

CEO Manipur announces re-poll in 6 polling stations of 4 Assembly Constituencies on March 8

No re-poll announced for 6 polling stations in Tengnoupal where EVMs were allegedly destroyed

IT News
Imphal, March 7:

Chief Election Officer of Manipur has announced re-poll in 6 polling stations where voting process were marred by violence in 4 assembly constituencies in the Phase 2 election held on March 5. A notification by the CEO Manipur said that re-polls will be held on March 8 (Tuesday) are Ukhrul (E-2) in Ukhrul constituency, Kalhang and Peh (B) in Chingai constituency, Ngamju, Yang Khullen and Mao Marafii in Karong and

Tadubi ACs respectively.

However, the CEO did not mention about 6 polling stations in Tengnoupal Assembly constituency where EVM are allegedly destroyed. According to NPF Tengnoupal Unit EVMs were destroyed by the people at 42/4 M. Rimping, 42/13 Saibol, 42/16 Machi (A), 42/18 Konaitong 42/42 Rilram Center and 42/43 Kambang polling stations of Tengnoupal Assembly constituency.

The decision for re-poll in two districts of Ukhrul and Senapati was taken following reports of violence on the day

of polling on Saturday, where 22 assembly constituencies voted in Phase 2 of the election across 1,247 polling stations.

The re-poll will start at 7 am and conclude by 4 pm tomorrow.

"I am directed to refer to Commission's Letter No.495/MR-LA/2022-NES-II dated 7th March, 2022 on the above subject and to inform that the Commission has, under subsection (2) of Section 58 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, declared that the poll taken on 5th March, 2022 (Sat-

urday) at the following total 6 polling stations to be void and appointed 8th March, 2022 (Tuesday) as the date for taking repoll/fresh poll at the said polling stations with hours of poll from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, in accordance with the Commission's instructions contained in Chapter-XIII of the Hand Book for Returning Officers, 2019," said the order issued by Ramananda Nongmeikapam, joint chief electoral officer, Manipur.

He further requested to take necessary actions as per above ECI directions. Wide publicity of the program of re-poll/fresh poll will be given in polling areas concerned and political parties and contesting candidate be informed in writing, he added.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with media persons today, President of the NPF Tengnoupal Unit, Kh. Leirung said that if the CEO fail to announce re-poll or to exclude counting of the 6 ballot boxes of the 6 polling stations in Tengnoupal Assembly constituency where EVM are allegedly destroyed, the NPF will launch various agitations including Blockade.



CORCOM greets woman of the region on International Women's Day

IT News
Imphal, March 7:

CORCOM, a conglomerate of different outfits of Manipur greets the woman of the region with the coming of International Woman's Day on March 8. A press release sent out by M. Sakhen, Media Co-ordinator of CORCOM said, "With the coming of International Woman's Day on March, it should not be forgotten that Woman in the society still faces oppression till now. The theme for this year's Woman Day Celebration is "Gender Equality for a Sustainable

Tomorrow". Supporting this theme, it has become necessary to the people around the world how woman of WESEA region are living and facing oppression.

The United Nations first started celebrating International Woman's Day on March 8, 1975. However in 18 December 1979, Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women organized by UN General Assembly recognized the equal rights to be enjoyed by both.

The press release further said, "Woman of WESEA region are still lagging behind

their male counterparts in terms of education and health care, and they have been suffering more. Women have not been given their rightful places in economic activities as well as political affairs. Casteism, discrimination and racism which is an integral part of Hinduism has been affecting the people of WESEA region greatly. With the coming of Hinduism, woman who were part of economic activities as well as political affairs are slowly sidelined and were not given equal rights.

With the coming of this year's International Woman's Day, to bring up womenfolk

of the society to a higher and equal level is the need of the hour. The forceful merger of Manipur (Kangleipak) in 1949 to the Union of India brought an end to the already independent and democratic rule, violating all international laws. Recently, under the shadow of Armed forces Special Powers Act, 1958 there were numerous incidents of Human Rights Violation and outraging the modesty of women. The oppression and the inequality faced by the Manipuri Women cannot be removed until and unless Manipur become an independent state.

Govt. extends SoO with KNO and UPF for one more year



File Photo

IT News
Imphal, March 7:

Suspension of operation (SoO) between the armed rebel groups United People's Front (UPF) and Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and the Government of India and Government of Manipur has been extended for one more year starting today till February 2023.

The agreement for extension of the Suspension of operation was signed by Aron Kipgen, Ketheos Zomi and Joshua Thadou of the UPF, Dr. Seilen Haokip Dino Zou of the KNO and the Ashutosh Kumar Sinha, Additional Director General of Police (Int), Government of Manipur and Piyus Goyal, Additional Secretary (NE) Ministry of Home Affairs.

Ground rules shall remain unchanged.

It may be mentioned that, the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and the United Peoples' Front (UPF) have signed the agreement for suspension of operation (SoO) with the government of India and Manipur on August 22, 2008. There are 17 armed rebel groups in the KNO and 8 in the UPF.

Prez Kovind to confer Nari Shakti Puraskars to 29 women

Agency
New Delhi, March 7:

As many as 29 outstanding personalities will be conferred with the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar for the years 2020 and 2021 on the occasion of International Women's Day tomorrow.

As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the week-long celebrations of International Women's Day started on 1st March, 2022 in New Delhi.

The culmination of week-long events will witness conferment of Nari Shakti Puraskar for the years 2020 and 2021 by the Honourable Minister of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind at a special ceremony 2 be held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on 8th March, 2022. The award ceremony for the year 2020 could not be held in 2021 due to prevalent situation created by COVID-19 pandemic.

The Honourable Prime Minister of India will also be having an interactive session with the Awardees to applaud their efforts and to inspire the masses to work for and excel in areas relating to women empowerment.

In all, 28 awards (14 each for the year 2020 and 2021) will be presented to 29 individuals in recognition of their exceptional work in rendering distinguished services towards empowerment of women, especially vulnerable and marginalized women.

"Nari Shakti Puraskar" is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to acknowledge the exceptional contribution made by individuals and institutions, to celebrate women as game changers and catalyst of positive change in the society.

These achievers have not allowed age, geographical bar-

riers or access to resources to come in the way of fulfilling their dreams. Their indomitable spirit will inspire the society at large and the young Indian minds in particular to break gender stereotypes, and stand up against gender inequality and discrimination. These awards are an effort to recognize women as equal partners in the advancement of society.

The winners of the Nari Shakti Puraskar for the year 2020 are from fields as diverse as entrepreneurship, agriculture, innovation, social work, arts and crafts, STEM, and wildlife conservation, etc. The winners of the Nari Shakti Puraskar for the year 2021 are from the fields of linguistics, entrepreneurship, agriculture, social work, arts and crafts, Merchant Navy, STEM, education and literature, disability rights, etc.

Petrol, diesel prices to go up by Rs 12 before Holi

Agency
New Delhi, March 7:

With assembly elections in five states, getting over on Monday, there are apprehensions that petrol and diesel prices may be hiked across the country. Fuel prices, which were not revised for the past four months, need to be increased by more than Rs 12 per litre by March 16 for retailers to break even, according to a PTI report.

Holi, the festival of colours, will be celebrated on March 18.

This comes as international oil prices have reached levels not seen since the 2008 financial crisis as disruption to crude and fuel exports from

Russia has left the world short of supply.

Petrol, Diesel Prices To Be Hiked?

The government had cut excise duty to provide a relief from skyrocketing prices of petrol and diesel ahead of Diwali last year.

Subsequently, oil marketing companies, which take a call on revision of daily prices of petrol and diesel, decided to freeze fuel rates for four months.

As state elections are getting over, daily price hikes of petrol and diesel are expected to resume, PTI reported quoting JP Morgan.

With international oil prices spiking in the last two months, state-owned fuel re-

tailers "need a massive price hike of Rs 12.1 per litre on or before March 16, 2022, just to break-even and a price hike of Rs 15.1 is required" after including margins for oil firms, PTI reported quoting ICICI Securities.

Steep price hikes are required as the strength in gross refining margins does not suffice for sharp quarter-on-quarter fall in net auto fuel marketing margin, the PTI report says.

Russia-ukraine War Impact

Oil prices hit over \$130 a barrel on Monday after the US and European allies explored a Russian oil import ban, while delays in the potential return of Iranian crude to global mar-

kets sped up supply fears. India imports more than two-thirds of its oil requirements, and higher prices push up the country's trade and current account deficit while also hurting the rupee.

Implications for India with rising crude is that if crude sustains around or above \$100, then every 10 dollar rise in crude effectively means that the net trade deficit for India goes up by \$15 billion, Mayuresh Joshi, head of equity research at William O'Neil & Co, India, told Reuters.

International Oil Prices Highest Since 2008

Brent crude oil briefly surged over \$110 to nearly \$130 a barrel early Monday, not too far off its all-time high of

\$147.50.

On the other hand, Benchmark US crude had jumped \$10.01 to \$125.69 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The all-time high was marked in July 2008, when the price per barrel of US crude climbed to \$145.29.

Oil prices came under additional pressure after Libya's national oil company said an armed group had shut down two crucial oil fields.

The US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the House was exploring legislation to further isolate Russia from the global economy, including banning the import of its oil and energy products into the US.

President of India's message on the eve of International Women's Day

PIB
New Delhi, March 7:

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, in his message on the eve of International Women's Day, which is observed every year on March 8, has said :-

"I extend warm greetings and best wishes to all women on International Women's Day.

Today when the world is continuously changing, Indian women are making a significant impact in their personal & social lives as well in the national

arena. They are also playing an important role in the development process of our country. It is important to empower our daughters to make them self-reliant. It would enable them to achieve their aspirations even while fulfilling their responsibilities vis-a-vis their family, society and nation.

This day is also an occasion to reiterate our resolve to ensure safety, dignity and prosperity of women. We must give our sisters and daughters opportunities to realize their potential and hence contribute in nation-building."

The heat of war now reaches to our kitchens

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Due to some urgency, I got a chance to visit a nearby departmental store yesterday. I went straight to the refined oil section first to explore the brands and variety available at the store. It was shocking to find that the entire section was almost empty, except a few packets of a particular brand. Otherwise the racks used to be full of a number of brands presenting a lot of choice to choose from. The prices of the packets of cooking oil found there appeared to have increased as compared to previous rates. The same was the case with the mustard oil rack. Everything was available in the range of two hundred rupees or more. The packets kept on the salted snacks rack also displayed a little more price. That is, the heat of Russia's attack on Ukraine has started reaching our kitchens. Wait for a week, then petrol, diesel and LPG will also be available at increased prices. The war has impacted the prices of sunflower oil, wheat, LPG and crude oil. Due to this, the raw material cost of companies manufacturing consumer goods of daily use has increased. As a result, prices of things like biscuits, soap, shampoo, cooking oil etc. have gone up. However, the trend of increase in prices has been going on for the last three months only. But that increase was due to the third wave of Covid, while Russia's military attack on Ukraine is behind the recent hike in prices.

It is worth mentioning here that India imports 70 percent sunflower oil from Ukraine and 20 percent from Russia. Oil prices have risen in many countries due to disruptions in the supply of oil from Russia and Ukraine. If we talk about cooking oil, sunflower oil is in great demand along with soybean. After coconut oil, sunflower oil is the most imported oil. India imports more than half of its gas requirement from Ukraine. The economic sanctions of the West are so stringent that their effect is now visible on the 12 lakh crore rupees economy of Russia. After this, President Vladimir Putin gave a threat of nuclear attack. The sanctions will affect not only Russia, but also about 50 other countries including India. Declaring businesses other than oil and gas illegal would halt money transactions outside Russia's borders. Action on Russia's central bank means that it will not be able to use its foreign exchange reserves of five lakh crore rupees. The Russian currency Ruble is already down 28 percent.

Meanwhile, Mastercard and Visa have announced the termination of their services in Russia. Any debit or credit cards issued by Russian banks to their customers of these two brands will no longer work, neither in Russia nor in any other country in the world. Even these cards will not work at any Russian stores or ATMs outside the country. Mastercard said that this step should not be taken lightly. They have taken this decision after talking to their customers, partners and governments. Visa said that it's going to stop all kinds of activities in Russia in the coming days.

Educating the Girl Child - Have We Done Enough?



By: M.R. Lahu

During the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, Ajuraj, a government school teacher from one of the remotest villages in Kerala had a new plan to teach his students. Ajuraj and his team of teachers decided to take teaching-learning to the houses of the students. A group of students from the neighbouring areas were called to one house and classes and experiments were conducted there itself. The same pattern of teaching was repeated for another cluster of students in a different house. Ajuraj and his team carried teaching learning-materials including lab items for experiment with them. Walking the entire stretch of the hilly terrain on foot multiple times, he and his team continued their teaching-mission for months until normalcy returned. Students of his school, especially girls were instrumental in this new innovative initiative to successfully take place. Lack of internet connectivity prompted him to take up this rare enterprise. I quoted this initiative here to explain the possibility in which education can take place when encountered with towering challenges.

If a girl is educated, the whole family is educated. It should make meaning beyond mere cliché. There are multiple reasons to which female literacy still stumbles on and collapses without achieving the desired outcome in our country. We are yet to make credible and praiseworthy achievements. Interventions from social, political, regional and religious areas frequently affect the smooth schooling of girls. Typical family situations also adversely affect the girls' learning. An honest analysis of the situation in India reveals that the potentiality of a large number of girls is still untapped. Forced to remain between the walls of the houses behind the curtains, most of them are susceptible to various exploitations. Government's initiative to bring a

law in order to raise the minimum age of marriage from 18 to 21 was repulsive to some and a welcome move for many. Compared to literate women, illiterates are vulnerable to exploitations in places such as markets, homes and workplaces. Being scary and forced to be submissive to the patriarchy, most of them are devoid of a happy life. Basic literacy skills would help them sort out anomalies to a great extent, enabling them to stand on their own feet. Unfortunately, still a large section of the society in India holds the view that to have a male child is a blissful option than to have a female. Reports revealing the statistics on the number of girls away from formal schooling do not give us happy goosebumps.

Efforts to teach our girls should take place at a faster pace, determinant to set greater goals and move in the direction of achieving them. Usually, prone to mistreatments from multiple corners, despite societies across the country making progress with greater resilience, illiteracy holds those who are devoid of the light of knowledge from the mainstream. We know the fact that mere literacy is not education. Education holds the capability to obliterate all kinds of infirmities in societies. A progressive ambience in every society gradually envisages this ability to correct and conceptualize better options to push its entire system to an articulative stature. Proximity to what we call an accuracy with respect to the achievement is far from reality in a multilateral entity such as India. The existing systems, with all their criticality need to be put for comprehensible exposition and reformations. Gender equality, as stressed by the constitution of the nation remains largely lopsided,

unable to consolidate the aptitudes of both genders with an egalitarian outlook. Various reports suggest that India is home to millions of 'out of school' children, with girls constituting the maximum. When the country is making multiple leaps in the field of education, indigenising its systems to what the National Education Policy professes, the share of its women literacy is still a mere 65 percent today. The effort to bring in the Right to Education Act (RTE) was a landmark move in the country. But ten years down the line the situation has not progressed much for the girls. The Right to Education has revolutionized the momentum, bringing glitches to the surface, ponderously attending issues and meeting the challenges, acknowledging the necessities of the schools. There is no denying the fact that India has made a noticeable leap in the direction of achieving a certain level of progress in the area of female education.

State and central governments' push in this direction can probably overturn breaking bottlenecks to possibilities. According to a report by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, about 40 percent of girls between the ages 15 to 18 years are out of school and among them 65 percent were engaged in household work. 30 percent of the girls away from schools are from extremely poor family backgrounds, who probably could never reach a classroom. Disconcertingly, it is evident from the facts that a large number of families in rural India still prefers to have a boy instead of a girl. This tilting of mind taking a boy as a blessing and a girl, if not a curse, but not considered a welcome gesture, needs to change. A lop-sided

sex ratio of 940 females to 1000 males should be taken as an indication of an insistent nonacceptance for the female child. A study conducted by the Central Statistical Organisation reveals the fact that between 2001 and 2011, there was a sharp decline in the share of children to the total population and the larger decline was noticed in the number of female children. Startling findings by some agencies say that India lost about 3 million girls in one decade in infanticide during this period. Unfortunately, we are yet to make a steep recovery from this situation.

Incentivizing the girl child education, making it genuinely affordable, the government's efforts have been consistent. If parents are illiterate, they will be unable to figure out the pace with which the world is progressing with opportunities equally available for girls and boys. Opportunities mushrooming on a day-to-day basis, the girls need to get more access to education to prove their efficiencies and to disprove societies' misconceived notions. As per studies, in 2013 about 22 percent of Government schools in India did not have appropriate toilets for girls and 58 percent pre-schools did not have toilets at all. Under the Swachh Bharat - Swachh Vidyalaya initiative, we have made much progress in filling the lacuna. From the very beginning of his tenure as the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has consistently been giving attention to the fallacies and drawbacks in educating the girl child. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was a phenomenal step in this direction. But much has to be done to bring our girls to schools and help them experience a world of wonderful tremendous possibilities.

(The writer is a Freelance Journalist/ Social Worker, Mepurathu House, Puthusserimala, P.O Ranni Pathanamthitta, Kerala State)

Poem on International Women's Day

"Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow"

By: Mandakini

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The world is full of surprises thru few on profound sorrow,
Look outdoor with anoptimism for a better tomorrow!

We are people of choices and desire,
We need every rightto aspire!

We need women to voice out the change that we want to see;
First step through Children, they equally need to understand the plea!

Yes! I am a woman and I can wear Dangri!
So, as I am a man and can choose to wear sarees,
This is all we have been debating throughout &most disagree!

Why not choose a sustainable fashion,
To be called an iconic passion!

Consuming a balanced ecosystem compassion,
A unique way towards environment as an action!

An ovation for women out there for captivating both work & households' chore,
An Ovation too for all men equally applauding all!
Let's appreciate together "The Heroess" to support women for working on climate change
Let's appreciate "The Heroess" too who were never left behind and being caged!

Let's equally take an advantage of this world as a stage,
Towards a better Ecosystem that we have to pledge!

Pressure, pressure and pressure the Myanmar's military

By: Kyaw Min

Just over a year ago, General Min Aung Hlaing, the head of the armed forces, ousted the NLD government elected by Aung San Suu Kyi on allegations of electoral fraud. Democrats in Myanmar have been calling for the Civil Disobedience Movement's (CDM) non-cooperation against the olive government since February 2.

Although the Spring Revolution was a peaceful non-cooperation movement, it was heavily attacked by the military. After various sections of the society including the youth formed a resistance, the atrocities of the army started increasing. The remnants of the urban movement once spread all over Myanmar. At least 1,500 civilians have been killed by Myanmar's military in the past year. In retaliation, the PDF, the military wing of the NUG, known as the Alternative Government, demanded the killing of 3,000 soldiers.

Bloody clashes between Myanmar's military and various armed groups continue to escalate. On the other hand, in 2017, the then UN human rights chief called Myanmar's "clearance operation" against the Rohingya a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

Since the military junta took power a year ago, many young people have been fighting for their lives against the military. The combination of the level of violence and the attacks suggests that the conflict is slowly turning into a civil war.

Despite international condemnation of Myanmar's military atrocities against the Rohingya, it has failed to stop arms sales to the country. In addition, various countries have maintained trade relations with the country. China, Russia, India, South Korea, North Korea, Israel, Ukraine, and the Philippines have been pushing for a lasting solution to the Rohingya problem, while also providing arms to Myanmar.

Myanmar's military, with the help of its civilian allies, continues to use brutal violence and torture against its own citizens - not just here. They have refused to accept democratic reforms, staged coups to seize power, violently suppressed pro-democracy protests, escalated civil war with armed ethnic groups, and continued to suppress freedom of speech and civil rights.

Even so, in the last four years, the trade relations of many developed countries with Myanmar have improved. International support for the Rohingya has also declined. If the world continues to give Myanmar free rein for human rights violations in the interests of trade, what does that mean for global justice and the moral responsibility of the international community?

Economic and arms embargoes must be imposed to put effective pressure on Myanmar. It is not enough just to impose sanctions on a few military officers or com-

panies. At the same time, the major regional powers need to play a stronger role in ensuring that Myanmar takes responsibility for its own actions.

The Rohingya crisis was created by Myanmar and its solution is in Myanmar. Voluntarily, Rohingyas want to return to their homes with full civil rights, but Myanmar has not yet created a conducive environment for Rohingyas to return. Myanmar's military is still wreaking havoc there. The international community must put pressure on Myanmar to create a conducive environment. The situation is bound to improve if the international community imposes arms and economic sanctions on the country. For this, the UN Security Council or the international community should take appropriate action.

Myanmar's military is killing civilians in the state of Karen, using them as human armor, which amounts to a war crime, according to the international human rights group Fortify Rights. This information has been highlighted in a report published by this organization on Tuesday.

The group called on ASEAN member states to adhere to the UN Security Council's arms embargo to ban arms and technology sales to Myanmar's military.

A clear and concise initiative is needed to force the Myanmar military to reconsider its response to attacks on civilians. The Secu-

urity Council requested that in addition to the International Atomic Energy Agency's ongoing inspections in Myanmar, it monitor Myanmar's compliance with "the steps required by the IAEA Board."

So, Myanmar must be pressured to resolve the crisis and allow the Rohingya to return to their homes in Myanmar voluntarily, with full dignity and civil rights. To that end, the international community should impose arms embargoes and economic sanctions on Myanmar. The UN Security Council or the countries themselves can impose sanctions. The international community needs to impose sanctions on Myanmar's military. All should consider imposing sanctions on businesses linked to Myanmar's military. Sanctions imposed by the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada on Myanmar's institutions are a positive step. Other countries need to take similar steps. The army has become reckless since the military coup. Efforts must be made around the world to stop them. The most obvious and peaceful way to do this is to take measures to prevent the army from raising money and weapons. Only putting pressure, pressure, and pressure on Myanmar's military can compel the junta to abide by the international customary law and restore democracy. The world community including ASEAN must pressure and teach the Myanmar military how to respect all ethnic groups.

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Ukraine-Russia war: Moscow announces ceasefire to set up humanitarian corridors



Agency
Moscow, March 7:

Russia announced a partial ceasefire in order to allow civilians to leave the cities in Ukraine. The ceasefire will be in place from 12:30 pm (IST) today. Moscow agreed to open corridors on the humanitarian grounds after President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron held extensive talks on Sunday.

Russia has been heavily bombing the Ukrainian cities in its quest to take control over Kyiv. Ever since the Russian invasion started on February 24 more than 1.5 million people have crossed Ukraine's borders as refugees.

Notably, Moscow agreed to a ceasefire on a day when Russian-Ukrainian officials are all set to hold the third round of 'peace talks' on Monday.

Despite severe economic sanctions, Putin has

expressed confidence to succeed in the "neutralisation" of Ukraine "either through negotiation or through war".

During his telephonic talks with the French president, Putin reiterated his demand for the recognition of the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea as part of Russian territory as well as recognition as independent of two Ukrainian eastern breakaway regions of Donetsk and Luhansk already recognised by Russia.

The European Union and several other countries have been appealing to Russia and Ukraine to hold deliberations on ending the war.

The call for a temporary ceasefire comes as a relief for lakhs of people who are trying to flee Ukraine.

Fierce battles are being fought between the Ukrainian military and Russian forces on the borders of the southern city of Mykolayiv.

The Russian military has claimed to have destroyed all Ukraine's combat-ready aircraft. Putin has issued a stern warning to its neighbours including NATO member Romania not to host Kyiv's military aircraft.

"We know for sure that Ukrainian combat aircraft have flown to Romania and other neighbouring countries. The use of the airfield network of these countries for basing Ukrainian military aviation with the subsequent use of force against Russia's army can be regarded as the involvement of these states in an armed conflict," Russian defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said.

30 of 36 Disputed Villages along Meghalaya-Assam Border to remain in Meghalaya, says CM Sangma



Agency
Shillong, March 7:

Thirty of the 36 disputed villages along the Meghalaya-Assam border have been recommended by regional committees of the two states to remain in Meghalaya. Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma informed the assembly on Monday. The 36 villages cover a 36.9 sq km area, while the 30 villages are spread over 18 sq km area, he said.

The chief minister, addressing the House on the progress of the talks with the Assam government to resolve the inter-state boundary dispute, said that both the states have agreed that no new areas

of differences shall be added to the already identified 12 areas.

"Of the 36 villages claimed by Meghalaya in 2011, a total of 30 have been recommended by regional committees of the two states to remain in Meghalaya. Ownership of land, however, will not be affected after demarcation of the boundary," he said.

"All eight villages claimed by Meghalaya in Tarabari area will remain in the state. In Gizang, two of three claimed villages will remain with us. We will get 11 of 12 claimed villages in Hahim, one of two in Boklapara, five of six in Khanapara-Pillangkata, and three of five in Ratancherra," he

said. Sangma said that discussions, visits and surveys were conducted by regional committees of the two states headed by cabinet ministers, and special technologies were used in the exercise. The areas will be more accurately determined by the Survey of India in the presence of representatives of both the states.

The chief minister said that both the states have signed an MoU in January end on the resolution and conclusion of dialogue in six areas of difference and it was forwarded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

India's Covid tally dips for 5th straight day with 4,362 fresh infections

Agency
New Delhi, March 7:

India's Covid-19 cases dropped for the fifth consecutive day on Monday after 4,362 people were found to have contracted the virus, according to the health bulletin by the health ministry. The active caseload further dropped to reach below the 55,000-mark. With this, the cumulative Covid-19 case count of the country has touched 4,29,67,315, the bulletin data

revealed. The active case count currently stands at 54,118, constituting 0.13 per cent of the total tally - which is an improvement from Sunday when the figures had just gone below the 60,000-mark. The recovery rate also improved to 98.68 per cent in the last 24 hours from 98.66 per cent on the preceding day.

The overall death toll of India due to Covid-19 has reached 515,102 after many as 66 patients succumbed to

the virus in the last 24 hours.

Fresh recoveries, however, witnessed a slight dip to 9,620 on Monday as opposed to 9,754 the day before. The total number of patients who have recuperated from the virus has reached 4,23,98,095, the health bulletin data showed.

The daily positivity rate has further improved to 0.71 per cent from Sunday's 0.60 per cent. However, the weekly positivity rate saw a tumble to 0.73 per cent in the last 24

hours from 0.77 per cent the day before.

As many as 6,12,926 tests - including both RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen, were conducted in the last 24 hours. With this, India has conducted more than 77.34 crore tests so far since the Covid-19 pandemic struck in 2020.

Meanwhile, India's vaccination coverage has surpassed 178.90 crore till 7am today, with 4,80,144 shots administered to eligible beneficiaries in the last 24 hours.

India continuing efforts to evacuate over 700 students from Sumy

Agency
New Delhi, March 7:

India continued its efforts to evacuate over 700 Indian students from the embattled northeastern Ukrainian city of

Sumy but with little success as severe shelling and airstrikes continued.

The Indian embassy in Ukraine said a team from the mission has been stationed in Poltava city to coordinate the safe passage of the Indian students in Sumy to western borders via Poltava, and advised them to be ready to leave at short notice.

Separately, the Indian embassy in Hungary said it is in the "last leg" of its evacuation mission and asked students who are staying in their own accommodations to reach Budapest for return to India.

India has brought back over 15,920 of its nationals in 76 flights under mission "Operation Ganga" which was launched on February 26 following Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, according to officials here.

On Indians stuck in Sumy, people familiar with the matter said there was no indication yet from the Russian and Ukrainian sides to create a "humanitarian corridor" or to put in place a ceasefire to evacuate them notwithstanding India's repeated calls for such an arrangement.

They said India has been stepping up efforts to ensure early evacuation of the students from the Sumy State University.

"There has been no real movement. But we are continuing with our efforts to evacuate them," said one of the people cited above.

India has been urging both Russian and Ukrainian authorities to create a safe passage for the students to either

move to the Russian border or to western Ukraine for their exit to Romania, Hungary or Poland.

"Team from Embassy of India is stationed in Poltava City to coordinate the safe passage of Indian students stranded in Sumy to Western borders via Poltava. Confirmed time & date will be issued soon. Indian students advised to be ready to leave on short notice," the Indian embassy in Ukraine tweeted on Sunday night.

On Saturday morning, the Indian students posted a video saying they have decided to leave for the Russian border and that the Indian government and the embassy in Ukraine will be responsible if anything happens to them.

Following the video, the Indian embassy in Ukraine requested them not to endanger their lives and conveyed that it will leave no stone unturned to safely evacuate them.

The students relented following the assurance.

Chief of Russia's National Centre for State Defence Control Colonel Gen Mikhail Mizintsev claimed on Saturday that the Ukrainian side has refused to agree to a Russian proposal to open humanitarian corridors in Kharkiv and Sumy.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Saturday that almost all Indians have left Kharkiv and evacuation from Pischyn was nearing completion.

The Indian embassy in Hungary suggested the evacuation mission from the country is nearing completion as it is beginning the last leg of flights under the operation.

Career Guidance

Status of women in Indian society



By: Vijay Garg

Human civilization has come a long way from the Stone Age to the Atomic Age. During this time many ancient civilizations took birth and spread in every corner of the earth, some remained and some were washed away in the current of time. But according to Charles Darwin, man has run from monkey to superhuman. If we talk about Indian civilization, then it was considered as the oldest and well-organized civilization of the world, which is known for its high quality family and social system. Family is the smallest unit where all the factors and factors of a prosperous nation are present. Women and men have equal participation and equal importance in the operation of this family system. The man nourishes the family, takes care of his relatives through his employment, but the real responsibility of run-

ning the family lies with the woman, who is called the goddess of service, sacrifice and compassion. But whatever be the classical definitions of this type, the reality appears to be something else. Man is still the same as he was before, constantly walking on the path of progress, full of qualities like struggle, valor, valor, ego etc., engrossed in his tune. But if you try to know what is the status of women in today's modern society, you will be disappointed.

Although in today's modern scientific era, women have achieved equal position with men in many fields from agriculture to space, but even today most of the women are compelled to be deprived of their fundamental rights. Whatever efforts are being made for the empowerment of women, but the biggest challenge of her existence is being met by the woman in her own home, from the mother's womb. Even if she is saved from this, after coming on the earth, there is a lot of challenges for her. There are many problems like feticide, gender discrimination, domestic violence, dowry export, sexual harassment, molestation, exploitation, oppression,

rape, oppression, mental torture etc. Nature maintained the continuity of creation by coordinating male and female. There are physical and natural differences between man and woman, one is hard and one is soft, egoistic in nature and woman is sacrificing. According to history, women of the Vedic period had social prosperity, there are many examples of women's education, study of scriptures, equal participation of men in yajna, marriage voluntarily etc.

In the post-Vedic period, women suffered in the event of conflict between different castes. The condition of women was most worrisome during the foreign invasions in the medieval period and during the Mughal period when she was considered as a mere object of enjoyment. Big wars were fought and fierce bloodshed was done to get women of the form, only to save women from this evil practices like purdah system, child marriage, sati system were born, which were also stopped later. There was no significant improvement in the condition of women till independence. Then gradually many women's organizations, thinkers and movements

at the international and national level made efforts for women's freedom, economic strength, dignity, dignity and justice etc. There has been some improvement, but the situation is still not satisfactory. According to the National Crime Records Bureau report, there are at least 39 criminal cases against women in India every hour, of which rape accounts for 11 per cent. About 2.5 million crimes against women have been registered in India in the last decade. And there are also lakhs of cases in which women remain silent when a crime is committed out of fear or localism.

Many sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) were implemented to protect women from the misdeeds of men, such as imprisonment for two years under section 354 on outrage of modesty, less than sixteen years under section 376 for rape. There is a provision of life imprisonment for the offender for raping a girl child up to age. There is a provision of punishment of 7 years under section 498-A for mental torture, section 294 on molestation, section 363 to 368 on kidnapping or prostitution, section 312 to 318 on female feticide. But despite all this, crime is increas-

ing, criminals are committing rape in even more heinous ways, recently even small girls were made victims of brutal rape.

Now the question arises that when the protector becomes the eater then how to keep the women safe. Government schemes, police, courts, sections of law are only formal systems included in the social structure. In fact, when the mindset of the people does not change, until the attitude will not change, the condition of women will not improve. If any daughter of the society has a feeling like her daughter or sister, then women will be able to walk with their heads raised. The meaning of masculinity lies in protecting and respecting women, it is cowardice to exploit them. This is the identity of India. Perhaps people have forgotten this mantra, yatra naryastu pujiyante, ramante tatra deity. Where there is respect for women, there is upliftment of culture. Now more thinking is needed, woman is the power, if she is harmed, the society will become powerless, so men will have to be more sensitive, only then women's upliftment is possible.

Rajya Sabha polls for 13 seats in 6 states on March 31

Agency
New Delhi, March 7:

Polling for 13 Rajya Sabha seats across six states will be held on March 31, confirmed the Election Commission of India on Monday.

The elections have been necessitated following the retirement of the incumbents in April. Congress veterans AK Antony and Anand Sharma are among the 13 Rajya Sabha members set to retire next month.

In an official statement, the Election Commission stated that out of the five seats to be filled from Punjab, three are to be filled by holding one election and the other two through another election as these seats belong to two different biennial cycles.

It must be noted that members from Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Nagaland and Tripura are retiring on April 2, while five members from Punjab are retiring on April 9.

According to the poll

panel, the biennial elections will be held on March 31 and the counting of votes will be held on the same day from 5 pm onwards. The notification for them will be issued on March 14.

Prominent among the members who are retiring are AK Antony (Kerala), Anand Sharma (Himachal Pradesh), and Pratap Singh Bajwa and Naresh Gajral (Punjab).

While former defence minister Antony, Deputy Leader of Congress in Rajya Sabha

Sharma and Bajwa are from the Congress, Gajral is from the Shiromani Akali Dal.

The Rajya Sabha nominations from Punjab will depend on the performance of parties in the state in the February 20 Assembly polls. There has been no vacancy in the past five years during the Congress government in the state.

While five seats are falling vacant in Punjab, three are falling vacant in Kerala, two in Assam and one each in HP, Nagaland and Tripura.

PM Modi thanks Ukraine Prez Zelenskyy for help in evacuation of Indians

Agency
New Delhi, March 7:

Prime Minister Modi on Monday spoke to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy over phone. During the 35-minute phone call, the two leaders discussed the evolving situation in Ukraine. Prime Minister Modi appreciated the continuing direct dialogue between Russia and Ukraine.

Prime Minister Modi thanked President Zelenskyy for the help extended by the Government of Ukraine in the evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine. PM Modi sought continued support from Zelenskyy's government in the ongoing efforts for the evacuation of Indians from Sumy.

Ukraine has repeatedly sought India's help in registering its political opposition against Russia's invasion. India has, however, abstained from siding against or in favour of either Russia or Ukraine. India has repeatedly said that its focus is on the safe evacuation of Indians stuck in conflict zones and has called on Russia and Ukraine to seek a peaceful solution to the ongoing crisis.

India on March 4 abstained in a vote in the UN Human Rights Council that decided to urgently establish an independent international commission of inquiry as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In a phone conversation that lasted for around 35 minutes, Prime Minister Modi

thanked President Zelenskyy for the help extended by the government of Ukraine in evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine, official sources said.

"Prime Minister Modi sought continued support from the government of Ukraine in ongoing efforts for evacuation of Indian nationals from Sumy," a source said about the talks.

The sources said the two leaders discussed the evolving situation in Ukraine. Modi appreciated the continuing direct dialogue between Russia and Ukraine, they said.

It was the second telephonic conversation between Modi and Zelenskyy after the conflict began in Ukraine.

'Jan Aushadhi' centres ensuring well-being of people with affordable medicines, says PM Narendra Modi

Agency
New Delhi, March 7:

Stating that "Jan Aushadhi" centres have given relief to the people on a large scale with affordable medicines, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the initiative is taking care of the well-being of the beneficiaries while also cutting down on their expenses to access healthcare.

"Jan Aushadhi Kendras give medicine to the body, and also reduce the anxiety in the minds of the people. The centres also give relief to the people by saving money," said PM Modi while interacting with the "Jan Aushadhi Kendra" owners and beneficiaries through video conferencing.

The Prime Minister stated that the apprehensions in the minds of people after getting the prescriptions of the medicines are about the cost. The worries in the minds of the people concerning the ex-



penses on medicines have reduced, said PM Modi.

He further said that "the poor today can undergo dialysis for free". This government cares for the poor, he said, adding that for diseases like cancer, diabetes, TB there are over 800 medicines available at capped prices.

"Today, more than 8600 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have opened in the country. These centres are now becoming solution centres for the common man, and they're not just government stores," he stated.

He further said, "A few days back, the government has taken another big decision, which will benefit the poor and middle-class children. We have decided that half the seats in private medical colleges will have fees at par with government medical colleges."

The Prime Minister enquired with the beneficiaries about the benefits of the scheme. "It used to cost me Rs 1500-1600 to buy medicines earlier, and now it costs just between Rs 250-300," said one of the beneficiaries.

The Prime Minister was interacting with the beneficiaries on the occasion of 'Jan Aushadhi Diwas', with the theme being "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi".

Jan Aushadhi week is being celebrated across the country from March 1 to generate awareness about the usage of generic medicines and the benefits of the Jan Aushadhi scheme.

In this week, various events such as Jan Aushadhi Sankalp Yatra, Matri Shakti Samman, Jan Aushadhi Bal Mitra, Jan Aushadhi Jan Jagran Abhiyan, Aao Jan Aushadhi Mitra Baney and Jan Aushadhi Jan Arogya Mela have been organised.

In line with the Prime Minister's vision to make medicines affordable and accessible to the citizens, there are now more than 8600 Jan Aushadhi stores across the country, covering almost every district.

Zyklus gets DCGI Nod for Drug to Treat Anaemia Associated with Chronic Kidney Disease

Agency
New Delhi, March 7:

Zyklus Lifesciences on Monday said it has received an approval from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for Oxemia (Desidustat), a first-of-its-kind oral treatment for anaemia associated with chronic kidney disease (CKD). The drug firm, formerly known as Cadila Healthcare, said it has received approval for its new drug application (NDA) the product.

The clinical development programme of Desidustat

was one of the largest trials of its kind in India for Anaemia in CKD patients, conducted in over 1,200 subjects, it added.

"Our life changing discoveries are guided by the need to help patients lead a better life and empower them with therapies that enable them to live healthier and more fulfilled lives."

"There was a potential for an oral, safer alternative to currently available injectable erythropoietin-stimulating agents (ESAs)," Zyklus Lifesciences Chairman Pankaj R Patel noted.

After more than a decade of research and development into the science of HIF-PH inhibitors, results have demonstrated that Oxemia (Desidustat) addresses this unmet need and additionally reduces hepcidin, inflammation and enables better iron mobilisation, he added.

"This advancement offers ease of convenience for the patient and will also reduce the disease burden by providing treatment at an affordable cost, thereby improving the quality of life for patients suffering from chronic kidney disease," Patel stated.

Sports

FC Goa and Kerala Blasters split points in 8-goal thriller

Agency
Bambolim, March 7:

A play-off berth already booked, Kerala Blasters played out an exciting 4-4 draw against FC Goa - who are out of reckoning - in an Indian Super League match on Sunday.

Hat-trick hero Aïram Cabrera (49th, 63rd, 82nd) and Aïbanbha Dohling (79th) both came off the bench to score for FC Goa. Earlier, Jorge Pereyra Diaz (10th, 25th) had impressed with a brace in the first half. Vince Barreto (88th) and Alvaro Vazquez (90th) ensured that the Blasters gained a point late on. The drawn result came less than 24 hours after Kerala qualified for the ISL semifinals.

The Gaurs ended their campaign at ninth place with 19 points. Kerala finished fourth with 34 points and eagerly await to learn their semifinal opponents, one between Jamshedpur FC and ATK Mohun Bagan.

Sahal Abdul Samad intercepted a ball, initially passed on to Anwar Ali by the keeper. A fine cross into the box and Diaz slid the ball into the net, breaking the deadlock.

Anwar was at fault again for the second goal, giving



away the ball easily to Chenchu who ran into the box with just the keeper to beat. Tiwari tripped the Bhutanese forward, gifting Kerala a penalty.

Diaz made no mistake from the spot and sent Tiwari the wrong way, bringing up his eighth goal of the season, second of the night, and fourth in the last three matches.

The first half turned out to be a one-sided affair with FC Goa having just a quarter of ball possession and getting no shots on target. Derrick Pereira

made three changes and the change of ends provided immediate answers.

Edu Bedia's freekick was deflected by Ivan Gonzalez into space and Cabrera, who had just come off the bench, guided the ball home to half the deficit.

Past the hour mark, Givson gave away a penalty by bringing down Maken Winkle Chothe in the box and Cabrera took it with glee to level the scores. Only minutes ago had Diaz missed a golden opportunity to score a hat-trick at the

other end.

Dohling scored a goal that gave Goa the lead for the first time in the night off a long ball from Anwar. The defender was unmarked, breezed his way into the box, and took an angled shot that rendered Prabhsukhan Gill helpless.

Devendra Murganork provided the cutting pass for Cabrera to bring up his maiden ISL hat-trick. Late on, Barreto and Vazquez were sent in from the bench to score a goal each to level scores before the final whistle.

New Zealand canter to nine-wicket victory over Bangladesh

Agency
Dunedin, March 7:

Hosts New Zealand registered their first win of the tournament as they inflicted a nine-wicket defeat on Bangladesh in a rain-curtailed ICC Women's World Cup match here on Monday.

New Zealand bowlers first restricted Bangladesh to 140 for 8 after a long rain delay before Suzie Bates hit a strokeful unbeaten half-century to power the hosts to a victory with 42 balls to spare in the match that was reduced to 27 overs apiece.

The win earned New Zealand, who lost to West Indies in the tournament opener, two valuable points as they rose to the third place while, Bangladesh remain winless from their two matches and are in seventh spot.

Chasing the target, the White Ferns had a sedate start. Their innings was further dented in the seventh over when spinner Salma Khatun sent skipper Sophie Devine (14) packing but apart from that the Bangladesh bowlers didn't bother the hosts much.

Bates used all her experience and guile in her 79 from just 68 deliveries. She stitched



a match-winning 108-run stand with Amelia Kerr (47 not out).

It was Bates' 28th ODI fifty as she became just the sixth batter to score 1000 runs in Women's World Cup matches when she found the boundary late in her innings.

The all-rounder hit eight fours, two more than the entire Bangladesh team, while Kerr found the fence four times.

Earlier put in to bat by New Zealand after a rain delay that lasted four hours, openers Fargana Hoque (52) and Shamima Sultana (33) gave Bangladesh, who lost against South Africa in their campaign opener, a bright start.

With the five-over power play complete, Bangladesh looked to be racing to a competitive total on 41 for no loss. But the opening partnership was put to an end by spin

all-rounder Frances Mackay (1/24). The 31-year-old right-arm off-spinner then went on to effect half-centurion Hoque's run out in the 15th over.

After that it was an Amy Satterthwaite (3/25) show as the veteran all-rounder bowled a crucial spell, taking three wickets from five overs.

Bangladesh couldn't recover from the loss of their openers as only two more batters reached double digit scores.

The Nigar Sultana-led side crumbled under the pressure, slipping to 81 for three after 15 overs, their positive start undone by losing three wickets for 21 runs.

Ritu Moni (4) could not make her usual cameo as Devine pounced the catch that gave Satterthwaite her 50th wicket in ODI cricket.