

## One more security personnel on Manipur poll duty dies

IT News  
Imphal, March 6:

In yet another case of suspected accidental firing, a BSF personnel on poll duty allegedly shot himself with his service rifle at a school located under Noney Police Station on Sunday, sources said.

The incident took place

at Tengkonjang Higher Secondary School around 7 am Sunday when the security personnel was heading for election duty, police sources said, adding that it is suspected to be a case of accidental firing.

Police said the deceased has been identified as one Rabindranath Sahu (C/No-941438564), son of M

Narshingha Sahu of area under Police Station Tarasing, Ganjan district, Odisha.

On the first phase of elections on February 28, one Havildar of 8 MR, Naorem Ibochouba Singh, from Kakching Labungo Pareng, Kakching district on poll duty allegedly shot himself with his service rifle

at Senvon in Tipaimukh AC, Pherzawl district around 12.40 am.

It is suspected to be an accidental firing from his service weapon as per UD Case No.01/2022 PBG-PS u/s 174 CrPC dated February 28, 2022. He was detailed for poll duty at 55/37 Senvon (C) Polling Station, Tipaimukh AC.

## ECI to host virtual International Election Visitors Programme 2022

IT News  
Imphal, March 6:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is going to organize an **International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) 2022** for foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs) /Organisations in virtual mode on 7th March 2022, during the ongoing Elections for Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

The ongoing legislative assembly elections in the states of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have a combined electorate of 183.4 million, one of the largest to vote amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

IEVP constitutes an important part of ECI's international outreach and is organized with the goal of familiarizing fellow EMBs with the electoral system and processes adopted in the world's largest democracy. IEVP 2022 provides an opportunity for ECI to share best practices and experience of the conduct of the poll process along with the steps taken to ensure compliance of COVID-19 protocols.

More than 135 Delegates from over 26 countries across the world including Australia, Bahamas, Bhutan, Croatia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Liberia, Maldives, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Roma-

nia, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Suriname, Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Zambia etc. and 4 international organizations including International IDEA, International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES), Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) and Community of Democracies are going to participate in IEVP 2022. Besides, Ambassadors/High Commissioners and other members of the Diplomatic Corps based in India from 20 countries have also been invited to participate in the virtual IEVP 2022.

The Programme for IEVP 2022 comprises of an online briefing session by Shri Umesh Sinha, Secretary-General, ECI and Head of India A-WEB Centre at ECI, which would give the participants an overview of the large canvas of the Indian electoral process, the new initiatives taken by ECI on voter facilitation, transparency and accessibility of electoral system; ECI's response to the changing needs of training and capacity building and the new formats necessitated by COVID-19 along with insights into the elections held in the states of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. With a vast electorate of more than 183.4 million, these elections have posed formidable challenges and arrangements have been made to address them and to deploy unique initiatives to conduct

a Covid safe election.

The participants will be showcased a recorded broadcast from select polling stations in each of the five states of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh where polls have taken place as well as live streaming from polling stations in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 7th March 2022. The programme includes familiarization of participants with the electoral process, polling station arrangements, use of technology, interaction with various stakeholders followed by a Q & A session.

After the virtual tour, the participants will be addressed by Hon'ble Election Commissioner's, Shri Anup Chandra Pandey and Shri Rajiv Kumar followed by a Keynote Address by Shri Sushil Chandra, Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of India and Chairperson, A-WEB.

In the past, ECI has hosted International Election Visitor Programmes (IEVPs) for foreign EMBs/Organizations on a few occasions including Lok Sabha elections 2014 and 2019 and for state assembly elections in Feb/March 2017. During the pandemic, ECI organized the first virtual IEVP in November 2020 during the Bihar Assembly elections. It was followed by another virtual IEVP in April 2021 during elections for Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

## 9th General Assembly of the UNLF elected Kh. Pambei as new Chairman

IT News  
Imphal, March 6:

A statement of the armed rebel group UNLF led by Chairman Pambei has stated that the 9th General Assembly of the organization which was observed every 4 years since 1984 was held between February 18 till February 22.

The statement issued by media coordinator of the armed rebel group, Th. Charairongba said that ahead

of the general assembly revolutionary tributes were paid to the armed cadres who had martyred for the cause of the revolution. It said that the main issues discussed during the General Assembly is the revolutionary movement - "National People's Democratic Revolution". The constitution of the party was also amended. The general Assembly also elected new members of the central Committee and reports of the past Central

committee were read presented.

The newly elected Central Committee members are Kh. Pambei as Chairman, Ch. Thanil as General Secretary and Publicity in-charge, I Tonsana as Secretary of Finance, N. Nongden as Secretary of Health and Family Welfare, Th. Sisabamapu as Secretary of External and Regional Affairs, S. Nongdol as Secretary of Organisation and S.

Pankhei as Secretary of Operation and Projects.

The 9th General Assembly also appointed Colonel Ng. Pamheiba as the Chief of the armed wing MPA and Major Th. Ningtamba as the Vice Chief of the MPA.

The newly elected central Committee members will frame the programme and policy as per article 17 of the constitution. Oath taking of the members to maintain the secrecy of the party was also held.

## More than 15 thousand 9 hundred Indians have been brought back by special flights so far

IT News  
Imphal, March 6:

Under 'Operation Ganga' to rescue Indian citizens, 2135 Indians have been brought back today by 11 special civilian flights from Ukraine's neighbouring

countries. With this, more than 15 thousand 9 hundred Indians have been brought back since the special flights began on 22nd February, 2022. The number of Indians airlifted by 66 special civilian flights goes up to 13852. Till date, the IAF has flown 10

sorties to bring back 2056 passengers, while taking 26 tonnes of relief load to these countries, as part of Op Ganga.

Among the special Civilian flights today, 9 landed in New Delhi while 2 reached Mumbai. There were 6 flights

from Budapest, 2 from Bucharest, 2 from Rzeszow, and 1 from Kosice.

Tomorrow, 8 special flights are expected to operate from Budapest (5), Suceva (2) and Bucharest (1), bringing in more than 1500 Indians back home.

## Phase II - Manipur stands tall in upholding the Indian Democracy

CEO, Manipur  
Imphal, March 6:

Polling for Second Phase of Manipur Assembly Elections ended peacefully today with 76.62% of the total 8,38,730 voters in the state turned out to exercise their franchise as per report available from different constituencies upto 5 p.m. on 5th March, 2022.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manipur Shri Rajesh Agrawal stated that of the total 22 constituencies that went to poll today 48-Mao AC remained at the top with highest polling percentage of 86.78%, followed by 38-Hiyanglam AC (86.31%), while 52-Tamei AC witnessed lowest voting percentage (61.23%) reported till 5 PM. The final voting percentage will be notified after arrival of all polling parties.

Rajesh Agrawal continued that a total of 22 Assembly Constituencies including 10 in Thoubal, 3 each in Ukhrul, Senapati and Tamenglong, 2 in Chandel and 1 in Jiribam went for poll today. A total of 8,38,730 voters including 4,10,020 male, 4,28,679 female and 31 transgender voters are in Phase-II. There are a total of 4849 PwD electors and 480 Centenarian voters.

Out of a total of 1247 poll-



ing stations, 223 polling stations were completely manned by all women polling personnel. In 31-Thoubal Assembly Constituency, all the 40 polling stations were entirely manned by all women polling teams. There were 39 model polling stations spread across different Assembly Constituencies of six Electoral Districts which Selfie booth and Photo Booth were also set up at 17 polling stations.

People turned out in large number and exercised their franchise to choose their representatives. The centenarian

voters and PwD voters were not exception as majority of them came out and casted their votes knowing the importance of each single vote. The volunteers at the booth assisted them with wheelchairs etc for smooth voting experience.

Many elderly, PwD and first-time voters were also facilitated by the polling teams at the booth. The active participation of electors in this election has truly made these elections a festival of democracy.

To ensure COVID safe election, adequate arrangements have been made in all

polling stations. All polling stations were sanitised one day before poll. ASHA and Anganwadi workers were utilised at each polling station to perform thermal screening and queue management. Marking of circles with minimum distance was also done to avoid crowding.

Besides, mask, glove, were provided to voters requiring the same. The movement of EVMs was tracked with the help of e-Traccer App which was embedded in the mobile phones of Polling personnel and Sector Officers. Besides,

eAtlas app was used by polling teams which enables a polling personnel to report any sort of EVM malfunctioning or any untoward incident happening in the polling station. This enabled the Returning Officer to take immediate corrective actions. Arrangements for webcasting/ videography were successfully made in majority of the Polling Stations. The voting majority of the polling stations was monitored through the webcasting at the controlrooms in ROs, DEOs and CEO office. The CAPF were deployed at the polling stations to ensure security of voters. In addition, micro-observers were also deployed in critical polling stations to monitor the overall poll process.

He mentioned polling parties have started returning from their respective polling stations. EVMs are being deposited to the Strong Rooms, where three tier security systems are also being arranged for guarding the same. Security forces have been keeping strict vigil round the clock at Strong Rooms. The scrutiny of Form 17 A and other documents will be conducted by the Returning Officers in presence of General Observers on 6th March, 2022. Decisions on re-polls, if any, shall be decided accordingly, he added.

## Around 90% voters turnout to casts their vote at 40- Jiribam Assembly Constituency

IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, March 6:

In the 2nd and final phase of 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, 2022 for the Jiribam Assembly constituency voting were held peacefully with around 90% voter turnout to casts their vote across 40 polling station of the constituency which is places within entire Jiribam District.

Among the 40 numbers of the polling station, the polling station No. 40/3, 40/4, 40/5, 40/12 and 40/13 were fully assigned to the women polling officials.

In addition, a total of 22 observers were deputed by the Election Commission of India for second phase of polls and they were mobile throughout the day witnessing polling at different polling stations. Besides, three Special Observers were also deputed by the Election Commission to monitor and supervise the poll process. They were very satisfied with the arrangements at the polling stations and the participation

As report Polling Station 40/20 of Rashidpur, Jiribam recorded highest casting of vote a percentage of around 98.35 with 477 votes polled out of 485 total votes while polling station 40/35 of Goakhal, Jiribam recorded lowest voting percentage around 76.84 with 468 votes polled out of 609 total numbers of voters among the 40 polling stations of Jiribam constituency.

Out of 29298 numbers of total voters in Jiribam Assembly constituency voters cast their vote which overall recorded around 90% votes.

of voters in a big way. The polling in entire valley area was peaceful. In hill districts, there were twelve incidents of damage to EVMs by miscreants reported at 42/4, 42/13, 42/16, 42/18, 42/42 and 42/43 under 42-Tengnoupal AC, 44/64 and 44/70 in 44-Ukhrul AC, 45/26 and 45/31 under 45-Chingai AC, 49/51 under 49-Tadubi AC and 47/49 under 47-Karong AC.

contd. on page 4

# Always do good deeds and be grateful to all

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



As they say, Karma never fails, it is certain that the fruits of the actions will definitely be received. The karma of this birth and the karma of the previous birth, both are accounting of. Something must have been done wrong behind, the result of which has to be suffered today. In the same way, the good or bad deeds done in the present life, their result will definitely be felt in the next life if not here. The living beings who are suffering today without their visible fault, must have done something wrong in their past lives. This cycle goes on. Therefore, it is wise to live consciously all the time and keep doing good acts, indulge in charity, help others, so that the account of karma remains good and shining. One should be grateful to God, to people around for what s/he has. Start noticing the things that money cannot buy. Be grateful for all of these things. Maintain a gratitude journal and jot down all the things for which you are grateful to others. Be thankful, be grateful for the air we breathe, the food we eat, the comforts we enjoy.

Gratitude gives power. The kind and compassionate people who feed the homeless and hungry animals, help the poor, all of them get blessings. It does make a difference. Every living being has a soul, and every soul has equal power. It is just a game of actions that some are suffering and some are safe. Happy people should not ignore karma. If the deeds of their present birth are not good, then believe me, what kind of life they will live after death, they have no clue yet. One who remains grateful has no complaints about the present life, nor does s/he has any worries about the future. Gratitude is the state of ultimate bliss. Being grateful gives peace of mind and makes one feel closer to God. Read good literature, be in the company of good people, do good deeds, and be grateful to everyone.

The pandemic has changed many people mentally, physically and spiritually. Most of the people were suffering from depression and physical ailments during and after the first and second waves of pandemic. People prayed to the Creator of this Universe to come out from this worst situation. They realised how important their life is. Everything we already have is so precious and we should be thankful for all that we have. This was understood better by those who lost someone dear during the pandemic. Those who survived, their spiritual thinking became stronger. Belief developed in the superpowers and the Creator who manages the world. After all, there is some power which keeps this world going. There is someone who created so many fauna and flora and created a whole system of life. Who gave us intelligence and gave us the power to think and create new things. Whatever name you give to that power and whatever way you remember or pray to that ultimate power, but somewhere there is someone who keeps an account of our deeds and maintains a balance in this world. We salute that power with all our gratitude.

# Our knowledge-tradition will be strengthened by encouragement of education in mother tongue



By: Vijay Garg

Our knowledge-tradition will be strengthened by encouragement of education in mother tongue, every community has full right to practice and protect its language. symbolic

Acharya Raghavendra Prasad Tiwari. In the last few years, meaningful efforts are being made to establish the importance of mother tongues. In many institutes, the education of medicine, law and engineering has started in Hindi medium. It is hoped that in the coming years these courses will be available in other Indian languages as well. National Education Policy-2020 is important from the point of view of Indian languages. Under this policy, it has been recommended to encourage formal reading through Indian languages from the primary level to higher education and research. It is noteworthy that according to this policy, education will be provided through mother tongue at the primary level up to class V and if possible till class VIII.

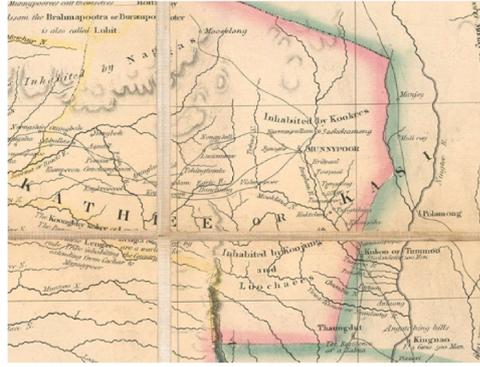
According to the recommendations of the National Education Policy-2020, there is a need to prepare more and more textbooks and children's literature in Indian languages. We have to prepare competent teachers for teaching in Indian languages. Apart from this, the mass media of local languages will also have to be given due space. We have to uncover the accumulated knowledge in these languages through research and make it an integral part of formal discourse. Conducting entrance examinations in 13 different languages of the country by the National Testing Agency is an important initiative in this direction. The proposed Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation will bring dynamism to the above efforts as well as establish new dimensions.

Language and dialect are considered to be the nurturer and conductor of the historical-cultural heritage, knowledge-tradition, community talent and skill story of any community. Through these, we can prepare the future and future generations for a sustainable and glorious future. India's reputation as a multilingual society is well known. Most citizens of the country have the ability to be multilingual. They keep getting acquainted with various Indian languages and dialects in daily life through teaching and through formal-informal work and mass communication. This introduction nurtures and nurtures the national spirit through the interaction of Indian languages. Our multilingualism, on the one hand, contributes to individual qualities such as creativity, problem solving ability, while on the other hand it also plays an important role in strengthening the spirit of social tolerance and national integration.

contd. on page 3

# Kabaw Valley: Manipur's Lost Glory

By: Maheshana Rajkumar



A Map of the Burmese Empire Map source: John Wyld, 1886

Ningthee River (Chindwin River), had strong significance in ancient history of Manipur which is depicted on "A Map of the Burmese Empire" by Cartographer John Wyld in 1886, a folding map of Burma based on documents from the Surveyor Generals Office of India, published after the Third Anglo-Burmese War with drawing of Ningthee R. on the map.

Manipur was known as Kassay/Kathe from the time of Maurya/Sakya King Dhaja Raja 550 BCE. Moirang is derived from word Mauriya+Ang=>Mauriyang>Moirang and also Moranga of "The Glass Palace Chronicle of Burma", with Yazagyo (Rajgrha), in Myanmar as her ancient capital. Moirang principality in ancient period covered areas of present Yazagyo located at Kabaw Valley. Colonel G.E. Gerini in his book on "Researches on Ptolemy's Geography of Eastern Asia", mentioned Yazagyo as ancient capital of Kassay (Manipur). Manipur's ancestral boundary was Ningthee River (meaning beautiful in Manipuri) and was known to Burmese as Khyendwen River, was the dividing marker between kingdom of both Manipur and Burma. The name Chindwin River is an anglicized name coined by the British. The inhabitants of Manipur Meitei/Meitei people were known as Kathe Shan/Kassay Shan and Tai Moy or Kassay as referred in Tai journal in new Shan script "Tai in the World", bearing strong similarities with Tai Leng race of Myanmar. The kingdom of Manipur was Tainized/Shanized with other races. Kabaw Valley predominantly Shans, her possession lied with Manipur and sometimes with strong Burmese rulers who annexed and occupied the land in their ancient history.

Learned scholar Michael W. Charney acknowledged the presence of a strong culture of intellectual knowledge exchange lasting two centuries from mid 17th to 19th century in

the 'Burma-Manipur Frontier' of a reputed literary culture known as "Chindwin Literary Culture", existed with patronization by the kings of both Manipur and Burma. The translation work from Sanskrit to Pali texts were carried out by the learned scholars of both the courts resulting in birth of a popular Buddhist reformation known as "Sudhamma Reformation" of the Burmese Konbaung Empire during the reign of King Bodawpaya.

The distasteful transfer of Kabaw Valley on 9 January 1834, Maharaja Gambhir Singh of Manipur died of unnatural death (Heart Attack), hearing the shocking news of Kabaw Valley transfer. The British Agents of both Manipur and Burma corroborated and deceitfully acted under the British Supreme Government's guidance transferred Kabaw Valley from Manipur to Burma. The responsible British Officers were Governor-General Lord William Bentinck, Major Henry Burney, Resident at Court of Ava and Commissioners of Manipur namely Captain F.J. Grant and Lieutenant R.B. Pemberton.

King Bagyidaw's Ava court deci-

sion making was strongly influenced by Huttaw (Burmese council of ministers), who pressed on the British Officials and demanded resource rich Kabaw Valley and Tenasserim. In the end Manipur was used as bait by the British Supreme Government and transferred Kabaw Valley to Burma and denied Burmese the claim to Tenasserim.

The British East India Company faced severe economic crisis after the first Anglo-Burmese War 1824-26, the Bengal agency houses faced bankruptcy and war indemnity of 1 million pounds sterling in four installments were paid by the Burmese with last installment paid in 1833. The transfer was executed on 9 January 1834. The compensation amount of transfer of Kabaw Valley to Manipur was fixed at 500 Sica Rupees monthly or 6000 Sica Rupees annually with 16 Sica Rupees valued at 1 Gold Mohur or 375 Gold Mohur annually. The transfer resulted in the great territory loss of eastern parts of Manipur up to Ningthee River, the inherent economic lifeline of the western Southeast Asian

and later became land locked. The introduction of British cartography method Manipur came in the area of South Asia of British East India Company from year 1837.

The epithet of Gariba Niwaza was given to Pamheiba by the Mughal emperor of Delhi for not joining the confederacy of Hindu potentates of Ahom King Rudra Singh against 'pan-islamic policy' of the Mughal rulers. Manipur never shared boundary with Mughal kingdom and faced no threat to her nation. Maharaja Gariba Niwaza the great sovereign monarch of Southeast Asia brought revolution in Manipur in respect of religion, social, cultural and in political arenas. He was also the known ruler of Tai dynasty of Mogaung (Mong Kawng), backed by Cachare army and Tai kingdoms of Northwest Burma, who allied with Ava after Bayinnaung's conquest of Shan States, became vassal of Manipur and almost conquered Toungoo Empire during the reign of last Toungoo King Maha Damma Yaza Dipati, had there been no invasion in Manipur by the Tripura king in 1740 when the Manipur army were at Ava.

King Maha Damma Yaza Dipati feared Manipuri invaders who wrote letters to Qing Emperor of China and sought his support to crush Manipur. The bitter lesson learnt by Konbaung King Alaungpaya from Toungoo's experience, when all out offensive against Manipur followed by the successive Konbaung kings, took Manipur as her bitter rival and wiped out her civilization completely by mass deportations of her population to Lower Burma's dry zone. The loss of Manipur's Ningthee River, her ancestral boundary is reflected on John Wyld's map which at one time indicated a glorious nation. Manipur went through gradual decadence and could never recover her economy back and with free India her survival is dependent on New Delhi's funding till today.

# With Ukraine War on, U.S. secures dominance over most of Europe

By: Ian Goodrum

Russian bombs might be falling on Ukraine cities but many in the United States seem keen on running a victory lap. After Russian President Vladimir Putin announced on February 24 what he termed a "special military operation" in Ukraine following weeks of tensions, the U.S. intelligence community and its boosters were practically howling in delight.

They had, seemingly every day, issued a new prediction for war since December—and in late February their prognostications had finally come true. Those who expressed skepticism at the possibility of invasion, myself included, were left eating crow while they basked in righteous vindication. At least that's how they see it.

But this is a dubious honor at best. If someone sits down at the blackjack table and loses 10,000 hands in a row, you don't call them a gambling genius after they win once. The same can be said for the whole of the 20th and 21st centuries; U.S. intelligence has flagrantly and repeatedly lied to hoodwink the people into supporting one disastrous war after another, and they show no signs of stopping.

We're seeing the effects of this widespread amnesia already. In all the fierce denunciations of Russia emanating from the capitalist press, any appeals to context are drowned out in a wave of rah-rah bloodlust. Mere days ago it was acceptable to tentatively, cautiously acknowledge NATO's role in this crisis—if only to serve as cover for the paint-by-number pablum that would inexorably follow. But the truth is far more damning. The regrettable situation we now find ourselves in is a direct result of the U.S.' protracted attempts to turn Ukraine into a catspaw

for its interests, as well as those of its military alliance.

Ukraine's history is long and complicated, as is its relationship with Russia. But if we want to trace the present morass to its proximate origins we can look to 2013, when then-president Viktor Yanukovich rejected an association agreement with the European Union. He chose instead to sign a more favorable package with Russia, absent the onerous conditions the EU was demanding for the Ukrainian option.

The response from Ukraine's western and central regions, who have long considered themselves more aligned with Europe or a Ukrainian nationalism than with Russia, was immediate. Protests turned violent, and neo-Nazi militias intent on wiping all Russian influence from the country took the lead in ousting Yanukovich from office.

Those far-right militias and nationalist groups now exert a great deal of say over Ukrainian policy despite holding few elected positions. Several have been incorporated into the country's army and national guard. It is due in no small part to their pressure that Ukraine was unable to implement the Minsk agreements, designed to bring an end to civil war in the east and grant autonomy to the culturally and linguistically Russian areas of the country.

But this is by design. Intransigence in negotiations was exactly what the U.S. and NATO were banking on in their efforts to pull Ukraine closer and use the state as a staging ground for troops and long-range missiles. With Russia backed into a corner and Ukraine's pleas for the West to stop fanning the flames falling on deaf ears, this conflict was inevitable—and re-

markably advantageous for certain parties. Funny how things work out.

The oft-trumpeted notion of NATO as a purely defensive alliance has always been a convenient fiction. But this was made more abundantly clear after the end of the Soviet Union when its stated mission of containment was rendered obsolete. In addition to slowly moving military installations closer to Russia's border—in direct defiance of pledges not to expand eastward—the bloc has engaged in precisely the sort of belligerence it now denounces Russia for.

Was it an act of defense to drop bombs on the former Yugoslavia? Was it defensive to shoot down aircraft while imposing a no-fly zone in Libya, toppling a government, and turning a country with one of Africa's highest standards of living into its poorest? Was occupying Afghanistan for over 20 years a defensive measure?

Just as the wars the U.S. and its allies have waged on sovereign countries have received no recrimination from an obedient press—and no attendant sympathy for their victims—there will be a nary a peep about NATO's acts of aggression now that the media and government are waving the bloody shirt.

We have been here before, of course. Those in the U.S. and Europe who dared express support for the Palestinians oppressed under Israel's brutal apartheid regime, the Yemesis starved, bombed, and blockaded with Western support, or the millions of Afghans and Iraqis who lost friends and family were frequently the subjects of slimy smear campaigns, with their advocacy painted as treasonous. The treatment of NATO skeptics will no

doubt follow the same playbook.

There's a reason for this, one that runs deeper than the professed moral outrage of the commentariat and their corporate paymasters. By forcing Russia into this untenable position and aggravating tensions to the point of open conflict, the U.S.—with NATO as its enforcement arm—has ensured Europe will stay in its orbit for the foreseeable future.

As but one example, the Nord Stream 2 pipeline appears to be dead, at least for the time being. It would have provided a direct link for natural gas from Russia to Germany while bypassing Ukraine and cutting it out of lucrative transit fees. That's music to U.S. ears, but bad news for Germans who count on cheaper Russian fuel during the winter. Much of Europe will be scrambling to find alternate sources of energy now after debilitating sanctions have been levied on the Russian economy. Lo and behold, the U.S.' multinational behemoths have come to the rescue, offering the gas they need at higher cost. One might be tempted to call it a miracle.

To be clear, this conflict should end as soon as possible, with a negotiated settlement and a lasting peace. Ordinary people in both countries are the ones who will suffer most; Ukrainians from the devastation of war and Russians from the punitive sanctions designed to crater their country's economy.

The only people who stand to benefit are the weapons makers and the energy barons, who get dollar signs in their eyes at scenes that make thinking, feeling human beings weep. (IPA Service)

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## 2 Kids among 3 Killed as Russian Troops Open Fire at Civilians During Evacuation in Irpen, Says Report

Agency  
Kyiv, March 6:

An Indian Air Force aircraft brought back 210 Indians from Ukraine via Romania as shelling continued to wreck the eastern European country. The number of Ukrainian refugees was expected to reach 1.5 million on Sunday as Russia continued its attack 11 days after invading Ukraine and Kyiv pressed for further Western action, including more sanctions and weapons.

Moscow and Kyiv traded blame over a failed ceasefire plan that would have let civilians flee Mariupol and Volnovakha, two southern cities besieged by Russian forces. Another round of talks was tentatively planned for Monday as Ukrainians who could escape spilled into neighboring Poland, Romania, Slovakia and elsewhere.

In a televised address on Saturday night, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on people in areas occupied by Russian troops to go on the offensive and fight.

"We must go outside and drive this evil out of our cities," he said, vowing to rebuild his nation. "My confidence in this is reinforced by the energy of our resistance, our protest."

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier reiterated that he wanted a neutral Ukraine that had been "demilitarised" and "denazified," and likened Western sanctions "to a declaration of war," adding: "Thank God it has not come to that."



Ukraine and Western countries have decried Putin's reasons as a baseless pretext for the invasion he launched on Feb. 24 and have imposed sweeping sanctions aimed at isolating Moscow and crippling its economy.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the Ukraine-Poland border, said he expected new sanctions and weapons for Ukraine in coming days.

The United States has said it would give Ukraine more weapons and has repeatedly warned it could escalate sanctions, with President Joe Biden seeking \$10 billion in emergency funding to respond to the crisis.

Washington is working with Poland as Warsaw considers whether to provide fighter jets to Ukraine, a White House spokesperson said late on Sat-

urday, adding that the United States could replenish Poland's supply of jets if they did, although challenges remain given the contested airspace.

Zelenskyy had asked for help securing aircraft from European allies in a video call with U.S. lawmakers earlier on Saturday. He also called again for more lethal aid, a ban on Russian oil, a no-fly zone and an end to Visa Inc and MasterCard Inc privileges in Russia, U.S. media reported.

Biden spoke with Zelenskyy for about 30 minutes on Saturday evening in Washington as Sunday broke in Ukraine, the White House said. They discussed security, financial support for Ukraine and the continuation of sanctions against Russia, Zelenskyy wrote on Twitter.

NATO, which Ukraine wants to join, has resisted Zelenskyy's appeals to impose a no-fly zone over his country,

saying it would escalate the conflict outside Ukraine.

Seeking to mediate, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with Putin at the Kremlin on Saturday and later spoke to Zelenskyy, Bennett's spokesperson said.

"We continue dialogue," Zelenskyy tweeted after the call. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson issued a six-point plan to respond to Russia's invasion ahead of meetings with leaders from Canada, the Netherlands and Central Europe in London next week.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan is expected to talk with Putin on Sunday. Turkey, a NATO member, shares a maritime border with Ukraine and Russia in the Black Sea.

Ukrainian negotiators said a third round of talks with Russia on a ceasefire would go ahead on Monday, although Moscow was less definitive.

## PEC condoles demise of Ukraine scribes, appeals to all concerned to ensure safety & security of journalists

IT Correspondent  
Geneva, March 6:

Press Emblem Campaign (<https://pressemblem.ch/pec-news.shtml>), the global media safety and rights body, condoles the demise of two Ukrainian journalists in the week of Russia's aggression to Ukraine and urges the United Nations to recognise their professional services for disseminating authentic information about the ongoing conflicts. PEC also appreciates the restrained role played by the mainstream media outlets and responsible journalism pursued by a large number of media persons on the ground.

Journalist Shakirov Dilerbek Shukurovych, who hailed from Kherson locality, died on 26 February and television cameraman Yevhenii Sakun lost his life in the Russian attacks on the Ukrainian capital city of Kyiv on 1 March 2022. Both were victims of the Russian military aggression in Ukraine that started in the last week of February disregarding the international laws. PEC had already condemned in the strongest terms against the Russian actions and appealed to all concerns to ensure the



safety and security of journalists, who were engaged in professional duties.

"PEC also urged all parties to refrain from spreading propaganda for war or incitement to hostility or violence. We stand in solidarity with independent Russian media who continue to report the truth in an unprecedented situation. Moreover, we demanded the Russian authorities not to censor independent media reporting about the invasion and to avoid detaining journalists who were covering the anti-war protests," said Blaise Lempen, secretary-general of PEC, adding that all journalists on the ground were already asked to take precautionary

measures. Earlier, the international media forum condemned the Russian missile attack on the TV tower of Kyiv that facilitated broadcasting of radio and television news. Lately, it lauded the adoption of a resolution by the Geneva-based Human Rights Council condemning the rights violations and abuses in Ukraine and asking for an early withdrawal of Russian troops. Moreover, an independent international commission of inquiry should be established to probe into the violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian laws in Ukraine.

European media outlets usually maintain their responsible journalism avoiding the exposure of human dead from the battlefield. Many mainstream media outlets in India, which are relatively independent among south & southeast Asian nations, are also reporting from the ground with standard guidelines, said PEC's India representative Nava Thakuria, adding that it's a welcome change for the Indian media, which usually goes unleashed on reporting the human tragedies with unsolicited visuals if it happens to their own people.

## Over 178.80 Crore Covid Vaccine Doses Administered in India So Far: Govt

Agency  
New Delhi, March 6:

The cumulative Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 178.80 crore on Saturday, the Union Health Ministry said. On Saturday, more than 23 lakh (23,23,288) vaccine doses have been administered till 7 pm. The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of final reports for the day by late night, it said.

The ministry said more than 2.06 crore (2,06,08,011) precaution doses have been administered so far to the identified categories of beneficiaries — healthcare workers, frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities. Cumulatively, 55,25,28,971 first doses and

44,93,76,379 second doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered to individuals in the 18-44 age group across states and union territories since the start of Phase-3 of the vaccination drive, according to the ministry's data.

In the 15-18 age group, 5,53,65,272 first doses and 3,07,53,607 second doses have been administered. India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage has crossed 1,78,80,37,981 on Saturday, it said.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers 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 commenced 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 with the country witnessing a spike in coronavirus infections fuelled by its Omicron variant.

## India adds 5,476 New Covid Cases, 158 Deaths

Agency  
New Delhi, March 6:

With 5,476 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,29,62,953, while the active cases dipped to 59,442, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death count climbed to 5,15,036 with 158 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The daily COVID-19 cases

have remained less than one lakh for 28 consecutive days.

The active cases comprise 0.14 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 4,436 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 423,88,475 while the case fatality rate was re-

corded as 1.20 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 178.83 crore.

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

on December 19. The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

The positivity rate has fallen to 0.60 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate is reported to be at 0.77 per cent, the ministry data also showed. More than 9 lakh tests have been conducted in the last 24 hours.

The authorities have administered more than 178.80 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

Contd. from Page 1

## Our knowledge-tradition will be strengthened....

It intertwines the systems of thought and knowledge. We not only do everyday communication through languages, but they also become an integral part of our identity. Through them we carry our cultural heritage. It also gives meaning to social, economic and political activism. Mother tongue is not just our home language for us, but it is a tool to establish intellectual, emotional and spiritual connection between the living entity and the world. It is India's multilingualism that makes its intellectual and cultural heritage rich and wide. Many times we look at this multilingualism with suspicion, but the formula of unity inherent in Indian languages leads us to eternal life with peace and harmony. The real problem of the country is the neglect of Indian languages in purposeful areas such as

law, medicine, education and official use. A major reason for this neglect is the Macaulayist education system. By this the work of causing maximum damage to Indian languages was done.

First of all, we started considering the schools and other educational institutions operating in Indian languages as second class. In its place, the English language was accepted as the universal medium of instruction. As a result, there was a tendency of neglect among the students, teachers and educated class towards their language and culture. Second, we have also accepted western knowledge and method as superior in formal business. As a result, the present generation started cherishing the dream of settling abroad and became subjugated by western culture. So we started considering our

culture and languages as synonymous with poverty and backwardness. Vijay Garg

We may use languages like English and standardized Hindi for ease of reading and writing and formal discourse, but for communication with our family members, elders, neighbors and colloquial friends, the mother tongue will be preferable. Mother tongue gives coolness to our mind and brain. Unfortunately today many Indian languages and dialects are passing through a crisis. In our interactions with privacy as well as intimacy and belonging, formality and modernity dominate so much that our culture, languages and local dialects have to pay the price for them. Languages and dialects are also being deprecated in informal practice. There are some areas like law, education and health, where people feel

cheated due to not being able to express their thoughts and feelings in their own language.

Indian languages have to be viewed from the point of view of local perspective and diversity rather than on the scale of uniformity and universality. We cannot place our preference only on those languages which are used in a wide area. Cultural traditions embedded in various languages and dialects of Indian society, symbols of civilizational continuity, practices of nature-centred living and other indigenous practices can help in ensuring the sustainable development of the nation. On the contrary, the myth of ease of formal education and economic activities in the English language has endangered cultural activities along with indigenous languages.

## Indian medical students abroad join forces to help peers stranded in war-torn Ukraine

Agency  
Kharkiv, March 6:

Need a cab for four people in Kyiv. Do we know someone in Poland who can drop food packets at the border? A group is starting from Kharkiv, any updates on trains?

Thousands of such messages get pouring in WhatsApp, Telegram and social media groups created by Indian medical students abroad who have volunteered to help their peers stranded in Ukraine amid the Russian invasion.

The volunteering students are studying in China, Uzbekistan and Philippines. While many of them are helping in their university campuses, the others are those who had returned to India in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and are attending online classes.

As soon as the news of Indian students being stranded in war-hit Ukraine spread, these volunteers sprung into action.

"We were connected with some of the medical students in different countries since we

went to coaching institutions together before leaving India.

"We also had multiple groups on Whatsapp and Telegram to exchange updates, notes and other information on Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE), which we are supposed to write to practice in India," P Sharma, a student of China's Harbin Medical University, told PTI.

"When things started going south in Ukraine, we thought why not use these to help our fellow students stranded there" he added.

# PM Modi attributes 'Operation Ganga' success to India's growing influence

Agency  
Pune, Mar 6:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attributed the success of the 'Operation Ganga' to evacuate citizens stranded in war-torn Ukraine to India's growing influence in the global arena.

"We are evacuating thousands of Indians safely from the war zone through the Operation Ganga," Modi said after inaugurating the golden jubilee celebration of the Symbiosis University and its Arogyam Dham here.

"It is due to India's growing influence that it has brought thousands of students from the war zone of Ukraine back to their motherland," he said.

Many big countries are facing difficulties in doing so for their citizens, Modi said.

Amid the escalating crisis in Ukraine, the Indian government, under the 'Operation Ganga', has flown 13,700 citizens - who were stuck in war-hit Ukraine - back to safety by special flights that were started last week, the government had said in a statement on Saturday.

On Sunday, addressing students in Pune, Modi said their generation is lucky that it does not have to bear the brunt of a



"defensive and dependent psychology". If the country has seen this change, then the credit goes to the youth of the country, he said.

He said sectors where the country would not have thought of standing on its feet, it is now becoming a global leader in those areas.

The PM also cited the example of mobile and electronic manufacturing and the defence sectors.

"In the area of defence, we had come to believe that we could do anything only on the basis of whatever others gave.

But, today things have changed," he said.

The PM said India is now becoming a defence exporter. Two defence corridors are underway where modern weapons will be manufactured and fulfill the country's security needs, he added.

"India has emerged second in the area of mobile manufacturing. Seven years back, the country only had two mobile manufacturing companies. Today, more than 200 manufacturing units are involved in this," he said.

From the software industry

to health sector, from Artificial Intelligence to automobiles and electric vehicles, from quantum computing to machine learning, new avenues are coming to the fore, he mentioned.

Modi said reforms are taking place in the areas of geo-spatial systems, from drones and semi-conductors to space. These reforms have brought opportunities for the youth.

The government in the country trusts the capabilities of the youth, which is why many sectors are liberalised, he said.

The world's third largest start-up ecosystem is in India, the PM said, adding that the "Start-up India", "Stand-up India", "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (initiatives of the government) represent the aspirations of the youth.

"Today's India is innovating, improving and influencing the world," he said.

Modi cited the example of how India showed its capability through a vaccine against COVID-19.

The prime minister exhorted the youth to start their own start-ups to find solutions to the challenges faced by the country. He said the solutions to the local challenge should come from universities.

# Govt Panel Recommends Permission for Phase-3 Trial of Covovax as Booster Dose in Adults

Agency  
New Delhi, March 6:



An expert panel of India's central drug authority has recommended permission for conducting a phase-3 clinical trial of Covid vaccine Covovax as a booster dose in adults, official sources said on Sunday. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has already approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28.

It is yet to be included in the country's inoculation programme. The Subject Expert Committee on COVID-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation had on Friday recommended giving permission for conducting a phase-3 clinical trial of the single-dose COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik Light as a booster dose.

In February, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at Serum Institute of India, Prakash Kumar Singh had sought from DCGI nod to conduct a phase-3, observer-blind, randomized, controlled study to evaluate the safety and im-

munogenicity of Covovax as a booster dose in adults who were vaccinated with Covishield or Covaxin at least 3 months ago, an official source had said. Singh had stated many countries have already started administering booster doses to their citizens considering the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are sure that your approval for conducting this clinical trial will ensure early availability of Covovax for booster dose use for people of our country as well as the world at large in line with our prime minister's vision of 'Making in India for the World'. "Our firm is committed to providing world-class life-saving vaccines at an affordable price under the visionary leadership of our CEO Adar C

Poonawalla. We request you to kindly grant us permission to conduct a phase-3 clinical trial for booster dose of Covovax in Indian adults," Singh is learnt to have stated in the application.

Covovax is manufactured by technology transfer from Novavax. It has been approved by the European Medicines Agency for conditional marketing authorisation and has also been granted emergency use listing by WHO. In August 2020, the US-based vaccine maker Novavax Inc had announced a licence agreement with Serum Institute of India for the development and commercialisation of NVX-CoV2373, its COVID-19 vaccine candidate, in low and middle-income countries and India.

# Mizoram reports 433 fresh COVID-19 cases, 136 less than previous day

Agency  
Aizawl, March 6:

Mizoram reported 433 fresh COVID-19 cases on Saturday- 136 less than the previous day- taking the state's tally to 2,17,038, an official said.

The death toll rose to 662 as one more person has succumbed to the infection in the last 24

hours, he said. The fresh cases detected from 1,951 samples test put the single-day positivity rate at 22.19 per cent, he said.

Mizoram has so far tested 18.46 lakh samples for COVID-19.

The state now has 4,047 COVID-19 active cases, while 1,062 people have recovered in the last 24 hours, taking the total re-

covery to 2,12,329. The recovery among COVID-19 patients is 97.83 per cent and the death rate is 0.30 per cent.

According to state immunisation officer Lalmanuawma Jongte, more than 8 lakh people have been inoculated till Saturday out of which 6.53 lakh have been fully vaccinated.

Contd. from Page 1

# Phase II - Manipur stands tall in upholding...

FIRs have been registered. The incident under Karong AC unfortunately got escalated leading to serious injury to two persons, who were immediately evacuated by chopper to Imphal for treatment. However, one of them sadly succumbed on the way. The other person is under treatment at RIMS Hospital, Imphal. CEO, Manipur ex-

presses condolence over the demise of the deceased. There were few complaints from certain political parties & candidates during the poll.

However, majority of the issues were resolved, and prompt actions taken. Repoll for 12 polling stations of Phase I Assembly Constituencies also ended peacefully with a turnout of

77.62%. It may be noted that one polling station each in 1-Khundrakpam and 51-Saitu, three in 56-Thanol, five in 57-Henglep and two in 60-Singhat Assembly Constituencies went for repoll today.

Rajesh Agrawal thanked people of Manipur for coming out in large numbers to exercise their democratic right in a peace-

ful manner, giving a real meaning to the Festival of Democracy. He also thanked the Polling Personnel, Security Personnel, Booth Level Officers (BLO), PWD coordinators, ASHA Workers, Aanganwadi workers for working tirelessly day and night to ensure free, fair, peaceful, participative, accessible and inclusive polls in the State.

# Sports

# India keep their ODI streak against Pakistan intact with 107-run win in Women's World Cup



Agency  
Mount Maunganui, New Zealand, March 6:

India Women got their ICC Women's World Cup 2022 campaign off to a winning start by getting the better of Pakistan by 107 runs at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui on March 6. It was a clinical performance from India as they staged a

remarkable comeback having suffered a batting collapse in the first innings.

By the virtue of this win, India W not only kept their ODI World Cup record against the arch-rivals intact with a third straight victory under their belt but have also won in all their 11 meetings against the Women In Green in One Day Internationals. The match also saw India

skipper Mithali Raj becoming the first-ever female cricketer to have featured in six World Cups.

Chasing a stiff total of 245, openers Sidra Ameen and Javeria Khan ensured a watchful start for Pakistan with a 28-run opening stand before the latter was dismissed by Rajeshwari Gayakwad in the 11th over. Captain Bismah Maroof then

joined Ameen in the middle to rebuild the innings but, went back to the pavilion with just 15 runs to her name.

It all went downhill from there on for Pakistan as they lost wickets at regular intervals with none of the batters being able to apply themselves as Gayakwad ran through their batting lineup and finished with figures of 4/31 from her 10 overs at an economy of 3.1. Tail-ender Diana Baig did try to keep her team in the hunt scoring 24 but, it was just not enough as they were bundled out for 137 in the 43rd over.

Earlier in the day, the middle-order duo of Sneha Rana and Pooja Vastrakar added 122 runs for the seventh-wicket stand and carried out the rescue act for the Indian eyes after they had found themselves in a spot of bother being reduced to 114/6 in the 34th over despite a brilliant 52 by opener Smriti Mandhana and a vital 40 by Deepti Sharma.

Sneha Rana remained unbeaten on 53 runs off 48 deliveries while Pooja Vastrakar scored a splendid 67 runs from 59 balls that propelled India to a competitive total of 244/7 from their 50 overs.

# SC East Bengal end season rock-bottom as Bengaluru signs off with a win



Agency  
Vasco, March 6:

SC East Bengal ended their disastrous Indian Super League (ISL) campaign at the rock bottom of the table after losing 0-1 to Bengaluru FC in their last match of the season on Saturday.

Sunil Chhetri's solitary strike (24th) proved to be the difference, bagging three points for Marco Pezzaioli's men in their final fixture of their 2021-22 campaign.

The result meant that the Kolkata-based club finished the season in the bottom-place on the points table, with only one win in 20 matches. On the other hand, Bengaluru FC finished in sixth place as they

secured 29 points overall.

Antonio Perosevic tested Lara Sharma in the goal from a free-kick early in the match but the custodian made a fine save.

The game was evenly balanced until a moment of individual brilliance from Chhetri who broke the deadlock. The skipper controlled a long ball on his chest and slotted the shot into the bottom left corner to give the lead to the Blues in the 24th minute.

Udanta Singh then came close to scoring but saw his long-range shot hit the crossbar at the stroke of half-hour.

The first half did not have any more goals apart from a lot of goalmouth action from both teams.

The Red & Gold brigade suffered a setback by losing Perosevic to an ankle injury, who was replaced by Marcelo Ribeiro.

The second half saw a harder push for the second goal from Bengaluru FC. However, they handed a gift to Thongkham Haokip at the hour mark only for him to lift his chip sail way over the bar.

A whole host of changes were made by both coaches to give time to youngsters and inject more energy in the match after the hour mark.

Bengaluru came close to extending their lead, courtesy Chhetri, whose powerful drive was parried away by Suvam Sen in SCEB's goal.