

Chief Minister inaugurates 6th Women's International Polo Tournament



IT News
Imphal, Feb 15:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated the 6th Women's International Polo Tournament today at the Mapal Kangeibung, Imphal. The tournament which is organized by Manipur Tourism in association with All Manipur Polo Association (AMPA) will be participated by 5 teams namely South Africa, Luxembourg, India (IPA), India (Manipur-A) and India (Manipur-B).

Addressing the gathering during the inaugural ceremony of the tournament, N. Biren Singh welcomed the participating teams including Indian Women Polo teams and international teams from Luxembourg and South Africa to the State. Mentioning that the Women's International Polo Tournament is being organized at Mapal Kangeibung every year, he stated that the 6th edition is being organised after a gap of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chief Minister continued that Manipur is famous for 'Polo' and the state is regarded as the birthplace of modern polo and added that the people of Manipur are proud of their forefathers for having gifted this game to the world. Such a tournament would not only help in projecting the state as the birthplace of the game, but would also serve as a platform to promote the importance of preserving the game and the endangered breed of Manipuri Pony. N. Biren further stated

Sagol Kangjei is not just a game, but it also symbolises the role of Manipuri pony and the techniques of warfare possessed by the Manipuri soldiers in defending the sovereignty of Manipur during the olden days. Manipuri ponies had always been a part of the State's civilization and its culture, he added.

Mentioning that Chief Minister's Sagol Kangjei Championship had been started during the Sangai Festival 2022, he expressed that the uniqueness is the use of horse, which is wild in nature, as a part of the game by our forefathers.

The Chief Minister continued that, considering the importance of preserving the endangered horse breed "pony", the Manipur Police Department had introduced the Sagol Polo. Apart from this, 10 horses will be reared at each Battalion of Manipur Police. Informing that breeding grounds for pony had been developed at Pangei and Lamphelat, he appealed to the pony breeders to take their horses to the breeding ground so that the later do not come out at the roadside, causing disturbances to the traffic.

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State to organise B20 Conference for preparation of G20 meet

IT News
Imphal, Feb 15:

As part of the Business 20 (B20) Initiatives in North East States of India, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs / G20 Secretariat and Government of Manipur is

organising B20 Conference at City Convention Centre, in Imphal from 1500 hrs – 1900 Hrs on 17 February 2023.

The conference would focus on Opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnerships in ICT Sector, Tourism, Hospitality, Healthcare & Handlooms where State

has core strength.

Participants of the conference would include, Industry representatives and Diplomats from G20 and Invitee Countries, Industry representatives from other States of India, Senior Government officials. Chief Minister N Biren Singh, MoS. External Affairs Dr R

K Ranjan Singh, will join the Conference along with other Senior Government officials.

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation and the Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community.

Election Commission makes elaborate arrangements for Assembly polls in Tripura tomorrow



Agency
Agartala, Feb 15:

The Election Commission has made elaborate arrangements for Assembly polls in Tripura tomorrow. Polling personnel along with material have started their journey to the polling booths. There are a total of 3 thousand 328 poll-

ing stations in the state. Election Commission has deployed central armed police forces in all the polling booths to ensure peaceful voting. With heavy deployment of central armed police force across the state, the Border Security Force guarding the Indo-Bangladesh border are also maintaining strict vigil.

The polling parties have started leaving for their assigned assembly constituencies in the state along with the EVMs and other equipments. The polling parties are accompanied by armed security personnel. The personnel on polling duty assembled at the Umakanta School in Agartala, which is one of centres where

the EVMs were distributed to the polling parties.

One of the highlights of the day was the all women polling teams who will be managed entirely by women folks including the security personnel. Talking to AIR, a woman polling officer, who will be one of the officials managing the all women polling station said that she is happy and excited to be part of the election process.

In this high-stake assembly election, political fortunes of various political bigwigs including Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha, Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Debbarman, Union Minister of State for social justice and empowerment Pratima Bhowmik, CPI(M) leader Jitendra Choudhury, Congress leader Sudip Roy Burman and of others will be decided. Voting for the 60-seat Tripura Legislative Assembly will take place tomorrow at 7 in the morning and will conclude at 4 pm. Counting will be taken up on 2nd March along with Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Congress leaders condemn harassment to Youth leader Popilal



IT News
Imphal, Feb 15:

Congress leaders including MPCC President K. Meghachandra, CLP Leader, Okram Ibobi, MLA K Ranjit Th. Lokeshwar, Congress workers and other Mahila Mandal leaders today visited the residence Youth Congress President Ningthoujam Popilal at Phayeng and condemn the harassment given to him by the present government using police force which finally led to the death of the grandmother of Popilal.

"We strongly condemn the autocratic attitude of the present BJP regime which used police to harass Congress youth leader for speaking truth and for debating on certain issues with the BJP

spokesperson. CLP leader Okram Obobi said while sharing his pain to the demise of Popilal's grandmother. He said that Popilal is a law abiding citizen of the country and being a leader of a political party he had every right to express his voice against any policy of the government.

Okram Ibobi further said that everybody knows what had happened on February 8 during discussion hour at Impact TV and there was nothing wrong to the debate.

"Why the BJYM volunteers thronged to the office of the Impact TV with intention to attack Popilal", Ibobi questioned.

MPCC president K. Meghachandra said that the police team could have summoned the ongrss youth leader instead of harassing the

family of Popilal if they want to talk in connection with the case of assaulting two members of the BJYM, at which one is the person identified as Suresh which Popilal had heated debate during the discussion hour.

"CCTV footage have already been collected and the police had also received every information relating to the incident and had even stated that Popilal was in no way related to the incident of assaulting the two BJYM members as he was at that time staying at his residence with his brothers and sisters.

We had already approached the court in the matter as we have lost trust to the police run under the dictate of the present government, Meghachandra said.

Hundreds of patients in hardships as doctors go on indefinite strike

IT News
Imphal, Feb 15:

Hundreds of patients faced hardships across the state due to an indefinite strike intensified by doctors following the Manipur government's failure to honour early agreements into reality.

Upset with agitating doctors, patients who are left in the lurch said an amicable solution should be reached before the

situation gets aggravated.

The strike has seriously impacted various healthcare services at the different health centres of the districts.

The doctors under the tutelage of the All Manipur Health Services Doctor's Association (AMHSDA) on Tuesday escalated the agitation following the state government's nonfulfilment of their demands including time-bound promotion.

The demands include the extension of the superannuation age of specialists and non-specialist doctors to 65 years along with the inclusion of NPA in the basic pay with effect from January 1, 2016, as per the 7th Central Pay Commission and amendment of the 'outdated' MHS Rules 1982.

Association general secretary Dr Lolee P Mao said that the strike would be continuing until their demands are met.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



IT News
Imphal, Feb 15:

The closing event of 3 days publicity awareness program on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Saal Seva Sushasan and Garib Kalyan, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, G-20 and International Year of

Miller (IYM) 2023 had started from 6 45pm at Echel Club, Dibong, Jiribam with H. Mani Singh Advisor Echel Club, i K. Khumanjao Singh, President Echel Club and Dr. Ch. Oken Singh, Asst. Professor Jiri College as Chief Guest, President and Guest of Honour.

The Program was organized by the artistes of departmental troupe of Central Bureau of Communication, Regional Office, Imphal in coordination with Echel Club, Dibong, Jiribam

The campaign had a grand success and appreciated by the massive audience.

Emergence of Career Oriented Women



By: Vijay GarG

Career amongst women is a recent phenomenon. It is only during the last two decades that Indian women have started acquiring careers and this number is greatly increased in numbers. However, it was not always the same. Women in Ancient India, back in the days of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, commanded a great deal of respect from men. It was Manu in the first century BC, who felt that Indian woman should remain dependent on her father before marriage, later on, her husband and finally on her son. During the medieval period, Muslims who were influenced by their culture started marrying their daughters at a very early age. This practice originated the system of child marriage which further led to the lowering of the status of women. It was also during this time that the dowry system also became prevalent. Thus began a time where women were oppressed and discriminated. It became a tradition of sorts to control women as the beliefs of the society were hardened on orthodox beliefs formulated in the ancient period. It wasn't until the 20th century, that the women in India were starting to look up to careers and changing the shape of their lives. The 20th century brought industrialization with it and it also brought education which to a large extent opened the eyes of the society towards the plight of the women. Education also created a need amongst them to redeem their status and to work towards the betterment of their gender in general and the society in particular.

The advent of modern times changed the society to a great extent. This change was evident with the rise of the nuclear families wherein equal opportunities were given to sons and daughters. Daughters were no longer kept uneducated and they were allowed to further their studies. Education led to the awareness among women about the rights and privileges which are earlier denied to them. The law also supported them and female foeticide was abolished, along with strict punishments to those who indulged in Dowry System. The influence of the media, both domestic and foreign, helped them in attaining liberal views. They realized the strides of progress made by women in the advanced countries. The success of the women entrepreneurs of the west also influenced the Indian women and they felt the need to question the subjugation were being subjected to. Education, coupled with liberal views and the support of parents, helped women gain a new identity in the male-dominated society. The whole the status of women started undergoing a perceptible change. Women started entering the labour market and their numbers started to rise. They also ventured in commerce and started owning and changing the face of businesses of today, both literally and figuratively. The past decade has seen a dynamic growth and expansion of women-owned businesses. The expansion in revenues and employment has also far exceeded the growth in numbers. The male-oriented conception of the sport also came under change. Women were now allowed to compete in long-distance events alongside men, women's marathons. Women have entered even those fields which were strictly considered for men, like driving, space, technology, engineering, architecture etc. Women like Kalpana Chawla, P.T. Usha, Sania Mirza, Pratibha Patil and many more, are breaking traditional paths and inspiring others to do so.

Today, there is heightened awareness amongst them to fight discrimination. Traditional gender stereotypes that suggested that women's primary social roles were wife and mother, whereas those of men were the breadwinner, has long gone under overhauling. Women of today are contributing towards the global economy and to their surrounding communities. The presence of women in the workplace is also creating a tremendous impact on their employment and business environments. The role of women in the family life has also changed significantly. As an educated housewife, or as a working woman she has acquired a respectable place in society. Today's women, young women, in particular, are becoming more career-oriented, with high educational aspirations and greater ambitions at the same time. In spite of their careers, they are still maintaining the value traditionally placed on them, those of family and nurturing.

Effects of the Emergence of Career Oriented Women

Positive Effects of Emergence of Career Oriented Women

With relevant education, work experience, improving economic conditions and financial opportunities, women are creating and sustaining successful business ventures. This not only has an impact on the economy of the country but it is also changing the status of women in the society.

Progressive women have a positive effect on women who live in countries where women are still oppressed. They are inspired by them and it motivates them to fight the oppression.

Underdeveloped and Developing countries feel pressurized upon looking at the status of women in Developed countries. Status of women affects a country's reputation and the economy as developed or underdeveloped.

Working women help in the household income, which leads to well being of the family as a whole.

Career Oriented Women are educated. And educated population translates into high literacy rate and also ensures that the continuation of literacy in the family and the society as well. It saves a great deal of capital and effort of the country.

Sufficient availability of money also means access to medical services which is an indicator of the high population with good health.

Because Women think differently than Men, they provide a variety of viewpoints, ideas, plans etc. which are a necessary part of any organization.

Negative Effects of Emergence of Career Oriented Women

The flip side to this emergence is changed lifestyle which includes delayed marriage and subsequent delay in the birth of the first child. As more women turn working professionals, they face a host of urological disorders. These include uroynaecological diseases ranging from the stigma-shrouded urinary and bowel incontinence to a life-threatening condition like breast cancer. Experts say that urinary disorders are triggered by physiological changes in a woman's life that damage the pelvic floor. Medical practitioners recommend simple lifestyle modifications, a balanced diet and pelvic floor exercises as preventive methods.

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Dress, Culture & Dignity of Manipuri Women

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

The human race universally wears articles of clothing-also known as, garments or attire-on the body in order to protect it against the adverse climate conditions. People wear clothing for functional as well as social reasons. Apart from the practical functions of placing a piece of garment above the skin, wearing clothes also carries specific cultural and social meanings. Religion, customs and of course, particular historically important circumstances have shaped the way different people in various times feel about clothing and exposure. Moreover, clothing has been regarded as one of the best ways to distinguish social class, sexes, occupation, marital status and ethnic or religious affiliation. Encircled by nine hills ranges, Manipur is marked out by a picturesque valley in the midst. The total area of Manipur is 22,327 sq.km. The hills around the cup-shaped valley add the natural beauty of Manipur. The first Prime Minister of India, the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, described Manipur as a "Jewel of India" bewitching beholders with its natural beauty and its cultural paraphernalia. It is bounded by Nagaland in the North, Mizoram in the South, upper Myanmar in the east and Cachar district of Assam in the west. Among the Manipuri's the Meitei form the predominant ethnic group and traditionally inhabit the valley. The surrounding hill range are settled by many tribes. Meitei are deeply sensitive and their unique pattern of life with inherent love of art is reflected in the festival, dance and music. Their rich culture and tradition are also reflected in their costume, handloom textiles and in finer workmanship of handicrafts.

It is generally believed that, the dress worn by the Meitei men were the kind of dress worn by the king of Manipur when He ascended the throne. Regarding female dress, it is said that phanek mayek-naibi, the strip colour phanek with plain edge which was used by Panthoibi is being followed by Meitei women till now. This phanek was actually used by the queen when she ascended the throne along with the King. Today, this phanek is seen worn by Meitei women. Meitei women started wearing shirts from the second week of October, 1779, when **Maha Rasa Lia dance** started in Manipur. Because of

the advance in civilization, besides phanek women started wearing shirts, skirts, jeans, sarees and salwar kameez where the male counterpart wear shirt and pant. Unfortunately women do not enjoy the taste of different types of dresses for some time (not so these days) because their dresses are being discussed, discarded and restricted to wear by different insurgency organizations few years ago. In recent trend, in schools and colleges girls are not allowed to wear skirts so they have to compulsorily change their skirts into phanek. Regarding ornaments, most of the ornaments worn by the ancestors cannot be seen today. However, as far as the dress and ornaments are concerned, most of them are seen in the traditional and religious occasions like Lai Haraoba festivals that are worn by women only. **Women are the one who save the culture and at the same time this culture is again giving a very different picture in the status of women in the society.**

The concept of Culture is developed by beliefs, faith, practices, customs, way to live, language, food habits, etc. The Cultural growth gave identity to the societies. Through the generation, it has been noted that women are the one who carry the culture from generation to generation at different forms and at different level. Women of Manipur has come under the influences of cultures at various times and contributed to the growth of civilization. Women in Manipur seem to enjoy greater mobility and visibility than women of other communities in the country. According to census 2011, the sex ratio of Manipur is 987 against all India with 940. Looking at the literacy rate women of Manipur is much higher with 70.26% than the national level of 65.46% according to 2011 census. Thus, it is often cited to portray a picture of equity between men and women in the region and has given rise to the presumption that discrimination against women is not a major concern in the area however; the region under the shadow of conflicts has witnessed resurgence of patriarchal values, norms which have brought after the Hinduism that affect the Meitei people at large but the impact on women and girls is far greater because of their sex and status in society.

Manipur has its own identity which can be seen in their art and cul-

ture which are famous in the world. The rich culture and the centuries old tradition can also be depicted in their handloom woven clothes and handicrafts. The Manipuri culture is a blend of the indigenous Meitei culture based on the Sanamahli laining (Sanamahli worship) and the Indian culture, based on the Hindu religion. However, there are more than 30 majestic cultures and dances of the different tribes of Manipur as well. The culture of Manipur is as exotic and ancient as the state itself. It is a perfect colorful mixture of the rich customs, the traditional cuisines, and the music that is the main essence of Manipuri culture; the strict and vibrant customs, the world-famous dance forms and the rich history together make the most enchanting culture of the Manipuri's. The fun and exciting element among the people of Manipur can be reflected in the various festivals that they observe like the **Kut festival, Rath Yatra, Ningol Chakaba festival, Yaoshang festival**, and many more. Festivals help to liven up the people of their daily chores with their music and dance. Especially, the dance that is called the Thabal Chongba (Moonlit dance) performed by both men and women is a typical dance form during the annual Yaoshang festival. The most distinctive feature of Manipur is the contribution of women in the various realms of society. Manipuri women since earlier times have played significant roles in various activities of life, covering the religious, social, cultural, economic and political. Besides, they are the frontrunners in solving various social and political problems of the state. They are active in various spheres of life since the times of the Monarchical era. "They are very industrious. The most of the work of the country except the heaviest is performed by them. **It would be difficult to find a more industrious woman in India than the Manipuri**". Manipuri women, as a group, very often played an active role and participated in the political and social movements of the state. The 20th century witnessed a number of significant instances of women's participation in socio-economic and political uprisings. The first Nupi-lan (Women's Uprising) in 1904 and the second Nupi-lan (Women's Uprising) in 1939 were glaring examples of such collective women's participation during the British rule.

In spite of the major contributions made by the women in Manipur in various fields, the women of Manipur are marginalized and faced discrimination in the patriarchal society of Manipur like in the rest of India these days. During the pre-Hindu period, there seem to have high status of women in society. The status of women was equal to their male counterparts. Thus we can conclude that women of Manipur contribute major important roles in society and they deserve to be given their due share of respect and dignity in society. They need to be treated on par with their male counterpart. They need to be treated on equal terms by giving them equal respect and dignity in society. The low status of women which reflect in the cultural norms and rituals in the society can only be corrected by empowering them by educating the women and also through certain plans and policies of important role in rectifying the cultural norms and building peace in the Manipuri society. Women's roles in Manipur society especially in peace building in the last decade highlight the importance of moving women beyond their traditional roles. Women have been playing an important role in various issues in Manipur. These women who have sacrificed their personal lives and dedicated for the states in order to bring peace and harmony have always been at the forefront to solve many problems in the state. All their activities are conducting voluntarily for ages. **Thus we can say that the women of Manipur are the Savior of the state of Manipur.** It is therefore, we all need to give a serious thought to this and focus our concern towards women empowerment as women have an active part socially, culturally, politically in all spheres. We cannot blame only males for the oppression caused to women but also the women themselves. At the same time the role of the male to make sure that the wife has an equal voice within the family and society at large. Let us not forget that a female is no lesser a human being but just our male dominated society over the years having amazingly projected that to be the case, so we all need to fight this gender inequality in customs and cultures especially in Meitei society

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Is your child mouth breathing???



By: Dr Shweta Gogia

We often come across parents who complain that their child has been mouth breathing and has a noisy breathing especially during sleep. Most of us don't take this seriously, thinking that this could be normal. But these symptoms if persistent, point towards a serious problem which should not be ignored.

The most common reason for the mouth breathing and snoring in young children is adenoid hypertrophy. Adenoid tissue is basically a tissue located at the back of the nose, where the nasal passage opens into the airway. This tissue is normally present in all children and undergoes some degree of increase in size as the child grows and attains immunity against the common infections. But this is temporary and after sometime they regress in size and child doesn't have any major issues in breathing.

But the problem arises in children who have persistent problems of nasal blockage which results in mouth breathing. Subsequently, these children also have recurrent episodes of throat infections along with fever, ear pain, decreased hearing. A number of these children also have the problem of bedwetting, abnormal body movements during sleep, learning difficulty, failure to grow properly. The child is uncomfortable and lacks interest in surroundings in severe cases. This can be related to the size of the adenoid tissue which may be completely blocking the back of the nose and causing extreme discomfort to the patient.

Due to the blockage of the back of the nose or nasopharynx, these kids have ear problems such as decreased hearing which can also affect the speech of young children. The reason for this is that the middle ear space is kept healthy by the passage of air through a tube which opens in the nasopharynx known as the eustachian tube. This has the function of aeration of the middle ear along with drainage of any liquid or fluid that builds up in the middle ear and is responsible for normal hearing. In cases where this tube is not functioning properly hearing abnormalities can occur and sometimes the person can also start having discharge from the ear.

Adenoid tissue enlargement causes the dysfunction of the eusta-

chian tube, resulting in hearing problems in young kids. Since the children cannot express the problem, this can go unattended for a long period of time and result in permanent problems.

Another serious issue which can arise due to the abnormal growth of the adenoid tissue is lack of proper oxygen supply to the body especially when the child is sleeping. This results in what is known as sleep apnoea in children. The decreased oxygen levels in the body of the child who is growing has serious implications especially on the neurological developmental of the child. These children can have learning issues and also have behavioral issues.

Also because of the mouth breathing associated with the adenoid tissue enlargement, children have dental problems such as dental caries, bad breath from the mouth, misaligned teeth, high arched palate. These children start to develop a typical facial morphology known as the adenoid facies, wherein child has an open mouth even while breathing at rest or may have a noisy breathing, dull look on the face, nasal stuffiness, high arched palate and over-riding teeth.

Therefore, it is very important to recognize the problem and treat it so that the children receive treatment and don't face permanent deficits.

Adenoid tissue growth or ad-

enoid hypertrophy is graded according to the space it occupies in the nasopharynx which is the space in the back of the nose. Grade 1 and 2 can be managed with medical treatment of the child and usually the children respond well to the treatment. However, in cases where the tissue occupies more than 50% of the space, medical management may not provide complete relief and the child can continue having symptoms. These cases need to see an ENT specialist for discussing the management of the child. The severity of the case may require surgical management of the condition. The surgery for adenoid tissue enlargement is a sophisticated surgery wherein the tissue is removed endoscopically, without any cut or scar. The modern methods of removal of the tissue ensures complete removal of the tissue with minimal or no blood loss. It is a highly advanced and safe procedure which doesn't require prolonged hospital stay and can be done as a daycare procedure. There is minimal postoperative care and child doesn't experience any significant pain in the recovery. About a week or ten days later, the caregiver or the parents see a vast change in the child who is now sleeping comfortably, eating well and is in a much happier space.

(The author is Senior consultant, Department of ENT, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi)

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Record 75 per cent of defence capital procurement budget earmarked for domestic industry in FY 2023-24, announces Raksha Mantri at 14th Aero India

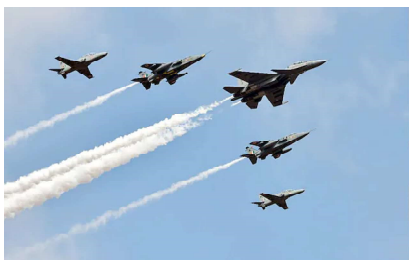
PIB
New Delhi, Feb 15:

Record 75 per cent (approx. Rs one lakh crore) of the defence capital procurement budget has been earmarked for domestic industry in Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, up from 68 per cent in 2022-23. This was announced by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh during the Bandhan ceremony on February 15, 2023. In FY 2023-24, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been allocated a total Budget of Rs 5.94 lakh crore, which is 13.18 per cent of the total budget (Rs 45.03 lakh crore). Capital outlay pertaining to modernisation and infrastructure development has been increased to Rs 1.63 lakh crore.

Rajnath Singh termed the decision as an unprecedented step taken by the Government at the outset of 'Amrit Kaal' to further strengthen the defence sector and minimise import dependency. "If you take one step, the government promises to take ten steps forward. You spoke of land to run on the path of development. We are providing you full sky. Earmarking three-fourth of the capital procurement budget for the local industry is a step in that direction," he said.

The Raksha Mantri exuded confidence that with this step, the Indian industry will come forward with more enthusiasm and contribute in making the defence sector more powerful and prosperous. He was of the view that a strong & self-reliant defence industry not only strengthens the security system of the country, but also bolsters the economy. He highlighted that, in the last few years, a domestic industry-friendly environment has been created in the country provides a runway for the local companies to grow and ensure holistic development of the nation while catering to the security needs of the friendly countries, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World'.

The Bandhan ceremony



also witnessed the forging of 266 partnerships including 201 MoUs, 53 major announcements, nine product launches and three Transfers of Technology, worth around Rs 80,000 crore.

Major agreements

- MoU between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Safran Helicopter Engines, France for Work Share for formation of Joint venture for Design, Development, Manufacture and life time support of Helicopter Engines.

- MoU between Bharat Electronics Ltd and Aeronautical Development Agency on IWB and Other LRUs for Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

- Co-operation between BSS Material Limited and Pegasus Engineering, an ADUSEA Inc. Division (USA) for Logistic Drones for the Indian Army towards Last Mile Delivery for forward troops deployed along the border areas with capability of operation in wind/gust condition, rain/snow etc.

- MoU between Gopalan Aerospace India Pvt. Ltd. and Omnipol, Czech Republic for manufacturing and assembling of 1st passenger aircraft (L 410 UVP-E20 version) by a private company in India.

- MoU on collaboration of Sagar Defence Engineering Private Limited (SDEPL) & Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for IDEX Challenge "Autonomous Weaponized boat Swarm" for Indian Navy.

- MoU between Bharat Dynamics Limited and Bultexpro Ltd., Bulgaria for setting up the manufacturing facilities for 122mm GRAD BM ER and

NONER rockets in India and fulfill the requirements (including ToT).

- MoU between GRSE and Rolls-Royce Solutions GmbH (MTU) for License production with localization of the MTU 16V4000M73L engine to support the indigenous content for the Next Generation Fast Attack Craft vessel for Indian Navy.

- BEML enters into License Agreement for Transfer of Technology (ToT) with R&DEE, DRDO for development and supply of TRAWL Assembly for T-72/T-90 Tanks.

- ToT of Shakti EW System from DLRL DRDO to BEL Hyderabad Unit for all system units, Bill of Material, Test procedures, integration & offering methodology.

- MoU between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Elta Systems Limited, Israel for co-operation on future Business in Maritime Patrol Radar (MPR) for Indian Platforms.

Products

- Vertically Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (Bharat Dynamics Limited):** VLSRSAM is a next-generation, ship-based, all-weather, air defence weapon which can be used by Navy as a quick reaction point defence against supersonic sea skimming targets like aircraft and UAVs. The Missile has a smokeless propulsion system with all-weather capability. It has a highly agile configuration with state-of-the-art Electronic Counter-Counter Measures features.

- SAL Seeker ATGM for BMP II (Bharat Dynamics Limited):** Semi-Active Laser Seeker based Anti-Tank Guided Missile

for BMP-II is a subsonic missile with a range of 4,000 metres and flight time of 25 seconds. The missile weighs 23 kgs and can be used in different kinds of terrains to incapacitate the moving and stationary targets such as tanks and Infantry Combat Vehicles.

- Jishnu (Bharat Dynamics Limited):** Jishnu, a Drone Delivered Missile, is light weight and miniaturised missile targeted for soft-skinned targets. It has a range of 1.5 km with a flight time of 9 seconds. The missile can be semi-automatic or completely autonomous based on the systems configurations.

- Software defined NAVIC/GPS receiver module based on indigenously-developed processors (Astra Microwave Products Limited).**

- Indigenously-built 'Counter-Drone Radar' based on technology from DRDO (Astra Microwave Products Limited).**

- 9 mm sub-sonic ammunition (Munitions India Limited).**

- BFT on Ios (IdeaForge Technology Limited):** BlueFire Touch BlueFire Touch, our Ground Control Station (GCS) software, is built to plan and command both mapping and surveillance missions with the ability to pre-plan missions based on operational area and target locations via waypoint-based navigation.

- HF SDR Radio (Bharat Electronics Limited):** It is an advanced software defined radio. The radio is lightweight 20 W transmit capabaleradio. It provides a complete solution to the short-range communication requirements in the crowded HF band and long-range communications beyond line of sight.

- Goniometer (Bharat Electronics Limited):** It is part of any integrated observation and fire control monitoring system for day time or night time use by the Artillery.

Rajnath Singh stated that the MoUs and ToTs completed during Bandhan will pave the way for enhanced FDI in defence and take the manufacturing in the sector to greater heights. He defined Bandhan as

not just an agreement between two sides limited to economic benefit, but a new resolution to bolster the nation in the defence domain. He also emphasised that the partnerships forged with friendly countries will take their bilateral collaboration with India to the next level.

The Raksha Mantri stated that Aero India showcased to the world the 'New Defence Sector' of 'New India', which has not only grown in the last few years, but is now fully ready to walk alongside the defence sectors of leading countries. He expressed satisfaction that the event paved the new way to strengthen the Indian defence industry, terming it as the beginning of a new era of 'Aatmanirbharta'. He exuded confidence that the sector will move forward strongly on the path of progress with new energy and determination.

Rajnath Singh described Karnataka as one of those historical states which has been consistently contributing to the country's economic progress. He stated that there could not be a better place than Karnataka to organise Aero India as the state has attracted local as well as international industries with its robust R&D manufacturing ecosystem.

Karnataka Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Shri Samir V Kamat, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka Smt Vandita Sharma and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence & state government were present during the ceremony.

Turkey, Syria Earthquake: 42-year-old rescued after 222 hours in rubble; death toll crosses 40,000

Agency
Kahramanmaraş/Antakya, Feb 15:

More than 40,000 people have been killed in the Turkey-Syria earthquake, but hope persisted as a 42-year-old woman was rescued from rubble in Turkey's Kahramanmaraş, some 222 hours after the quake.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has acknowledged problems in the initial response to the 7.8 magnitude quake that struck early on Feb. 6 but has said the situation is now under control. "We are facing one of the greatest natural disasters not only in our country but also in the history of humanity," Erdogan said in a televised speech in Ankara.

The search for survivors was

about to end in the northwest of Syria, said the head of the White Helmets main rescue group, Raed al Saleh. Russia also said it was wrapping up its search and rescue work in Turkey and Syria and preparing to withdraw.

Jordan's foreign minister Ayman Safadi will be heading to Syria and Turkey Wednesday in a "show of solidarity" after the quake that killed thousands of people in both countries, an official source said.

Jordan, which neighbours Syria, has sent large shipments of aid to both countries.

A teenage boy holds food rations that he found in the rubble of buildings, in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake in the rebel-held town of Harem, in Idlib governorate, Syria, February 14, 2023.

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Reena Sahu do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Rina Majumdar** as I have assumed my new name **Reena Sahu**.

Sd/-
Reena Sahu
Mantripukhri Mercylane

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Prakash Sahu do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Prakash Sharma** as I have assumed my new name **Prakash Sahu**.

Sd/-
Prakash Sahu
Mantripukhri Mercylane

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Ravi Sahu do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Ravi Sharma** as I have assumed my new name **Ravi Sahu**.

Sd/-
Ravi Sahu
Mantripukhri Mercylane

“টেঙে-টুংগ” (লান্ন-খোরম)



মাসেম তাইবতপানসিদা ঐখোয় খাইগী ইরজা তিনবীরয়া মরৈবানীদমক খব্দনা মীথকুপ অমফাওবা নুভাইবা ফংজিখিবা লাই ওইগুৰা ইরেংবম ভোরোত শীয়াচা চাচোন-হায়না খব্দনবিবিবনা মপুনা থারকুপা চশিগ-চৈথেক ওরদনা হেরাং-হেইশং শুনা চাদা, লেরাং-লেশীং শুনা চিন্দা, তাইবঙ চেংজেল লোইবদনা হৌখিবা লোইদাম ফাইনেম থাগী ১৯নি পানবা, যাইফরবা কোরৌ ইরাই নুমিং, ইং কুমজা ২০২৩ গী ফেব্রুৱাৰী ১০, নুমিং অসিদা শেখীবা মপু মহালী মফমদা লেরাং লেনাম ওইনা তিনজায়ে।

লাক্সিবা লোইদাম ফাইনেমগী ২৩নি পানবা, যাইফরবা কোরৌ লৈপাকপোপকা নুমিং, ইং কুমজা ২০২৩ গী ফেব্রুৱাৰী ১৪, নুমিং অসিদা মজানি লেহ্ন তমজরগা, লাক্সিবা লোইদাম ফাইনেমগী ৩০নি পানবা, যাইফরবা কোরৌ নিখৌকাবা নুমিং, ইং কুমজা ২০২৩ গী ফেব্রুৱাৰী ২০, নুমিং অসিদা লান্ন-খোরম থোকে। নুমিং অসিদা লৈখিবরগী থরায়না মপু মাগী মফমদা ঈংনা চিকনা লৈজরনবগীদমক মপুগী মিংখৈ শক-শোনজদনা ডমজা হেরাং-লৈংখ বরদং কংচপনি।

নুমিং অসিদা অহল-লমম, মরুপ-মপাং, ইচিন-ইনাও, ইচৈ-ইচল, খাই থিৰিকা মতম চানা লেঙবীৰজুনা লান্ন-খোরম অসিবু শরুক যাবীৰনবা চেনা লৈরাংগী লেঙং শিমা লৈকংচরি। চেনা লৈরাং লেঙং শিজদনা পাওজেনবগী অয়োন-অরান থিবিক জাকপীপনি।

নোঙ্কচরিবশিঙে-

ইরেংবম ওংবী য়ুনা লৈমা (মমা)
ইরেংবম ওংবী জেইশি (পুৰ্ণিমা) লৈমা (লোইনৰী)
ইরেংবম ওংবী য়ুনা লৈমা (মমা)
ইরেংবম ওংবী জেইশি (পুৰ্ণিমা) লৈমা (লোইনৰী)

অমদি ইমুং-মনুং
খাগেমপল্লি ছুইদ্রোম লেকাই, ইফাল।

Contd. from Page 2

Emergence of Career Oriented.....

Conservative Elements in our societies still criticize women for abandoning the idea of mother/housewife and blame the emergence of career-oriented women for rising levels of drug use and other problems among youth.

More and more of today's women are climbing the corporate ladder and holding positions of power. And their husbands attend the chores on the home front. But the shifting of gender roles does affect a couples' relationship, as many times, it results in divorce and broken relationships.

The changing role of women is also causing a change in their infertility. Along with the increased intake of junk food which mostly contains additives and meats injected with hormones, women also encourage multiple partners and casual lovemaking. This results in sexually transmitted diseases and later to infertility. Venereal diseases such as gonorrhea

and syphilis combined with previous abortions and smoking, which has gradually become increasingly common among women, can prevent conception and sometimes cause miscarriages.

Women's increasing participation in the paid workforce has reduced the number of relatives available for childcare substantially. This, in turn, has resulted in women attempting to deal with childcare demands either by relying on organized child-care facilities or undergoing changes in their personal employment style, such as working from home or working part-time. In addition to bearing the responsibility of providing adequate childcare to their children, women may also experience feelings of guilt if they do not at least devote some of their free time to this task. Some women may, therefore, reduce their amount of sleep or free time resulting in the accumulation of strain and stress.

Many men and women believe that working couples should share household responsibilities. Yet working women today are still maintaining the responsibility of household demands as housework remains being associated with women's work. This increased workload makes it difficult for women to relax properly which, in turn, threatens their physical and mental well being.

They are also prone to role overload. Women have other life roles which they may occupy simultaneously. A woman with multiple roles may play the role of a daughter, sister and community member. And as such, these personal, professional, recreational and citizen roles are to be played simultaneously. Fulfilling one or more of these roles has far-reaching consequences.

The path of a career woman has never been a smooth or easy one. Though significant progress has been made toward levelling the sta-

tus of women, they still face obstacles to their professional acceptance and advancement. In many fields, women continue to be significantly underrepresented. But, most of the explicit barriers to female participation in the workforce have fallen. The mentality of Indian male is also changing to some extent. They are now accepting the view that a lot of professional courses can give women new heights in their career even after marriage and some support their wives to continue with their jobs even after marriage. Women have in fact have come farther in their quest for equal opportunity and control over their careers. The result of these trends is that women are achieving success and the measuring stick of their success can be in revenue, employment and longevity of life. This strengthens the governmental programs and policies at strengthening women's entrepreneurship.

Assam child marriage arrests causing havoc, says Gauhati HC

Agency
Guwahati, Feb 15:

The Gauhati High Court on Tuesday granted anticipatory bail in four separate cases of child marriage, observing that charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act may not be justified, reported Live Law.

Since February 3, the Assam police have launched a crackdown on child marriages with retributive arrests. As of February 12, over 3,000 people have been arrested under either the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act or the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said that while men who married girls below 14 years of age would be booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act,

those who married girls between 14 and 18 years would be booked under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

However, charges under POCSO Act are being framed on the presumption that minors under 14 years who are married have been sexually assaulted, according to The Indian Express.

At Tuesday's hearing, the High Court granted bail to nine men from Bongaigaon, Morigaon, Nagaon and Kamrup districts of Assam, reported The Indian Express.

Justice Suman Shyam asked the authorities to explain why the accused persons were booked under the provisions of the POCSO Act.

"POCSO you can add [to] anything," the court said, reported Live Law. "What is the POCSO [offence] here? Merely because POCSO is added does it mean judges won't see what is there? We are not acquitting anyone

here. No one is preventing you to probe."

Justice Shyam also questioned why the state authorities required immediate custodial interrogation in the cases.

"If marriage is taking place in violation of law, the law will take its own course," Shyam said. "These cases have been happening since time. We will only consider if immediate custodial interrogation is required or not. At this moment, this court thinks that these are not matters for custodial interrogation."

The High Court added: "You [the state] proceed as per law, file a charge sheet, if they are convicted, then they are convicted. It is causing havoc in the private life of people, there are children, there are family members and old people."

Thousands of women across the state have protested against the

Bharatiya Janata Party government's crackdown on child marriages, saying the arrested men are the sole breadwinners of their families. Police data seen by Scroll shows that districts with high Muslim populations have seen more arrests than others.

In January, the Assam chief minister referred to the "alarming" results of the National Family Health Survey-5 that was conducted in 2019-20 and released last year to justify the government's drive against child marriage. According to the survey, Assam had an underage pregnancy rate of 11.7% - significantly higher than the national average of 6.8%.

But activists have said the police crackdown was short-sighted as it did not address the structural reasons such as poverty and illiteracy behind underage marriages.

Awareness lecture on G-20 Presidency



IT News
Imphal, Feb 15:

Loktak Battalion of Headquarters under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted awareness lecture on G-20 Presidency to the students of Government Higher Secondary School, Kangvai at Battalion

Headquarters, Kangvai of District Churachandpur (Manipur) today.

The students were briefed about roll and composition of G-20 organization. They were also made aware about assumption of G-20 presidency. The students were also made aware about sequence of G-20

events in Manipur and importance of G-20 to world and India economy.

The lecture was followed by an interactive session in which queries raised by the students were answered. A total of 22 students including teaching staff are attended the awareness lecture.

Meghalaya assembly elections 2023: BJP releases poll manifesto

Agency
Shillong, Feb 15:

The Meghalaya BJP, on Wednesday (February 15), released its manifesto for the upcoming assembly elections in the state.

The BJP manifesto for the Meghalaya assembly elections was released by the party's national president JP Nadda in Shillong.

Nadda released the BJP manifesto for the Meghalaya assembly elections in the presence of state party president Ernest Mawrie and national secretary Rituraj Sinha.

Senior Meghalaya BJP leaders Sanbor Shullai, AL Hek and HM Shangphlang were also present during the

release of the manifesto.

Some of the key issues addressed in the BJP manifesto for the Meghalaya assembly elections are: interstate border row, corruption and scientific mining.

"Notably, here, corruption has been an issue that has been a hindrance in the development of the state," Nadda said.

"We will establish a special task force under a retired Supreme Court judge to investigate all cases of corruption," Nadda said.

He added: "We will make Meghalaya a peaceful, developed and prosperous state."

The BJP manifesto for the upcoming Meghalaya assembly elections also prom-

ises implementation of the seventh pay commission.

"We have decided to implement the 7th pay commission in Meghalaya," JP Nadda said.

"Also, we will enhance the annual financial assistance under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana by Rs 2000 for the benefit of the farmers," the BJP national president said.

"We will double the pension for the senior citizens, will provide support to women and will work towards holistic development in the state," BJP national president JP Nadda said.

"A scheme providing annual financial assistance worth Rs 3000 to landless

farmers and annual financial assistance worth Rs 6000 for the fishermen has been decided," Nadda said.

He further said: "We will provide two free LPG cylinders annually for the beneficiaries of the Ujjawala Yojana."

"Special economic zones will be established for the empowerment of youth and many industrial units will be established therein to give a fillip to employment opportunities," he said.

"We have to visualize big for the state - we aspire for a 'Mega Meghalaya'."

"There is competition among the Northeast states for development and Meghalaya also is trying to cope-up with it."

Contd. from Page 1

Chief Minister inaugurates....

Concluding his speech, the Chief Minister expressed hopefulness that the tournament would go a long way in establishing the state as a polo tourism destination in India.

Speaking on the occasion, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Govindas Konhoujam stated that different Sagol Kangjei and Polo tournaments had been started at various places of the State under the initiative of the Chief Minister, to promote the game and to preserve the endangered horse breed. He added that the people of Manipur should appreciate the Chief Minister for such initiative.

The Minister continued that many teams from different countries had come to the State and participated in polo tournaments organized on different occasions. It shows that the game is becoming popular day by day, which is a dream come true for Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. He also extended his best wishes to the participating teams.

During the inaugural function, the Chief Minister hoisted the flag of All Manipur Polo Association. Band display by 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles band and showcase of Manipur Indigenous Martial Arts - Thang Ta and Pung Cholom were also the highlights of the inaugural programme.

Textiles, Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nemcha Kipgen, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba, Chairman, Planning and Development Authority Lourembam Rameshwar Meetei, Chairman, Manipur Electronics Development Corporation S. Kunjakeswar Singh, MLA of Hiyanglam AC Dr. Yumnam Radheshyam Singh, MLA of Moirang AC Thongam Shanti Singh, MLA of Wangoi AC Khurajam Loken Singh, MLA of Oinam AC Irengbam Nalini Devi, President, AMPA Dr. K. Saratchandra Singh and Senior Government Officials also attended the programme among others.

Sports

Asian Games trials and YAI Sailing Championship 2023 concludes in Mumbai

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 15:

Yachting Association of India (YAI) Sailing Championship 2023 organised by Army Yachting Node (AYN), at Girgaum Chowpatty in South Mumbai, concluded with sailors of AYN dominating the event.

The event was organised from February 07 to February 13 and it was the third trial for the upcoming Asian Games scheduled to be held in China in September 2023 and a ranking event for both junior and senior classes.

189 Participants from 16 different clubs across the country participated in the event. There was introduction and participation of "Formula Kite" for the first time in the country.

The championship was held with 14 classes of boats including ILCA 7, ILCA 6, 49er, 49erFX, 470 (mixed), NACRA 17 (mixed), RS:X (men & women), IQ Foil (men & women), Formula Kite (men & women) for senior classes and



ILCA 4 (boys & girls) for junior classes.

The weather held true with medium to strong winds providing varying conditions throughout the event bringing out the best in all sailors. The citizens of Mumbai also could enjoy the event visible all around the Queen's Necklace (Marine Drive) and directly from Chowpatty Beach.

Sailors of AYN dominated the event winning five gold,

five silvers and four bronze medals in total and booking a berth for Asian Games 2023 in Las Vegas, Nacra 17, IQ Foil and RS:X classes with brother-sister duo of Vishnu Sarvanan and Ramya Sarvanan both making the cut for Asian Games.

This regatta is conducted every year to achieve the aim of attracting more youth across all genders and class into this sport and develop young talent and technical

specialisation for the Army sailing for the future glory of the country.

The Army Yachting Node was established in 2001 at Mumbai under HQ Maharashtra Gujarat & Goa Area and is co-located with the Naval Sailing Club at Colaba in South Mumbai. The yachtsmen of the AYN have been dominating in events at National level, by making a clean sweep of all the medals in most of the events.

FIFA announces Saudi Arabia as hosts for Club World Cup 2023

Agency
Zurich (Switzerland), Feb 15:

Saudi Arabia has been selected to host the 2023 Club World Cup in December, FIFA announced on Tuesday.

The FIFA Council unanimously voted for the Saudi Arabian Football Federation to stage the event, which includes the six continental champions plus the host's national champions.

The tournament will take place from Dec. 12-22.

Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia was selected by the Asian Football Confederation to host the 2027 Asian Cup.

The country has previously hosted sporting events including this year's Spanish Super Cup, 2022's world title fight between Oleksandr Usyk and Anthony Joshua and the Riyadh Grand Prix.

The FIFA Council meeting also confirmed changes to the structure of the Club World Cup, with approval for an expanded 32-team tournament

from 2025.

UEFA will have 12 places and CONMEBOL six, while CONCACAF, CAF and the AFC will each have four, with one place for the OFC and another for the hosts.

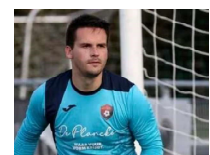
The FIFA meeting also confirmed that the United States, Mexico and Canada will automatically qualify for the 2026 World Cup as joint hosts of the tournament, with their places being deducted from CONCACAF's overall allocation of six.

Belgian goalkeeper Arne Espeel dies moments after saving penalty

Agency
West Brabant (Belgium), Feb 15:

In a shocking turn of events, 25-year-old Belgian goalkeeper Arne Espeel passed away after collapsing on the pitch on Saturday, moments after saving a penalty for an amateur team.

As reported by Reuters and Belgian media, Espeel saved the spot kick but dropped to the ground immediately afterwards.



Emergency services rushed to help him with a defibrillator but he was declared dead shortly after he was taken to a hospital.

According to reports, more

than 1,000 people turned up to pay tribute to the departed footballer.

"This is a disaster and a shock to everyone. Arne had been with the club all his life and was very loved. He was a wonderfully sympathetic boy, always in a good mood and ready to help. This is really a heavy blow. First of all for his family and also our whole club," said Patrick Rotsaert, sporting director of Winkler.