the 2nd phase election held today in 22 Assembly constituencies while in the first phase 12,09,439 electors had exercised their franchise in the 1st phase poll held in 38 assembly constituencies.

At most of the polling stations, polling was peaceful with some unwanted incidents among workers of candidates over proxy voting. At a polling station at Karong assembly constituency 1 person was killed while another injured in police action after the

two tried to snatch the EVM at 47/49 polling station at Ngamju Village in Senapati district. The deceased has been identified as K. Longva of the same village and the injured person has been identified as Saope. He is reported to be undergoing treatment at a RIMS hospital in Imphal. Earlier today morning a 25 years old person, identified as one Leimapokpam Amuba Singh, son of L. Binoy of Wangjing Hodamba Maning Leikai in Wangjing Tenthia Assembly constituency succumbed to bullet injury today morning after miscreants shot him yesterday evening.

At Tengenoual assembly constituency, stray incidents of poll violence were reported at polling station of Khudei Khunou, while polling in Chandel AC underwent smoothly without report of

any violence. "A minor scuffle took place at 42/29 polling station in Tengenoual AC at around 9 am, but the matter was settled peacefully and the election process was restored," the DEO said.

Meanwhile in Nungba AC under Noney district, barely a few hours before the polling began on Saturday a voter alleged that some UG cadres came to Congress Camp around 3 am Saturday at Bwanruangh Taudaizaeng village and threatened that only 100 votes can be cast for Congress candidate. Bwanruangh Taudaizaeng village is located nearly 19 km away from Nungba HQ.

The voting in 40- Jiribam Assembly constituency was reported peaceful.

The voting has started from 7 am in the 40 numbers of polling stations in Jiribam A.C.

with all the arrangements for the conduct of free, fair and safe manner of election of by the commission.

As per report, among the 40 numbers of polling stations, the polling station No. 40/3, 40/4, 40/5 40/12 and 40/13 were fully assigned to women polling officials.

In the early hours of voting, hundreds of voters seen standing in the long queue in most of the polling station.

The total numbers of voters in Jiribam Assembly constituency is 29298, out of which 14994 are male and 14304 are female.

Till the time of filling the report, around 32.69 % of voters turned out to cast their vote till 11:00 am.

The 4 candidates whose fate will be sealed in the EVM today are N. Budhachandra Singh, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP); Badrur Rahman, Indian National Congress; MK. Abbas Khan, NPP and Md. Ahab Uddin, Janata Dal (united).

In the 2nd phase election held today BJP candidate SS Olish and NPP candidate Langhu Pauling Anal are having straight fight. At Nungba assembly constituency too former deputy chief minister and INC candidate Gaikhangam and BJP candidate Dinganglung Gangmei are having straight fight.

At Mao Assembly constituency in Senapati districts, vehicles of NPF workers were reportedly destroyed by supporter of Independent candidate Woba Zoram.

At a polling station at Wabaching in Tengenoual Assembly constituency, vot-



ing was reportedly completed at around 11 am. Report said that armed persons kidnapped and threaten to the villagers to support a specific candidate belonging to a political party. At Wangjing tenthia Assembly constituency, tension was high as BJP alleged force vote without allowing their supporter to even seat as agents at some polling station and the same allegation from the side of the INC candidate.

Interestingly voting was reported peaceful in Heirok Assembly constituency where pre-poll violence was reported.

At Wabagai Assembly constituency there were scuffled between workers of the NPP and the BJP.

BJP fielded candidates for all the 60 assembly seats while Congress fielded 48 candidates, National People's Party has 43, Naga People's Front has 10 and Janata Dal(U) have

30 each.

In the first phase, a total of 173 candidates are in the fray, including 15 women. Among the key candidates are chief minister and BJP candidate from Heingang N Biren Singh, his cabinet colleague Thongam Biswajit Singh, speaker Y Khemchand Singh from Singamei, deputy CM and NPP candidate Yumnam Joykumar from Uripok and Manipur Congress president N Lokesh Singh from Nambol.

The 2nd phase of polling will decide the fate of former Chief Minister O Ibobi Singh, his son O Surjakumar, former Deputy Chief Minister Gaikhangam, forest minister Awangbow Newmai, Water supply minister Losi Dikho, former education minister Th Radheshyam, who were seeking re-election from Thoubal, Khangabok, Nungba, Tamei, Mao and Heirok assembly constituencies

Congress ready to challenge EC in Supreme Court on payment to SoO groups even as EC says it as normal procedure

IT News
Imphal, March 5:

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has said that he will file a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Election Commission decision which held that the payment of funds by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Manipur government to the banned militant groups under Suspension of Operation didn't violate the Model Code of Conduct.

On Friday, the Congress party accused the BJP government in Manipur of taking help from banned militant organisations for the second phase of the state elections by releasing funds in two instalments for the banned outfit, Kuki National Organisation. The opposition party alleged that these funds were not released for a long time but now it has been done to influence the polls. The Congress further alleged that the banned Kuki organisation



had started intimidating voters to support the BJP.

"Shockingly ECI held large payments to banned militant groups made on 1.1.22 & 1.3.22 by Manipur Govt do not violate Model Code of Conduct. They do & I'm petitioning Supreme Court. Payments were suddenly released dur-

ing (the) poll period after (a) long gap. It murdered elections in 11 seats!" Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet on Saturday.

On the other hand the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur, has stated that the payment is no violation of the code of conduct. It said the

Home Department and Finance Department had clarified that Rs 15.70 crore was released as stipend for SoO groups, as part of an ongoing programme since 2008, and that Rs. 92.6 lakh was paid as financial benefit to surrendered militants as part of a policy, and was not related to SoO groups.

On Friday, Ramesh and senior party leader Salman Khurshid met the Election Commission and sought its urgent intervention to ensure a free and fair election in Manipur. The Congress leaders accused the BJP government of releasing Rs. 15.7 crore on February 1 and Rs. 92.65 lakh on March 1 to banned militant groups under Suspension of Operation when the Model Code of Conduct was in effect in the state.

The Congress alleged that the president of the banned Kuki National Organisation is "intimidating electors to vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party and holding out dire consequences to electors not following the banned organization's instructions."

"Despite raising our concern, 6 persons accused in poll violence which led to murder, have been released on bail in the first week of March 2022 in Heirok Constituency," Khurshid alleged.

Indian Students Who Escaped From Kharkiv To Reach Poland Share Ordeal

IT News
Kharkiv, March 5:

Several students are still stuck in Kharkiv. We left Ukraine on March 1st amid bombing & shelling. After crossing the Poland border Indian govt provided us help, Pratyush Chaurasia who escaped from Kharkiv and reached Rzeszow in Poland told news agency ANI.

"I was stranded in Kharkiv, we boarded the train for western Ukraine. We traveled at our own risk as the situation is so horrible that nobody could have evacuated us from there. War is hurting our education prospects," said Akash.

Students are still stuck in Sumy. They have nothing to eat & also facing a shortage of water. The ceasefire will help to reach

out to borders, says a student who escaped from Kharkiv and reached Rzeszow in Poland.

Meanwhile, MEA Spokesperson has advised Indian students to take precautions, and stay inside shelters.

"We are deeply concerned about Indian students in Sumy, Ukraine. Have strongly pressed Russian and Ukrainian governments through multiple channels for an immediate ceasefire to create a safe corridor for our students", Arindam Bagchi, MEA Spokesperson stated in a tweet

"Have advised our students to take safety precautions, stay inside shelters and avoid unnecessary risks. Ministry and our Embassies are in regular touch with the students," Bagchi wrote further.

We are alive, that's the greatest blessing

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



There is a wonderful Buddhist organization in Ladakh, the Mahabodhi International Meditation Center (MIMC), which has an educational and spiritual campus spread over 250 acres of land, at a 20-minutes drive away from the Leh airport. The founder and President of MIMC Leh, Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, is a world-renowned meditation master known for world peace and harmony. People from all over the country and abroad fondly call him Guruji. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel with Guruji and attend some of his meditation sessions. I learned a few good things from these meetings such as we should always live in the present moment and let go of the things which are not under our control. Also, there should be an awareness of what is happening around us or whatever exists around us. Means, we should live with Consciousness. Life is beautiful and there are a lot of things going on around us, which we can miss in a hurry. For example, the chirping of birds on trees, flowers blooming in the garden, cool breeze, colourful flowers and leaves, inspiring sunrise, a peaceful sunset or the glittering stars in the sky.

Bhikkhu Sanghasena begins his morning meditation session with a sentence that "Life is uncertain. We have woken up safely, that's a great grace of God, because anything can happen at any moment in life. In such a situation, a healthy life is a thousand blessings." There is a point in this teaching. Think to yourself, had anyone thought before February 2020 that an invisible virus would come and stop the whole world? Had anyone ever imagined that the world would come to a complete standstill for two years and everyone would walk around with masks on, hiding their faces? When the world started recovering from the pandemic, Russia's military operation on Ukraine happened. There have been attacks on many countries in the past, but they did not directly affect our lives. But this time it is not so. Russia has been our friend for many decades and Ukraine was also an integral part of Russia (the erstwhile USSR). The language and culture of both the countries are the same even the appearance of the people there is the same. We have had educational and trade relations with both the countries. Therefore, it is natural for the Russia-Ukraine unrest to have a direct impact on India.

It is being said that the longer the war between Russia and Ukraine drags on, the more troubles will be for India, which has been dependent on Russia for defense weapons, oil, natural gas, chemical fertilizers etc. On the other hand, from Ukraine also we have been buying more than half of our natural gas requirement. In Ukraine, about 20 thousand Indian students were studying medicine. Due to the economic sanctions on Russia by Western countries, oil has become expensive, which is sure to have a direct impact on the economy of India and the everyday life of all of us. As soon as petroleum fuel becomes expensive, almost all the essential goods in the market start becoming costly. That's when I said that we should learn to live in the present moment. Who knows what will happen next, so enjoy your life now.

Harmony and Peace not Dissension



By: M.R. Lahu

War being the subject of discussion these days, the title of this piece of writing brings a topic for contemplation. We cannot be sleep-walking while life offers complexities in variety. To march with the multitude of mushrooming problems is what practically life is. In this multiplicity of tremors in life, we need to hunt for harmony and peace. In fact, what we need to learn is to be in harmony with ourselves before we try to come out firefighting a chaotic world outside. The world around is a multidimensional existence with more complexities than cohesion pouring in every direction. Life should become a conscious process of achieving inner harmony. As the Russian tanks and fighter jets spit fire of death on the terrains of Ukraine, the world is witnessing the absence of an inner harmony in the minds of the leaders who made this disaster happen. Weapons are not fighting the war but the minds behind. The aggression that we face and undergo is the result of this absence of an inner harmony and peace. Disagreement or dissension can dissect our intellect so severely that we forget the way we should handle the essential ability of intelligence in a suitable way. Dissension mostly leads to acrimony. Being acrimonious to those who we disagree with would bring disruption. Being disruptive, individual minds can spoil the congenial atmosphere around turning every single experience an unpleasant one. Dissension leads people to become intellectually blind, without being able to see the goodness around and the kindness that emanates from all the beings. The ultimate effect of such a state of mind is it leads to a volcanic eruption of emotions.

Inner harmony can be achieved by consistent practice. A person needs to watch the impulses that he is frequently carried away by. Consciously paying attention to the pattern of thinking would help a great deal of inner communion to settle. Before we jump into an aggressive unpleasant action, we need to check the source of impulse and the reasons that such an action is prompted by. Most of the families are places where miniature riots happen on a day-to-day basis. A small group of people staying under one roof find it difficult to live a peaceful life. The absence of the ability to harmoniously coordinate with other minds is a huge challenge. The person near appears to be a stranger when we are overwhelmed by the feeling of disagreement. We find no reason to agree with the person who, a few days ago, was the one we accepted and respected and loved wholeheartedly. Mind's courtyard is open with no fencing blocking the flow of thoughts. Constant attention to such flow of thoughts would control the flow itself. This naturally matures a person to accept, appreciate and even dissect the conflicting thoughts into meaningful understanding and achieve inner equanimity. It is easy to disagree with anybody. Disagreement happens when we insist on our ideas to get a place that we think they deserve. The ownership with which we enforce our thoughts on someone leads to disagreement. The other person to whom we apply our force holds equal rights for resistance. Therefore, learn to accept others' views before forcefully placing our own. Harmony and peace can achieve a lot, not dissension.

(Freelance Journalist/ Social Worker)

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Skin Care Tips for Sunday

if you have a dry skin.

Epsom Salts: If the water is hard, try adding one tablespoon epsom salts to the bath water.

After-bath Body Lotion: Mix together 100 ml rose water with one tablespoon pure glycerin. Keep in a bottle with a lid.

Body and Face Pack: Mix ripe papaya pulp with two parts honey, two parts yogurt, two parts powdered dried orange and lemon peel and 3 parts oatmeal. Apply on face / body and wash it off after half an hour. Mix



By: Shahnaz Husain

liquid ingredients gradually, to get the right consistency

Beauty Bundle for Bath: An ideal way of using natural ingredients is to tie ingredients in a clean cloth, wet slightly and then rub the cloth bag on the skin. You can use besan, oatmeal, dry and ground mint leaves, rose petals, almond meal, a little turmeric powder. Exfoliate - You should be exfoliating at least twice a week, but definitely on Sunday. Slough off the dead skin cells and debris from the week with a gentle exfoliant.

Tips:

- Your bath or shower water should not be too cold or too hot.
- Give your body a scrub with a loofah or sponge.
- After drying the body, apply a moisturizing lotion, while the skin is still damp to seal in moisture.
- While your face pack is drying, soak cotton wool pads in chilled rose water and apply over the eyelids. Lie down and relax for 20 minutes.
- Plan to get a little extra sleep, especially if your average day involves waking up early. Even just an extra half-hour can do wonders for your mentality the whole Sunday through.

(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called Herbal Queen of India)



Consequences of brain drain

On the one hand, questions have been raised regarding the level of higher education in India and on the other hand, students are going abroad in large numbers to study. The American economy is getting billions of dollars through Indian students, which is affecting our economy. Talent is not the reserve fund of a single country. Each country has its own proficient people in their respective fields, such as scientists, technologists, scholars of literature or arts, painters, artists etc. Such men and women with exceptional talent not only contribute to the progress and prosperity of their country, but also bring excellence in the field of their specialty. It is not uncommon that some of these deserving persons are unable to find any satisfactory job in their own country or due to one reason or another they are unable to adjust to their environment. Under such circumstances, these people migrate to other countries in search of better work or for more material facilities. This exit has been termed as brain drain.

Today, the developing countries have been most affected by the loss of their skilled and talented people. The main reason for this is that the benefits received in the form of wages and other facilities are less in developing countries. In which India is also one. Questions always arise regarding the standard of higher education in India. Why are Indian universities not able to make it to the first hundred institutions in the international rating? Why is there no original research work in top Indian institutions? The issue of reservation in admission, being denied admission despite securing high marks, poor teacher-student ratio, political appointments of professors and vice-chancellors, etc. have spoiled the whole system. How institutions of higher education have become factories of academic corruption and production of mediocre degree holders. A big question has also been added to these questions that why such a large number of Indian students are going abroad? Not only this, fees and education money are also flowing abroad with these students.

According to the latest report of the 'Open Door' organization, there has been a 25 percent increase in Indian students enrolling in American colleges in 2015-16. He has contributed five billion rupees to the American economy. Not only in the US, but in the last few years there has been a dramatic increase in students going to Europe and Australia as well. Whereas in this period a large number of higher educational institutions and universities have opened in India. After all, why do these students not want to study in higher educational institutions of the country? Only those students are able to go abroad who do not have any shortage of money, even if it is in the form of black money?

Today India's higher education system is considered one of the largest in the world. By 2030, India will have more than fourteen million people of college going age and will be considered the youngest country in the world. In the current situation, the challenge for India will be how to stop these potential students at home and make maximum use of their talents and abilities, so that they can cooperate in Make Up India.



By: Vijay Garg

and in their view there are limited opportunities in the Indian higher education system. The standard of education is good in selected universities in India and admission there is becoming difficult due to limited seats. Most of the students go out to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Students' dream of going abroad to study has become easier with the manifold government scholarships and grants.

Institutions like the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Assocham need to focus on how to stop this. Brain drain is now definitely turning into a loss-making deal. More institutes like IITs and IIMs need to be established to check the brain drain. Foreign universities should be encouraged to open their campuses in India. Tax concessions and incentives should be given for them so that the education level of our country is raised. This will also check the drain of talent. On the other hand, it is not appropriate to depend only on the government for higher education, but with the co-operation of industry and academia, new institutions should be established and their level should be raised.

Higher education fees should also be increased by the government because students who are ready to spend so much abroad can also spend at home for good education. As far as the poor students are concerned, a guarantee system should be established for them like America where they can get cheap loans without the security of parents. Government scholarships and grants given generously to study abroad can also be cut. Brazil has done this now and

after that there has been a decrease in the number of students going abroad. But if we look at the constitutional perspective of the fundamental right of 'Education for all, work for all', then it would not be appropriate to hand over higher education directly to the private sector. Today, there is a need to create an attractive option for the students going abroad in the country itself. A radical overhaul is needed to improve the quality of education in most government institutions. There is also a need for surgical strike on black money of education mafia. They are licking the education system like termites.

A scientist or a doctor or a specialist in any other field of knowledge can also bear low wages and other difficulties if his qualifications are well recognized. If his work is properly evaluated, he will not go abroad. Well-resourced laboratories or libraries will prevent most of the national talent from leaving their homeland, no matter how much they get paid abroad. An ambitious person goes abroad to earn more money because his own country imposes many legal and political restrictions in the way of fulfilling the desires of his mind. On the other hand, there would be very few people from developed countries who would have left their country and went to developing countries. The high standard of living of the developed countries has always attracted the people of the developing regions immensely and even talented people and experts could not save themselves from this entanglement. As a result, most of the gifted people of developing countries began to feel happy in achieving this standard of living which is available even to an ordinary citizen of developed countries. Therefore, a plan should be made to provide such facility in the country itself.

Ukraine conflict: Three IAF aircraft carrying 629 Indians land in Delhi

Agency
New Delhi, March 5:

Three IAF aircraft carrying 629 Indians from Ukraine's neighbouring countries landed at the Hindon air base here on Saturday morning, the air force said.

India has been evacuating its citizens from war-torn Ukraine's neighbouring countries such as Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland as the Ukrainian airspace has been shut since February 24 due to the Russian military offensive.

"Till date, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has flown 10 sorties to bring back 2,056 passengers, while taking 26 tonnes of relief load to these countries, as part of Operation Ganga," the IAF statement said.

Three C-17 heavy lift trans-



port aircraft of the IAF which had taken off on Friday from the Hindon air base returned on Saturday morning, it men-

tioned.

"These flights evacuated 629 Indian nationals from Romania, Slovakia and Poland.

These flights also carried 16.5 tonnes of relief load from India to these countries," the statement added.

Over 178.5 Crore Covid Vaccine Doses Administered in India So Far: Govt

Agency
New Delhi, March 5:

The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 178.52 crore on Friday, the Union Health Ministry said. More than 21 lakh (21,70,356) vaccine doses have been administered till 7 pm.

The ministry said so far over 2.04 crore (2,04,78,473) precaution doses have been administered to healthcare

workers, frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities. The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late night, it said.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started from February 2. The next phase of

COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions. The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1.

The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be inoculated from May 1. The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination com-

menced from January 3 for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years.

India began administering precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare workers, frontline workers including personnel deployed for election duty and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10 amid the country witnessing a spike in coronavirus infections fuelled by its Omicron variant.

Fire in two coaches of Saharanpur-Delhi passenger train



Agency
Meerut, March 5:

Fire broke out in the engine and two compartments of a train going from Saharanpur to Delhi at Daurala railway station near Meerut on Saturday. Ac-

cording to railway officials, the fire happened due to short circuit but no injuries/ casualties have been reported.

The train had reached Daurala station at 7.10 AM. After the fire broke out in the coaches, the passengers

started getting out of the other coach. However, the fire had spread completely in the coach. Thereafter, fire tenders reached the spot and doused the fire.

Due to the fire in the train, the service have been affected in the Delhi-Meerut. In the

morning, many important trains go to Dehradun and Delhi via Meerut, such as the Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi express which got halted in the city station in Meerut. Besides, the Shalimar Express train was stopped near Skauti station. At the same time, Nauchandi Express going from Prayagraj to Meerut and Saharanpur has also been stopped at the city station. Apart from this, many other trains have also been stopped at Muzaffarnagar Khatauli station.

Shatabdi Express running between Delhi and Dehradun had to stand for an hour 43 minutes at the city station. After this Shatabdi Express has now been diverted towards Dehradun. The operation of trains from Meerut to Muzaffarnagar started at 10:30 AM. However, the operation of trains coming from Muzaffarnagar to Meerut has not started yet.

India Logs 5,921 New COVID-19 Cases in Last 24 Hours, 289 Deaths

Agency
New Delhi, March 5:

With 5,921 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases now stands at 4,29,57,477 and that of active cases is at 63,878, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday.

The number of deaths due to the disease has climbed to 5,14,878 with 289 fresh fatalities being reported in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The count of daily COVID-19 cases has remained below one lakh for 27 consecutive days now.

The active cases comprise 0.17 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has further improved to 98.65 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 6,019 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.63 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 0.84 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has surged to 4,23,78,721, while the case fatality rate was recorded as 1.20 per cent, the data showed.

The cumulative number of doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 178.55 crore.

India's COVID-19 infection 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, 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and the one-crore mark on December 19.

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

Assam Rifles foils Terrorist Strike

IT News
Imphal, March 5:

Shangshak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police foiled a major terrorist strike by recovering a Improvised Explosive Device (IED) near border

village K Asangkhullen, Kamjong district on 03 March.

Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to timely identification and disarming of the IED by bomb disposal squad. The IED was meant to target the movement

of local populace as well as the Security Forces and Officials deployed on assembly elections duty.

After sanitisation of the area, the recovered IED was destroyed on the spot itself for ensuring security in the area and prevention of any loss to life or property.

AR conducts Security Meet

IT News
Imphal, March 5:

Somsai Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (S) conducted security coordination meet at Poi village, Ukhrul district on 03 Mar. The security meet was

attended by village authorities, representatives of local youths and women association.

During the meet the locals were sensitised and updated on prevalent security situation and measures being taken by Assam Rifles in

maintaining peace and tranquility in the area. Measures required to be undertaken by locals in synergy with Assam Rifles for maintaining a strict vigil against illegal activities during the assembly elections in the area were also discussed.

Ayush Medical College soon in Nagaland

Agency
Dimapur, March 5:

Union Minister for Ayush and ports, shipping and waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday said an Ayush medical college will be opened in Nagaland soon.

Inaugurating the first-ever Integrated Ayush Hospital in the state at Razha Chedema in Kohima, Sonowal emphasized the importance of Ayush and its further development in the state since it is considered a biodiversity hotspot along with other North-Eastern states.

He said the Centre has been emphasizing the growth and promotion of Ayush, as it gives not only strong immunity to our body but also helps us perform better in the workplace.

He added that the growth and promotion of Ayush



would create revenue as well as employment generation for the educated unemployed youths in the state.

He said Nagaland has a huge role to play in this sector since the entire Northeastern states are endowed with abundant natural resources, besides being declared as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots in the world.

Sonowal expressed happiness to be in the midst of the Naga brothers and sisters. He described the Nagas as coura-

geous, determined and hard-working people.

He lauded the state's greenery and abundant natural resources and urged the people to explore and tap those resources scientifically.

Nagaland health and family welfare minister S Pangnyu Phom thanked the Union minister for his visit to the state. He also urged to explore all the natural resources as the state is rich in flora and fauna which could be used as medicinal plants for different ailments.

Russia announces limited ceasefire in Ukraine to allow evacuations but continues broad offensive

Agency
LVIV/KYIV, Ukraine, March 5:

Russia said its forces had stopped firing near two Ukrainian cities on Saturday to allow safe passage to civilians fleeing fighting, but was continuing its broad offensive in Ukraine, where the capital Kyiv came under renewed assault.

The Russian defence ministry said its units had opened humanitarian corridors near the cities of Mariupol and Volnovakha which were en-

circled by its troops, Russia's RIA news agency reported.

In Mariupol, citizens would be allowed to leave during a five-hour window, it quoted the city's officials as saying.

There was no immediate confirmation that firing had stopped and it was not clear if the ceasefire would be extended to other areas, or how long it would last, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine entered into its tenth day.

The Russian defence ministry said a broad offensive would continue in Ukraine, RIA

said.

Aid agencies have warned of an unfolding humanitarian disaster as food, water and medical supplies run short and refugees stream into western Ukraine and neighbouring European countries.

A Ukrainian negotiator had said on Thursday that a second round of ceasefire talks with Russia had not yielded the results Kyiv hoped for, but both sides had reached an understanding on creating humanitarian corridors. Mykhailo Podolyak said the two sides

envisaged a possible temporary ceasefire in some areas to allow evacuations of citizens.

In the southeastern port city of Mariupol - a key prize - there is no water, heat or electricity and food is running out, according to Mayor Vadym Boychenko.

"We are simply being destroyed," he said.

Ukraine's state service of special communications and protection of information says Russian forces have focussed efforts on encircling Kyiv and Kharkiv, the second-biggest

city, while aiming to establish a land bridge to Crimea.

Kyiv, in the path of a Russian armoured column that has been stalled outside the Ukrainian capital for days, was again under attack, with explosions audible from the city centre.

Ukrainian media outlet Suspilne cited authorities in Sumy, about 300 km (190 miles) east of Kyiv, as saying that there is a risk of fighting in the city's streets, urging residents to stay in shelters.

President Vladimir Putin's actions have drawn almost

universal condemnation, and many countries have imposed heavy sanctions as the West

balances punishment with avoiding a widening of the conflict.

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Sanjay Kumar Jain do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name Sanjay Jain as I have assumed my new name Sanjay Kumar Jain.

Sd/-

Sanjay Kumar Jain

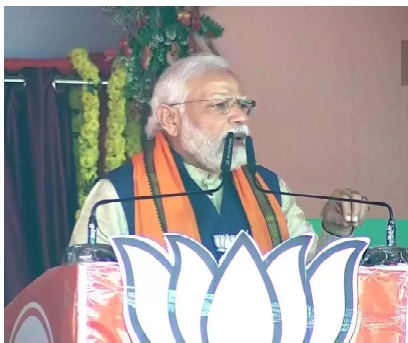
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PM Modi slams Opposition during Varanasi rally, says 'dynasts' politicising Ukraine crisis

Agency
Varanasi, March 5:

Ahead of the final phase of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today came down heavily on the Opposition during a rally. Citing the ongoing Ukraine crisis, he noted that "dynasts always look for opportunities to serve their self-interests".

"When some challenges crop up before the nation, these dynasts look for their political interest in it. If India's security forces and people fight a crisis, they do everything to make situation more critical. We saw this during pandemic and today during Ukraine crisis...blind opposition, continuous opposition, acute frustration, and negativity have become their political ideology," PM Modi said in



Varanasi.

Those who live in palaces, Modi contended, did not know the troubles that a poor mother goes through in absence of a toilet at home. "They have to either think of answering nature's call before sunrise or

bear the pain throughout the day and do so only after sunset," he noted.

Over the last few days, as war broke out in Ukraine and thousands of Indians found themselves stranded, the government had launched Opera-

tion Ganga to undertake evacuations. The Opposition (primarily the Congress) however allege that the Centre's reaction had been late in coming.

"Such shameful treatment of compelled students is an insult to the entire country. This bitter truth of Operation Ganga has shown the real face of Modi government," tweeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi earlier today, sharing a media report which claimed that students were asked to clean toilets to return to India.

"Instead of questioning Indian students, why doesn't the Modi government question itself? The students trapped in the crisis have shown the truth of the brutality and failure of the government," asked another tweet by Gandhi. The Wayanad MP had earlier said that "evacuation is a duty and not a favour".

Ukrainian forces shoot down Russian aircraft, capture pilot

Agency
Chernihiv, March 5:

Ukrainian air defence specialists shot down a Russian aircraft and allegedly captured its pilot on the outskirts of Chernihiv on Saturday.

According to reports, the co-pilot, identified as Major

Krivopalov, was killed in the incident.

The Ukraine defence ministry shared a video of the pilot ejecting from the jet. He has been identified as Krasnoyartsev.

Meanwhile, at least 22 bodies have been recovered from rubble in the wake of Russian air strikes in

Ukraine's Chernihiv region, the Ukrainian emergency services said in an online post.

It said rescue work was ongoing, without specifying where exactly the attack took place. Earlier, the regional governor said at least nine people had been killed by an air strike on two schools and private houses.

UN council to meet on humanitarian situation

Agency
United Nations, March 5:

The U.N. Security Council will hold an open meeting Monday on the worsening humanitarian situation in Ukraine as the Russian offensive intensifies.

The United States and Albania requested the meeting, which will hear briefings by U.N. humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths and Catherine Russell, executive director of the U.N. children's agency UNICEF, diplomats said Friday.

At the request of France and Mexico, the council meeting will be followed by closed consultations on a draft resolution on the humanitarian plight of millions of Ukrainians that the two countries have been spearheading, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because negotiations on the meeting have been private.

The United Nations launched an emergency appeal on March 1 for \$1.7 billion to respond to soaring humanitarian needs of both people who fled Ukraine and who remain in the country. It immediately received pledges of \$1.5 billion, and has urged that the pledges be turned into cash quickly.

The UN estimates that 12 million people staying in Ukraine and four million flee-

ing to neighboring countries in the coming months will need humanitarian aid.

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine is calling Russia's attack on a nuclear plant a war crime.

"It is a war crime to attack a nuclear power plant," the embassy statement said. "Putin's shelling of Europe's largest nuclear plant takes his reign of terror one step further."

Russian troops seized the plant Friday in an attack that set it on fire and briefly raised fears of a nuclear disaster. The blaze was extinguished and no radiation was released.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called Russia's action "nuclear terrorism" and appealed to the U.N. Security Council for action to safeguard Ukraine's endangered nuclear facilities.

Ukrainian Prime Minister

Denys Shmyhal appealed to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the EU to send representatives to all five of Ukraine's nuclear power plants. "This is a question of the security of the whole world," he said in a nighttime video address.

The Hawaii House of Representatives voted 47-1 to pass a resolution condemning Russia's attacks on Ukraine and supporting U.S. economic sanctions on Russia.

"Ukraine is fighting to enjoy the same basic rights that Americans are promised at birth: free speech, security in a democratic society and equal protection under the law," said Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, a Democrat.

Many lawmakers wore blue and yellow, the colors of the Ukrainian flag, on Friday to show their support for the embattled country.

Third vaccine dose advised for immunocompromised people: Study

Agency
Singapore, March 5:

A third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for people with a weakened immune system, especially for organ transplant recipients who are least able to make antibodies to fight off the SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to a study.

The research, published in The BMJ, reinforces the importance of additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to protect people with a weakened immune system.

The researchers from National University of Singapore analysed the results of 82 observational studies comparing the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in immunocompromised and immunocompetent people.

Of these studies, 77 used

mRNA vaccines, 16 viral vector vaccines, and four inactivated whole virus vaccines.

After one COVID-19 vaccine dose, seroconversion was found to be reduced among immunocompromised groups, except people with HIV.

Seroconversion is the process of making antibodies after infection or vaccination — priming the immune system to fight off a specific virus.

The study found that seroconversion rates were about half as likely in patients with blood cancers, immune-mediated inflammatory disorders, and solid cancers compared with immunocompetent control.

Organ transplant recipients were 16 times less likely to seroconvert, the researchers said.

After a second dose, seroconversion was signifi-

cantly increased in patients with blood cancers, immune-mediated inflammatory disorders, and solid cancers, but remained severely reduced in transplant recipients, with only a third achieving seroconversion, they said.

Further review of 11 studies showed that the third dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine was associated with seroconversion among vaccine non-responders with solid cancers, blood cancers, and immune-mediated inflammatory disorders.

However, the response was variable in transplant recipients and no published evidence was available on the effectiveness of a third dose in people with HIV, the researchers said.

Among the immunocompromised groups studied, antibody levels (titers) were also lower than in immu-

nocompetent controls, they said.

The researchers point to several limitations of the study. For instance, the included studies were observational and used different definitions of seroconversion.

The researchers cannot rule out the possibility that other unmeasured factors, such as age and underlying conditions, might have affected their results.

The findings show that seroconversion rates and antibody titres after COVID-19 vaccines are significantly lower in immunocompromised patients, especially organ transplant recipients, the researchers said.

"Targeted interventions for immunocompromised patients, including a third dose, should be performed," they added.

Sports

Ukrainian contingent gets warm welcome as Winter Games open in Beijing

Agency
Beijing, March 4:

Ukrainian athletes were given a warm welcome on a chilly Beijing evening as the Winter Paralympics opened on Friday, after Russian and Belarusian athletes were sent home on the eve of the Games over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons made an impassioned call for peace during the ceremony at the Bird's Nest Stadium that was attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping. "I am horrified at what is taking place in the world right now. The 21st century is a time for dialogue and diplomacy, not war and hate," Parsons said.

That phrase was not translated into Chinese for viewers of state broadcaster CCTV.

China, which has developed increasingly close ties with Moscow in recent years, has refused to condemn Russia's attack on Ukraine or call it an invasion.



Last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics, on the same day that China and Russia announced a "no limits" strategic partnership.

The run-up to Friday night's ceremony was overshadowed by the ban on Rus-

sian and Belarusian athletes, who were denied entry following threats of boycotts by other participating countries.

Belarus has been a key staging area for the full-scale invasion Russia launched on Ukraine just over a week ago.

The opening ceremony featured a number of perform-

ers with disabilities and concluded with a dazzling fireworks display and the lighting of the flame by visually impaired former para athlete Li Duan.

A total of 564 athletes will compete in 78 medal events at the Games, which close on March 13.

Jadeja's unbeaten 175 helps India to huge total against Sri Lanka

Agency
Mohali, March 5:

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja struck a career-best unbeaten 175 for his second test hundred to help the hosts post a massive first innings total against Sri Lanka on the second day of the opening test at Mohali on Saturday.

The left-handed Jadeja combined in two century stands with Ravichandran Ashwin and Mohammed Shami on Saturday to put the touring side on the mat as India declared their first innings closed on 574 for eight at the tea interval.

Jadeja added 130 for the seventh wicket with Ashwin, who made 61, and further 103 for the unbroken ninth with Shami to effectively bat Sri Lanka out of the contest. Shami remained unbeaten on 20.

A minute's silence was observed before the start of play for Australian greats Rod Marsh and Shane Warne, who both died on Friday. The Indian batters also wore black armbands as a mark of respect for Marsh and Warne.

CHANGE IN NAME

I Mr. **Akeek Sorokhaibam**, aged about 37 yrs., S/o Chourjit Singh Sorokhaibam, resident of Naoremthong Khumanthem Leikai, Takyel Khongbal, P.O. Imphal, P.S. Lamphel, District Imphal West Manipur (India) do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That my recorded name in school and college is **Akeek Singh Sorokhaibam**, but I myself popularly known as **Akeek Sorokhaibam**. 2. That by virtue of this affidavit, I changed my name from **Akeek Singh Sorokhaibam** to **Akeek Sorokhaibam** and henceforth I shall be known as the **Akeek Sorokhaibam** for all purposes. 3. That for the purpose of evidencing such my determination declare that I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writings and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions, private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever, use and sign the name of **Akeek Sorokhaibam** as my name/surname in place and in substitution of my former Name/surname. 4. That the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. 5. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my former and adopted name/surname of **Akeek Singh Sorokhaibam** and **Akeek Sorokhaibam** affix my signature and seal, if any, this 5th day of March 2022.

Sd/-

Akeek Sorokhaibam
Naoremthong Khumanthem Leikai,
Takyel Khongbal

CHANGE IN NAME

I Mr. **Saikhom Ratan**, aged about 49 yrs., S/o Saikhom Hemchandra Singh & Ningthoujam Bilashini Devi, resident of Sagolband Salam Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Imphal, District Imphal West Manipur (India) do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That my recorded name in school and college is **Saikhom Ratan Singh**, but I myself popularly known as **Saikhom Ratan**. 2. That by virtue of this affidavit, I changed my name from **Saikhom Ratan Singh** to **Saikhom Ratan** and henceforth I shall be known as the **Saikhom Ratan** for all purposes. 3. That for the purpose of evidencing such my determination declare that I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writings and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions, private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever, use and sign the name of **Saikhom Ratan** as my name/surname in place and in substitution of my former Name/surname. 4. That the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. 5. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my former and adopted name/surname of **Saikhom Ratan Singh** and **Saikhom Ratan** affix my signature and seal, if any, this 5th day of March 2022.

Sd/-

Saikhom Ratan
Sagolband Salam Leikai