

Dy. Kilonsor of NSCN-IM died in an accident



IT News
Imphal, March 8:

Deputy Kilonsor of the NSCN-IM, P. Nogi Isaac, EO, Maram-Thangal/CAA, passed away today morning after he fell in a deep gorge while coming to Yangkhullen village in Tadubi Assembly constituency.

First hand report said that the Deputy Kilonsor died while trying to hide from a group of Security forces who were present there. Re-poll is held today at 49/4-Yangkhullen (A) polling station of Tadubi Assembly constituency along with 6 other Polling station in 4 Assembly Constituencies.

There is no detail information on why the deputy Kilonsor visited the village on the re-poll day.

International Women's Day 2022 Celebrations

President confers 'Nari Shakti Puraskar'; PM "Salutes Nari Shakti and their accomplishments in diverse fields"

PIB
New Delhi, March 8:

On the occasion of International Women's Day, 2022 (IWD2022), the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' - 2020 and 2021 at a special ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi today. The award was conferred on 29 outstanding and exceptional women achievers. The President, in a tweet said "Greetings to the International Women's Day! Women are making exemplary contributions in all walks of life. Let us recommit ourselves to ensure their safety and dignity and to provide opportunities to each of them to pursue their dreams and aspirations."

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi saluted the Nari Shakti on International Women's Day. In a series of tweets, the Prime Minister said; "On Women's Day, I salute our Nari Shakti and their accomplishments in diverse fields.

The Government of India will keep focusing on women empowerment through its various schemes with an emphasis on dignity as well as opportunity." The PM also said "From financial inclusion to social security, quality healthcare to housing, education to entrepreneurship, many efforts have been made to put our Nari Shakti at the forefront of India's development journey. These efforts will continue with even greater vigour in the coming times."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also be addressing a Seminar today evening, at women saint's camp at Dhordo, Kutch at 6 PM through video conferencing. The Seminar is being organized to recognise the role of women saints in the society and their contribution towards women empowerment. Over 500 women saints will attend the Seminar in Dhordo. The Prime Minister also shared a video that highlights how 'Mann Ki Baat' has celebrated Nari Shakti.

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi yesterday held an interactive session with the Nari Shakti Puraskar Awardees for the years 2020 and 2021, at New Delhi. The interaction was a testament to the continuous efforts undertaken by the Prime Minister towards empowering women. Prime Minister praised the awardees for the tremendous work done by them, saying that they are contributing to society as well as the country. He said that while their work has a spirit of service, what is also clearly visible in their work is innovation. He added that now there is no sector where women have not made their mark and made the country proud.

The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani in a message said "best wishes to all the women out there who strive and thrive each day. Let International Women's Day, 2022 be a celebration of Women-led Development."

The Editorial

Election ends, but fate of democracy is at stake

With the re-poll in 7 polling stations in five assembly constituencies today, voting in the sixty (60) assembly constituencies in the state of Manipur has been completed. The fate of the 265 candidates, who are in the fray, has been sealed in EVMs. And on March 10, Manipur will see a new government with the declaration of the election result.

But what fears the people is whether the forthcoming government will be able to uphold the democracy of the country or not, as the so-called festival of democracy was marred by rampant election-related violence, intimidations, money, and muscle power at almost all the 60 assembly constituencies. Almost all know that the election was not "free and fair".

It is not the candidates alone who are to be blamed but the electors too are responsible if in case the Legislative members who are to be newly elected fail to uphold the spirit of democracy.

The 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election was conducted in two-phase along with four other states - Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Gao, and Uttarakhand. Voter turnout in the first phase election that was held on February 28 in 38 Assembly Constituencies was recorded to be 78.30%, while the voter turnout in the second phase election was recorded 76.62%, which is considered high when compared to other states. While the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur called both the election was peaceful, re-poll was conducted in 12 polling stations of five Assembly Constituencies in three districts for the first phase election while re-polling in 7 polling stations of 5 Assembly constituencies of three districts has been ended on Tuesday. There were complaints of booth capturing at various assembly constituencies including the 2-Heingang Assembly constituency where Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had a straight fight with rival congress candidate. There were also complaints of EVMs being destroyed at 6 polling stations in Tengenoupal Assembly constituencies. There are also reports of armed rebel groups who are under Suspension of Operation supporting specific candidates of political parties. A press statement issued by Kuki rebel group KNO openly intimidated the voters of serious consequences if not voted for BJP. At Ukhrul assembly constituency, an angry mob clashed with cadres of NSCN-IM, which is currently engaging in peace talk with the government of India. The mob reportedly overturned a four-wheeler vehicle used by the NSCN-IM. Many voters in Wangjing-Tentha Assembly Constituency

in Thoubal district said that they could not exercise their franchise due to intimidation by supporters of BJP and Congress candidates in their respective home polling stations. At Churachandpur district, cadres armed group ZRA assaulted 5 farmers for not voting for a specific political party.

On the day of the 2nd phase polling, 2 persons died in poll-related violence. One died in Senapati district in security firing after he tried to snatch EVM machine. A person who accompanied him also sustained injury in the firing. In another incident at Wangjing-Tentha a 25 years old boy died in the morning of March 5 after he was shot by miscreants. Earlier too, before the announcement of the election notification, a school-going boy who is not even enrolled in the electoral list was shot dead in poll-related violence.

At many constituencies in Imphal West and Imphal East districts, there are reports of bribing the voters by candidates. The highest rate of a voter reportedly reached Rs.7000/- at Mayang Imphal Assembly constituency and Rs. 5,000/- at Keishamthong Assembly constituency. A candidate in Keishamthong Assembly constituency reportedly paid Rs. 5,000/- each to around 15,000 voters. Total voter in this constituency is around 28,000 and the number of voters cast their vote was around 26,000.

Despite all the unwanted incidents election ended today with the re-polling in 7 polling stations. Now exit polls conducted by National media like - ABP C-voter, Republic TV, India Today, etc. suggested a BJP government here in the state in the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly. Maybe the BJP reaches the mark to form the government, the question is how democratic will the government that was elected not by the mandate of the people but by force, money and gun. The election of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly was not a "free and fair" election but rather a corrupt and fair election. The fate of democracy is at stake if democratic elections are conducted this way.

The need of the hour is to look into the evidences of electoral malpractices not for who wins or loses but for the sake of a fast-dwindling site of electoral democracy in India by the Election Commission of India.

It is likely that there will be numerous petitions in the court of law from aggrieved parties and citizens. Maybe the judiciary can play its own role by contemplating on possible suo motto initiatives.

Women's role in integral is to fight against climate change - Dr. Ch. Sheelaramani

IT News
Imphal, March 8:

DM College of Arts, Imphal in collaboration with Thambal Marik College, Oinam has today jointly observed International Women's Day, 2022 on the theme of "Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" in line with UN global concerns.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ch. Sheelaramani, Principal of DM College of Arts, addresses the continuing plight of women. Dr. Sheelaramani also explicated the need for breaking the bias against women. To her, gender equality was to come through a progressive social change and political participation of women. Women's role in integral is to fight against climate change, she said.



Dr. Lucy Jajo, Associate Professor, D.M. College of Arts delivered the key-note speech Dr. Jajo highlighted how Gender Equality was a fundamental right. She addressed the new for gender sensitive policy designs in the global fight against climate change.

The Guest Speaker of the function Lotiongbam Babloo spoke on the existing bias against women. He underscored the need for enforcing gender emancipatory policy legislation. He drew the attention of the government to address the issues confronted by women in conflict zones in line with CEDAW.

Dr. Ch. Jamini while giving her views shared her experiences as a woman and as a former Chairman of Manipur State Women's Commission said that women in Manipur have been historically active both in private and public sphere including economy and politics.

Prof. N. Rajmuhon, Vice-Chancellor of DM University endorsed the need for women's empowerment. The Vice-Chancellor also drew the attention of society and government to ensure dignity and participation of women.

How girls of today can become the women of tomorrow

As a run-up to 2022 International Women's Day, CRY conducts a webinar where young girls from different socio-economic backgrounds and women leaders came together to dwell on overcoming roadblocks in achieving their dreams

New Delhi, March 8:

Since childhood, Abha Kumari (21) wanted to study and don the police uniform - making a mark for herself as 'Lady Dabangg'. However, that was not a cake-walk for a girl hailing from the remote Sarairanjan block, Samastipur district in Bihar. As she started growing up, she realised that her dreams were marred by poverty. Her father, adamant as he was about getting her married off as she turned 16, used all possible ways including beating her black and blue so that the

young girl agrees to get married. Most of her neighbours echoed the patriarch and mocked at Abha's decision to study and join the police force.

Fortunately, support came from an unexpected quarter, as the members of Jawahar Jyoti Baal Vikas Kendra (JJBVK), a local grass roots level organisation supported by Child Rights and You (CRY) stood by her, spoke to her father till he relented and agreed to let her daughter continue with her study. Abha's indomitable spirit laughed at the last, as she

managed to sit for the matriculation exams.

Fast forward five years... Abha is currently serving as a constable in Bihar police cadre, posted in Purnea district. Today, she has not just achieved her dream of donning the police uniform and insignia, but has also become a role model for girls and parents in her village. People who once mocked at her now ask their daughters to tread on Abhadidi's path and become like her.

But, Abha is not alone. There are many others, often not as lucky as her, whose

dreams of overcoming obstacles and becoming the "women of tomorrow" are nipped in the bud. They eventually dropout of school, married off before they are ready to bear the burden of a family, exposed to multiple vulnerabilities and increased risk of bearing children - thus unknowingly propagating the intergenerational cycle of poverty and malnutrition, with a cascading effect not just on their lives but also impacting the forthcoming generations.

While the latest NFHS-5 report indicates at a marginal reduction in the percentage of

women within 20 to 24 years getting married before they turned 18 (from 26.8 percent in 2015-16 to 23.8 percent in 2019-2021); the current NCRB report (Crimes in India 2020) reveals that cases registered under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 saw an annual increase of nearly 50 percent from 525 in 2019 to 785 in 2020. CRY's analysis of past 5 years' NCRB data shows a worrying 167.92 percent increase (from 293 cases in 2015 to 785 in 2020) of Child Marriage, as reported across the country.

contd. on page 4

Obituary



(Late) Dr. Ahebam Koireng Singh

When the story was not finished, you are too fast to dusk. The pangs and the pain of a brave heart, where there is no one to feel the empathy, he who becomes the victim of nepotism. Though you become the past, the spark which you have shown for a dignified existence will not lose in vain in the days to come. At this difficult time, we share the deepest condolences with the family.

Teams Imphal Times

Anyone can shine in this era of instant fame

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



This is the era of instant fame. It doesn't take long to earn fame on social media these days. Earlier, one had to visit the newspaper offices to get a small news published in some corner, but the new media has changed the game. Now anyone with a smartphone and a workable knowledge of social media is like a self-proclaimed journalist or a news anchor. The magic of social media is that a peanut seller in West Bengal hums something in a broken tone and the whole of India gets mad to dance to his tune. The peanut seller had no clue that he was famous. Then, one day he received a call from the music company which remixed his song, asking for his bank account details, to pay him three lakh rupees as the royalty. Bhuvan Badyakar, who used to sell groundnuts as raw almonds (kachcha badam) in a rural market in West Bengal, is now an internet sensation. When someone heard him singing, made a video and posted it on social media. This act changed the fate of the peanut seller. The police department of Birbhum district honoured Bhuvan and he now performs in various functions.

A similar event changed the fate of Sahadev Dirdo of Chhattisgarh. This 12-year-old village boy from Sukma district, sang a song - 'Baspan Ka Pyaar' in his own innocent way. His video on social media was seen by a famous rapper, who then shot a professional music video taking the boy onboard. The rapper paid the boy four lakh rupees for his role. Today this village boy earns three lakh rupees a month and pays 20 thousand rupees to his managers. He earns two lakh rupees every month from an app on which he uploads his original videos. A minister from his state gifted the boy a new TV set. The boy became an instant hero. Similarly, Ranu Mandal, who used to sing filmy songs in trains to earn a few bucks, got instant fame and was offered a song in a movie by renowned music composer Himesh Reshammiya. Later she also got a chance to sing in a music reality show. Although she was good at singing in her childhood, but was discouraged by her family. In her worst time, she found herself on the road. As usual, one day she was singing at Ramaghat railway station of West Bengal, when a person named Atindra Chakraborty made a video and posted it on social media, which went viral.

After 'kachcha badam', now an aged guava seller is going viral on social media, who keeps singing loudly to attract buyers towards his fruit cart. One day a fellow recorded his singing and posted the video clip on social media and the internet went crazy. He sings - 'Ye hari hari, kachchi kachchi, peeli peeli, pakki pakki, meethi meethi, taza taza, namak laga ke khajja'. Someone gave suitable music for the video and the 27-second video clip became a hit on YouTube. The whereabouts of the 'Amrud Wale Dada ji' are not known, so he is being searched for. The gist of the story is that in this age of social media no one knows exactly who will get fame, when and where.

Children become stressed on the days of final exams

Children often get stressed on the days of final exams. Children's eating, drinking, getting up and sitting down near the days of exams, etc. require great attention. So parents and teachers ...

Children often get stressed on the days of final exams. Children's eating, drinking, getting up and sitting down near the days of exams, etc. require great attention. Therefore, the guidance of parents and teachers is very much needed as the child asks the solution of his problems to the children around him who do not have the correct answers. At this stage of life there is more enthusiasm and less consciousness. That is why it is so important to guide children in the right direction. The world is moving towards the fact that education should not be a burden on the minds of children but the Indian examination system is such that children get stressed during the months of February and March. Children have to demonstrate their learning throughout the year in three hours. Unfortunately if the child is ill or under mental stress that day and he cannot perform well then he fails the test. Failure to do so is considered bad. For all these reasons, children need proper guidance during these months.

It is important to mention the distribution of numbers

If we are talking about winning a war, it is not enough just to teach us how to use a gun, but it is even more important to teach us the art of war management. It is important to tell the children about the whole curriculum and the distribution of



By: Vijay Garg

marks. Our children are happy to get 33 marks. If we talk about these 33 marks then it is also prevalent that when the British formulated the education policy of our country then they had to get 65 marks to pass in Britain then they thought that Indians have half brain. He kept the percentage of Indians at half a percent but it was increased to 33 to round the figure, which continues today. Today the age of competition has become so much that the child who gets 33 marks does not get his feet anywhere but it is a pity that children are not told about getting 33 marks, which makes our children go into stress.

The age is of intellect and not of imitation

The age is of intellect and not of imitation. Once the donkey's lion skin was put on but the donkey started barking and people started beating, so the weapon of knowledge works a lot in life. With knowledge comes the child's footsteps in the world. Where a knowledgeable child has insight into his surroundings, he also becomes the forerunner of new discoveries and new paths. Education should not be a burden for the

child to develop basic qualities, the child should not be afraid of papers. The child continues to learn and be assessed every day, lest the whole year examination be taken in just three hours. If we talk about the current examination system, it is flawed. The child gets a chance to showcase his talent only on the day of permanent paper. As we have talked about the role of teacher, the role of parents should be very supportive and constructive these days. Children need to be met at the earliest and encouraged at all times.

Do not compare your child with others

Parents should not compare their child with any other child because every child has his own intellect. Yes, children should be told that 100% of what is inside them should be given, no matter how low the number in the papers. The child should be provided with basic facilities for preparation of permanent papers.

When we look around today, even children with merit have personality deficiencies, they have zero sense of compassion, love and cooperation. This is because they are only taught to get high marks and they are not told about the real human qualities. Therefore, it is very important to consider children as a living thing and expect them to produce results according to their abilities.

Congratulations to the children on the achievement

When children are praised for small achievements, they are very excited and it is the job of the teacher to fill such energy. Every child's family has a different economic, mental and social level. Encouraging a child to move forward according to his or her family and heritage is the right teaching.

contd. on page 3

International Women's Day Indian Women recognized by Canadian Women Organization

By: Dibya Jyoti Hazarika



PUBLIC Foundation), Dr. Priti Ojha (Principal, DIS and Consultant, British Council), Mrs. Sapna Nayyar (Founder, Nriyanganana Bharatanatyam Dance School).

Universal Women's Network is a Canada based women organization which offers a global platform committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging by raising the bar to

advance women in their network, community, and workplaces. Each year they recognize the achievements of women through the Women of Inspiration Awards.

World needs healers not bombs and guns

It is hard to believe that even after 12 days of war between the Ukraine and Russia, even after the loss of so many precious human lives and unthinkable destruction, our world leaders have been unable to stop this inhuman war. Passion for war is the grossest stupidity on the part of humanity. Compassion for the world is the greatest wisdom on the part of humanity. This beautiful world can become heaven and human beings can experience divine life here on this Earth, if humanity only understands the art of living with compassion for all, passion for none, love for all, and hatred for none. Most unfortunately, greedy, egoistic, warmongering leaders have developed a passion for war instead of developing compassion for the world.

Alas! Obstructed by ignorance, ensnared by greed and driven by self-interest human beings have converted this heaven like beautiful earth into a battlefield. Straying from the righteous path, humanity has committed more crimes than any devils, ghosts, and animals. Devils and ghosts are just stories to frighten children; the real devils and ghosts are those human beings who have strayed from the righteous path, from the path of compassion. I wonder whether the word civilization applies to this mad humanity? If we look around, the world looks like a madhouse. Humanity fought five thousand wars in three thousand years! What else we can call this if not a madhouse?

The escalating war between Ukraine and Russia is extremely serious and dangerous, and world leaders need to address this crisis urgently. This is not the Olympic Games; this is a question of life and death—not only for the people of Ukraine and Russia, but the whole world and the whole mankind.

Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, seems to be sick: obsessed with military power, obsessed with his passion for war. He needs healers not counterparts or enemies. World leaders must think seriously about how to stop him from resorting to nuclear weapons. If Putin fails to achieve what he wants to achieve, if he is hated and isolated by the whole world, including his own Russian people, if he becomes a war criminal and, at the end, he realizes that his life is finished and he has no future, if that moment comes, then out of a



By: Bhikkhu Sanghasena

sense of complete frustration and hopeless he might think "what is the point of spending life in jail with so much humiliation?" He might think of dying, committing suicide; this is exactly what happened to Adolf Hitler during the Second World War, and thus he committed suicide.

Putin might think: "Well, I will not kill myself like Adolf Hitler. I will take with me as many people as possible by pressing the button on my nuclear arsenal." Adolf Hitler did not have that power; if he had he would surely have used it. Let us sincerely pray that such a time never comes. But nobody can say what is going to happen; therefore, world leaders should take all available precautions and not leave any stone unturned. It might sound fantastic or childish, but we implore all leaders to think deeply and do everything possible to prevent Putin from such last resort. They must realize and understand that hatred is never appeased by hatred; darkness is never vanquished by darkness.

Due to the war between Ukraine and Russia, so many precious human lives of innocent people, including children and mothers, have been lost, and millions of people have been displaced. The destruction of property and infrastructure has been beyond imagination. The global economy has been badly affected, and the fear of nuclear war is being felt everywhere.

World leaders and the UN have not succeeded in preventing this most dangerous ongoing war. Hatred and anger seem to be growing everywhere, which is not the remedy but moving toward ever worse conditions. The supply of more arms and ammunition to Ukraine from the US and NATO to keep the war going is a very big question. Is it wise to do so? Is this the solution? Will this policy bring an end to the war? Isn't supplying more war equipment sim-

ply adding fuel to the fire?

Instead of adding fuel, leaders must come to the negotiating table and without any bias. They must Listen to each other and find the middle way. All of these crises are created by human beings. And any problems created by human beings can be stopped by human beings (our world leaders). Time seems to be running out. World leaders must act first to prevent this war from escalating further. Our leaders must think seriously about how to prevent Putin from resorting to nuclear arms.

The involvement of NATO in this war directly or indirectly means the start of a world war. The coming days seem to be most crucial, when all hangs in the balance. A sense of total frustration and isolation may compel Putin to take any step, which is very dangerous. War never brings any good results for anyone. Our leaders should remember the result of the First World War and the Second World War, the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, the Afghanistan War, the Syrian War, the India-Pakistan War, and on and on. These wars brought nothing but unforgettable pain, tears, and trauma to countless people. Actually the fighting of war seems to be between the super power countries. It is very sad how the Ukraine and its innocent people are being used as goat sacrifices, what we call in Hindi 'Bakari ka Balidhan'.

Oh, peace loving people, respected religious leaders, please: let us wake up and offer our earnest prayers. Come and stand together to do every possible thing to stop this most dangerous war before it is too late. Prayer has a power; it is the power of love and compassion that can defeat all negative forces.

Our leaders must use the power of love and compassion rather than the power of bombs and guns. This world, this humanity is sick, and healers are needed, universal compassion is needed. May the power of love and compassion penetrate the hearts of all the powerful leaders of the world. May the light of wisdom shine all over Ukraine and Russia. May this inhuman war come to an end. May peace prevail all over the world.

(The writer is a Founder & President, Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Leh (Ladakh), <http://www.bhikkhusanghasena.org>)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

Operation Ganga: More than 17,000 Indians have been brought back

Agency
New Delhi, March 8:

Amid the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, more than 17,000 Indians including medical students have been safely evacuated under the 'Operation Ganga', till date. As per the Ministry of Civil Aviation, More than 17 thousand 4 hundred Indians have been brought back by special flights so far.

These special flights are operating from Ukraine's neighboring countries as Ukrainian airspace has been shut since February 24 following Russian military march towards the Ukrainian city.

The government informed that, to rescue Indian citizens, 1314 Indians have been airlifted today by 7 special civilian flights from Ukraine's neighboring countries. With this, more than 17 thousand 4 hundred Indians have been brought back since the special flights began on 22nd February, 2022. The number of Indians airlifted by 73 special civilian flights goes up to 15206.

Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster which joined the Operation Ganga on March 2nd, had earlier flown 10 sorties to bring back 2056 passengers, as part of the Operation Ganga. The Civil Aviation Ministry states that the C10ne C-17 IAF flight, with 201 Indians



on board, is expected to arrive in the evening today, on 7th March 2022.

Among the special Civilian flights today, 4 have landed in New Delhi while 2 reached Mumbai. One flight is expected late in the evening. There were 5 flights from Budapest, and one each from Bucharest and Suceava.

Tomorrow on March 8th 2022, two special Civilian flights are expected to operate from Suceava, bringing in more than 400 Indians back home.

To support and supervise the evacuation from the Ukrainian border, the four senior Cabinet Ministers, who have been designated as Prime Minister's 'Special Envoy' had gone to Poland, Hungary,

Slovakia and Romania to oversee the evacuation mission.

The Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia reached Romania, while Union Minister for Petroleum & Gas Hardeep Singh Puri took the command at Hungary. Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju coordinated the evacuation exercise at Slovakia. Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Civil Aviation Retd. Gen. V K Singh, took charge at Poland.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called the Operation Ganga a successful mission and credited the success of Operation Ganga to India's growing influence in the global arena.

Operation Ganga
Operation Ganga is an on-

going operation by the Government of India to provide humanitarian assistance amidst the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine to Indian citizens who have crossed over to neighboring countries. This then involves transport assistance from the neighboring countries of Romania, Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Slovakia to reach India. Under the operation Ganga which started February 26th 2022, the first evacuation flight from Bucharest reached New Delhi with 249 nationals at early morning hours on 27th February. Four union ministers were sent the next day to the neighboring countries to assist in prioritising coordination with local authorities.

India records 3,993 new Covid-19 cases, lowest since May 2020; active cases dip below 50,000

Agency
New Delhi, March 8:

India clocked 3,993 new cases of Covid-19, the lowest daily spike in nearly 22 months, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Tuesday. This is the second day in a row that the country has recorded under 5,000 daily Covid-19 cases.

There were 4,362 cases of coronavirus disease on Monday. Data also shows that the

daily cases of Covid-19 have remained below one lakh for 30 straight days.

The country also recorded 108 fresh fatalities, taking the death toll to 5,15,210, the Union health ministry data showed.

Active cases went below 50,000 and comprise 0.12 per cent of the total cases. Currently, 49,948 cases are active in the country. More than 8,055 Covid-19 patients recovered on Monday, and the current

recovery rate stands at 98.68 per cent, according to the health ministry data.

On the vaccine front, more than 179.13 crore Covid-19 jabs have been administered across the country so far.

Meanwhile, the global death toll from Covid-19 crossed 6 million on Monday. The last million deaths were recorded over the last four months, according to the tally compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

AR conducts a lecture on entry of youth into Armed Forces

IT News
Imphal, March 8:

Modi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) conducted a lecture on joining the Armed Forces for the children of Pallel to commemorate Azadi Ka

Amrut Mohatsav and Suraksha Ka Manviye Chahra yesterday.

The aim of the lecture was to acquaint the young minds with the Army and Assam Rifles and motivate them to join the armed forces. The lecture cov-

ered the tasks and role of Indian Army, qualifications and procedures to join the armed forces and service benefits.

The staff and children appreciated the informative lecture and motivating the children to join the Armed Forces.

Assam Rifles organises Screening of Patriotic Movies for Children

IT News
Imphal, March 8:

Shangshak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (S) organised screen-

ing of a motivational and patriotic movie for the children of Shangshak village, Ukhrul District yesterday.

Movie on Battle of Shangshak was screened as part of events to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The tales of valour and sacrifices of our freedom fighters and

brave soldiers made profound impact on young minds.

The children and their parents appreciated the endeavours of Assam Rifles for screening of the patriotic movies which not only widened their horizon but also motivated them to join the Armed Forces.

SAU Students Irked Over Reduction in Scholarships

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, March 8:

The students of the New Delhi-based South Asian University (SAU), governed by SAARC countries are irked over the reduction in the number of beneficiaries of scholarships and a freeship restricted to a limited number of students with the prescribed condition of proving their weak financial background.

A group of students has released a statement complaining that there has been a drastic reduction in the number of scholarship beneficiaries and in the academic year 2021-2022 the number of beneficiaries is slated to come down to 88 as against 142 in 2019.

The statistics of the beneficiaries is: **Batch 2019-2021** scholarships: President's scholarship (PS), Merit scholarship (MS) Silver Jubilee scholarship (SJS) -66, freeship with stipend-59, freeship without stipend-17-total 142. (Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) renewal (SS/FS) 5.0 science, 4.5 Non-science. **Batch 2020-2022**: SJS-69, freeship with stipend-62,

freeship without stipend-11-total 142. **Batch 2021-2023**: (PS,MS,SJS)-46, freeship with stipend-0, freeship without stipend-42-total 88, (CGPA renewal(SS/FS)6.0.

The university has been awarding the President's Scholarship, Merit Scholarship, and Silver jubilee scholarships for the last few years. As per SAU's notification, No.05/2022 dated January 31, President's scholarships were awarded to 06 students of **Fresh batch 2021-2022** and to 13 students of **Renewal batch 2020-2021**. As per notification No.06/2022, the Merit scholarships were awarded to 10 students of **Fresh batch 2021-2022** and to 26 students of **Renewal batch 2020-2021**. Similarly **Silver jubilee scholarships** were awarded to 30 students of **Fresh batch 2021-2022** and to 26 students of the **Renewal batch 2020-2021**.

The scholarships are being awarded to the students pursuing courses in MSc applied mathematics, MSc, Biotechnology, MSc, Computer Science, M.A. international relations, Sociology, and LL.M.

President's scholarship

The scholarship offers a waiver of tuition fees (around Rs 76,000/- per annum as per prevailing exchange rate) and the hostel fees. A living allowance of Rs 7000 per month is also given. In addition, the non-Indian students and Indian students are given Rs 10,000 and Rs 5000 per month, respectively as a "start-up allowance at the beginning of their tenure to help them to meet the cost of inbound travel, book purchases, etc. A pack-up allowance is given at the end of their tenure to cover the cost of their outbound travel.

This scholarship is effective from the start date of the monsoon semester or the date of registration in the program, whichever is later. For first-semester students, the scholarship is offered for 22 months and is renewed for the subsequent year subject to satisfactory performance in the first year. The continuation of the President's scholarship for the subsequent year is subject to the recipients obtaining the CGPA not less than 6.0 at the end of the second semester.

Merit Scholarship

The merit scholarship offers a waiver of total tuition fees, hostel fees (if applicable) with a living allowance of Rs 5000 per month. It is effective from the start date of the monsoon semester or the date of registration in the program, whichever is later. This scholarship is also for the first semester for 22 months and is renewed in the second year, provided the awardees secure a minimum CGPA of 6.0 at the end of the first year. If the concerned awardee fails to secure the minimum CGPA, the scholarship can be discontinued.

Silver jubilee Scholarship

Waiver of total tuition fees and hostel fees with a living allowance of Rs 7000 per month (Master level's program). The awardees are also entitled to Rs 10,000 per month as a "start-up allowance at the beginning of their tenure.

What students say

Most of the students of post-graduate programs, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that the new scholarship policy has put them in a fix. The scholarships have been made non-transferable. If any

student eligible for the scholarship leaves the university, the next high-ranking student does not become eligible for it. Besides a limited number of students are getting freeships.

The SAU students come from a humble background. They are shortlisted from eight member states- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) through competitive entrance examination. The SAU has a history of providing scholarships and financial aid to meritorious needy students. However, now the new policy has been brought into effect during the first-semester examination. According to the administration, the Standing Committee of SAARC has decided to spend only 20% of the entire SAU budget for scholarships and freeships.

Besides, the required CGPA for renewal of freeship has been increased from 4.5 to 6. The students attended the first semester online in a non-conducive atmosphere due to pandemics. As such it is unjust to expect them to secure a higher CGPA. In addition, they are required to pay additional late fees of Rs 740 till March 11, for registration.

The management version

When contacted Aheibam Prahlad, Public Relation Officer, SAU told the **Imphal Times** that "A new scholarship policy is being worked out and a high power committee has been set up to work out modalities. The student's interest will be safeguarded. We have about 600 students including those pursuing Master's courses and Ph.D. The paucity of funds is not the issue. The scholarship amount is being reimbursed to all. We are finding it difficult to reimburse scholarship amount to the students from Afghanistan, due to political disturbances there" he added.

Assam Rifles organises Medical Camp at Moreh



IT News
Imphal, March 8:

Moreh Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised a free medical camp under Operation Sadbhavana at Muslim Basti, Moreh Town, Tengnoupal district yesterday.

The camp was organised to provide free medical treatment and consultation to the villagers of Moreh town and nearby villages where medical facilities are not available.

Apart from providing medical check-up and medicines, information on various essen-

tial aspects were provided to the villagers including hygiene, sanitation, Covid-19 pandemic, lifestyle diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, women health etc by the Chief Medical Officer Moreh Battalion and the Gynaecologist from RIMS Imphal.

A total of 193 patients were examined and provided with medical advice and free medicine by a team of doctors from Moreh Battalion Unit Hospital, Gynaecologist from RIMS Imphal and trained Para-medical staff for various ailments.

AR distribution of Gym Equipments

IT News
Imphal, March 8:

Mantripukhri Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) distributed Gym Equipments at Wairi village, Imphal East district under Assam Rifles Civic Action

Programme yesterday. Assam Rifles through its various schemes under its Assam Rifles Civic Action Project provides welfare and basic necessities to the local population and also strengthens the faith of the people in Government and security Forces.

Contd. from Page 2

Children become stressed on the days....

The hard work in the papers works a lot but the motivation and encouragement of the teachers and parents is no less than a miracle. In order to keep the mental level of the students high during the examination days, their small achievement should be applauded as big.

Introduction to the curriculum

There are many simple lessons in the syllabus which can easily get more than 50% marks. It is very important for the teacher to be familiar with these lessons and to explain the distribution of numbers associated

with them. It is important for the teacher to form a group in the classroom and have the activity practiced in a fun way. The teacher also has to point out that education cannot be acquired only in school, it can also be taken from home and society. The teacher also has to point out that not only getting high marks is a sign of a good personality but it is much more important to be a protector of the environment in which we are living. It is also the duty of the teacher to encourage the students of previous grades to get higher marks.

Give the child a constructive atmosphere

It is not enough just to get very good marks in life. There are many other areas in which a child can be successful. The real lesson is to find the skills that nature has given to the child and bring out the best in him. It is important to pass the exams but the child should be burden free while passing these exams. Parents, teachers and society should work together for all this.

If we succeed in creating such an environment then we will be able to produce a crop of mentally strong people. These

rich people have to make new discoveries in various fields for the welfare of humanity. Schools are only for the benefit of the child, while the child has to get a lot of education from the society in a practical way. Educators should design the curriculum according to the mental aptitude of the children. The method of taking the test should be flexible and the child should be given frequent opportunities to improve his/her ability. These days the child should be given a constructive environment so that he can stay stress free.

Art of Living volunteers in Europe reach out to stranded Indian students and Ukrainian refugees

Dr. K. Romeo Meetei
State media coordinator, the Art of Living Manipur

4122 refugees, including Indian students, across Europe accommodated; helpline has received 7668 calls; 6000 medical kits and 23,612 meals have been provided

The volunteers of the global humanitarian organisation, The Art of Living have reached out to Indians who are crossing borders into various European countries, with shelter and basic amenities like food and water.

The Art of Living so far has accommodated 4122 refugees, including Indian students, across Europe. So far the organisation's helpline has received 7668 calls for refugees and their families; 6000 medical kits and 23,612 meals have been provided.

"All the help is being made available and our volunteers from all across Europe are there by the side of the refugees and Indian students fleeing Ukraine. They are being provided food, water, accommodation and other essential items," said said global hu-



manitarian leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Some highlights of the ongoing work by Art of Living volunteers across Europe:

Hundreds of students have been rescued from Ukraine into Poland and Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria

The Art of Living volunteers in Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Germany have moved into action to provide all the support to those who are fleeing Ukraine including thousands of Indian students.

In Hungary, The Art of Living has arranged shelters

for more than 150 people. More than 650 beds in Poland have been arranged.

Teachers and volunteers from Kiev and Kharkov evacuated 1200 Indian students. Helped them to find transport and cross the border.

Inside Ukraine, totally there are 27 Ukrainian Art of Living teachers and 72 volunteers working now. Additionally about 40 Art of Living teachers from across Europe are involved in conducting online practices and helping refugees and victims handle trauma.

Sloviansk (Slavyansk), Kramatorsk, Poltava, Odessa ,

Kiev, Bila Tserkva, Uzhhorod, Lviv, Enerhodar- cities in Ukraine where the work is going on.

Our volunteers at Poland border providing assistance to refugees arriving. There are families with children who are as young as 2 months old. All essential supplies have been stocked up by our team.

Till today we have helped 420 refugees in Poland. (This is ongoing) Medical supplies have been delivered to Ukraine. Mattresses, blankets have been arranged for the refugees in Taraska center. About 50 seva volunteers are involved in Poland. There is a 24 hour hotline. About 40 homes are ready to host refugees.

Refugees centers operational in Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Western European countries like Germany.

The helpline numbers are as follows:

Art of Living centres across Europe are open for Ukrainian Refugees Helpline No. +31631975328; Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Germany

Congress sends 3 observers to Manipur to oversee post-poll scenario

Agency
New Delhi, March 8:

Amid speculation of a hung Assembly in Manipur, the Congress has dispatched three observers to the state to oversee the post-poll scenario.

In 2017, the party even after being the single-largest party, had failed to form the government in Manipur.

The party has assigned T.S. Singhdeo, senior minister in the Chhattisgarh government, Vincent Pala and Mukul Wasnik.

The Congress has asked all its observers and party in-charges to keep tab on all its newly elected MLAs and inform the central leadership about the same on the counting day on March 10. This is

being done to keep its flock together, said sources.

Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar has been sent to Goa to monitor and strategise there. Sources in the Congress said that he is going to camp in Goa for three days to ensure that the age-old party, which missed a chance to form the government by a whisker in the last Assembly elections, does not commit the same mistakes again. Shivakumar is going to stay put in Goa till the new government is formed, sources added.

Apart from the senior observers, the party has also another set of leaders in states where the party is anticipating a close contest or hung Assembly. P.Chidambaram is a senior observer of Goa,

Jairam Ramesh in Manipur, Mohan Prakash in Uttarakhand, Bhupesh Baghel in Uttar Pradesh and Ajay Maken is in Punjab. The party in-charges have also been asked to remain in the respective states from March 10.

Sources say that the Congress wants to protect its MLAs from being poached and is likely to shift them after March 10.

The Congress fears poaching as happened in 2017 when despite emerging as a single largest party in Goa and Manipur, the party could not form the governments. The Congress is anticipating a similar kind of poaching in all the four states and in Uttar Pradesh also which might witness a hung Assembly, sources said.

CME on Antimicrobial Stewardship held at RIMS

IT News
Imphal, March 8:

A Continuing Medical Education (CME) program on "Antimicrobial Stewardship" was held today i.e. 8th March, 2022 at the Jubilee Hall, RIMS, Imphal. The CME program was inaugurated by Chief Guest of the program Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director, RIMS, Imphal. A handbook "Antibiotic Policy of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal 2nd Edition, 2021-2022" was also released by the Director Prof. A. Santa

Singh.

Dr. Jayshree Phurailatpam, Dr. Ksh. Mamta Devi, Dr. S. Damrolien, Dr. Chetan Maibam and Dr. T. Jitenkumar Singh gave presentation on "Code of Medical Ethics", "Methods of Collection of Clinical Specimen for optimal culture outcome". RIMS Hospital antibiotic program 2020-2021 and clinical perspectives", "Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis" and Brief overview of Implementation of AMSP in various tertiary care centres across India" respectively.

Prof. N. Sanjib Singh, Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital, Prof. Brogen Singh Akojiam, Dean (Academic), RIMS, Dr. T. Jitenkumar Singh, and Dr. Yumnam Arunkumar Singh, were on dais as President, Guest of Honour, Chairman Reception Subcommittee and Organizing Secretary respectively in the inaugural program. Heads of Departments, faculty members from Medical, Dental and College of Nursing, invitees were attended in the CME program.

Contd. from Page 1

How girls of today can become the...

To encourage more girls to break barriers and scale newer heights, Child Rights and You (CRY) conducted a webinar on 'Rising Against All Odds - Celebrating Our Women of Tomorrow', as a run-up to the 2022 International Women's Day. The platform brought together young girls and women leaders from different backgrounds - to share their path breaking journeys and inspire girls to become the role models of tomorrow.

On the occasion, Puja Marwaha, CEO, CRY said, "Creating awareness among girls of the existing societal norms, and supporting them to change the narrative by growing to their full potential is something that CRY holds very close to its heart. It is crucial that young girls set goals and stubbornly pursue them, no matter come what may. We are sure, their grit and resilience will go a long way in inspiring many others to follow suit and break age-old barriers."

Underscoring the objective of the webinar, Puja said, "It's time we create a platform for girls of tomorrow and women of today to come together and share stories of breaking stereotypes each in their own way and driving the change."

An enthusiastic bunch of underprivileged young girls including Abha Kumari and others whose struggle aptly defining who they are today - Sheetal from Delhi; Bandaru Ganga Bhavani from Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh; and

Vedika Parmeshwar Ugile from Latur, Maharashtra shared their powerful stories of breaking societal barriers and emerging victorious with other panellists and audience. Abha Kumari said, "I just pray that what I have seen and been through, no other girls should face the same. The hardships and battles that I fought to achieve my dream to study further and become a police officer, I really wish other girls do not face the same."

Vedika, an adolescent girl from Latur, narrated how they had voiced their demand of having a playground for the girls and made the local panchayat finally agree to their demand.

"We went straight to the village Sarpanch and requested him to asked, why would only the boys have a playground and girls won't be allowed to play in the open, in an age when women have landed on the moon?" said the 15-year-old Vedika, beaming with a smile of confidence. To cut the long story short, they came victorious and now have a separate playground for them where they go and play in a safe environment.

Besides the participation of young girls from different corners of India, renowned women icons including Actor Maanvi Gargoo; and Kena Shree, Author, Poet and Storyteller also participated in the online event. Narrating their own life stories of breaking stereotypes, the women leaders interacted with the young girls

and shared key learnings and experiences in overcoming societal and personal challenges, to emerge as Women leaders of Tomorrow.

Stressing on the need for women to speak up, Maanvi Gargoo, said, "Sometimes, we don't set out to be role models and even I never thought that someday I will become one. I always used to support what I felt was right and negate what bothered me. Later on, I realised that started finding it powerful and found it supporting my voice. It's a great feeling to and that's why I strongly feel that we, women should always voice our concerns in our own possible way."

"I would ask all girls and women to never back down from anything. After all, we all have the warrior in us. We all fight and win our own battles in our own way and in our own terms. So never step back from living life on your own terms and never let people tell you what is right or wrong. That is the premise of our lives - yours and mine," said Kena Shree.

Some of the other eminent speakers taking part in the conversation included Reena Puri, Executive Editor, Amar Chitra Katha; Anusha Srinivasan Iyer, Journalist, Writer-Director, Brand Strategist and Egalitarian Earth Activist; Meghna Peer, CMO India and South Asia, Newell; Komal Hiranandani, Founder - Dolce Vee; and Aparna Sundaresan, Deputy Editor, Tinkle.

Crafts Awareness Programme held

IT News
Imphal, March 8:

One day Craft Awareness programme is to be held today at Diamond Club, Ayangpali, Imphal East. It is organised by O/o The Development Commissioner Handicrafts Service Centre, Imphal. The President member of the awareness program are Ningombam Arunkumar, Diamond Club (Founder member) and Yumnam Jagyashwori Devi, Assistance Director Handicrafts, HSC, Imphal, O/o the DC (Handicrafts), Ministry of Tex-



tile Govt of India and also Paonam Bhojen Singh, State Awardee (Master Crafts Person). And The Resource Person are Paonam Bhojen Singh, State Awardee Master Crafts Person and Ph. Romita Devi (State Awardee) and also Maibam Surjamala Devi (Designer, EPCH).

The President member, Yumnam Jagyashwori Devi stated that this Awareness programme is held in the aim of to informed the Crafts knowledge to all Artisan and also to promote the Handicrafts product in economical line.

Sports

ISL: Jamshedpur becomes Shield champions with historic win over Mariners

Agency
Fatorada, March 8:

Ritwik Das helped Jamshedpur FC and himself gallop into the history books with a second-half winner to down ATK Mohun Bagan by a 1-0 margin and bag the League Shield for the first time creating history, in the Indian Super League at the P.J.N Stadium in Fatorada on Monday.

Jamshedpur needed to draw to finish top of the table and clinch the League Shield, and the Red Miners rode Ritwik's goal in the 56th minute to ensure they finish the season on a high, capping off a stellar campaign under Owen Coyle. They finished with 43 points from 20 games, winning 13 games. ATKMB ended their league engagements having 37 in their kitty from 20 matches.

Jamshedpur will take on Kerala Blasters FC on March 11 in the first semi final while ATKMB will square off with Hyderabad FC the next day in the second last-four clash. Jamshedpur will get richer by Rs 3.5 Crore, the prize money



for the League Shield.

ATKMB needed to win by a 2-0 victory to leapfrog Jamshedpur and second-placed Hyderabad FC, but it was not to be as Ritwik continued his purple patch with a sumptuous strike after Greg Stewart did all the spadework.

With stakes so high, it was expected to be a cagey affair and so it was with both teams eager to suss each other out. The Mariners enjoyed more of the ball in the initial exchanges, coming closest to breaking the deadlock when a wild attempt

from Tiri went wide. The busiest person on the field was the referee as he reached to his pocket thrice, flashing yellow cards in the first half and all to Jamshedpur players.

After change of ends, Stewart started bossing proceedings with his mazy runs and incisive passing, the industry bearing fruit four minutes to the hour mark when the Scotsman evaded two ATKMB shirts to cut into his right and beat his marker. Stewart went for goal himself but the ball came off an ATKMB player and fell to

Ritwik who shot first time as the ball went past Amrinder Singh and into the back of the net.

ATKMB tried hard to forge a comeback but Jamshedpur held firm and eventually bagged three points, becoming the first side in the ISL history to make seven wins in a row.

It was a new dawn for football in the steel city, boasting of one of India's biggest academies, Tata Football Academy which has produced a plethora of footballers over the years.