

Governor La. Ganesan highlights government achievements and developments in address to Assembly

IT News
Imphal, Feb 2:

The third session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly began today with the Governor's address and highlighting departmental achievements and developments of the State Government. An official press release of the Manipur Legislative Assembly states the following achievements and development of the Government.

The Governor began his speech by wishing the members a productive and prosperous New Year. Law and order and Justice delivery update of the state was outlined in the Governor's speech. The Governor informed that law and order situation and security environment in Manipur has improved significantly in the recent years, and during 2022, 75 insurgents surrendered, 309 extremists were arrested and various arms, ammunitions etc. were recovered. Giving a further boost to the peace process in the State, the Government of India and the State Government has entered into a cessation of operation agreement with the Zeliangrong United Front that had been active for more than

a decade. With improved security scenario, 15 police station areas in 6 districts of the State has been excluded from the Disturbed Area Notification with effect from 1st April, 2022. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act has been revoked from these areas. Government of India approved construction of 34 Police Outposts along Indo-Myanmar international Border and 6 Police Outposts along National Highway-37 (Imphal-Jiribam) with cost of Rs. 80.40 crore under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States. Out of these, construction of 12 (twelve) of Border Police Outposts and 3 (three) Police Outposts along NH-37 are in progress.

Under the initiative of 'War on Drugs 2.0', the Government continues its fight against Drugs, to root out the menace of illegal drugs and to protect the youths of the state. During 2022, 3517 acres of illicit poppy cultivation were destroyed in different areas of the state and 2,567 kg. of contraband drugs disposed. Over 2,384 kg. of drugs consisting of Heroin, Brown Sugar, Opium, Amphetamine, Ganja, Methamphetamine, Spasmo Proxiron and nearly 40,000 bottles of Cough

Syrup were seized. 504 cases were registered under ND&PS Act and 32 persons were convicted. 84 persons were detained under PIT NDPS Act. During 2022, about 3,629 FIR cases were registered under different sections of Law. 1883 criminal cases were disposed of with 500 cases charge sheeted and 1,383 in Final Reports. Sensitive cases relating to crime against women and children were given top most priority in investigation. 91 cases relating to crime against women and 52 cases under POCOA Act were registered. Efforts to modernise the police force in the state are underway. Under the scheme of "Assistance to States and Union Territories for Modernisation of Police", various vehicles, computers, telecom and forensic equipment were procured. Relief compensation amounting to over Rs. 212 lakh was provided to victims of extremist action and under central and state Victim compensation schemes. Recruitment for 1,830 posts of Riflemen for 10th and 11th IRB were completed. Recruitment is under process for 1385 posts consisting of various ranks. To provide sufficient infrastructure for the Judiciary, construc-

tion of District Court Complex in Kakching, Noney and Senapati was started. Annexe Court building at Bishnupur Court Complex was also inaugurated. The District and Sessions Court at Tamenglong was established. The Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Tamenglong has started functioning. The new District Court building at Tamenglong with residential quarter of Judges is targeted for completion in 2023. The High court and the subordinate courts disposed 7,405 cases during 2022.

For Healthcare, under Chief Minister's Health for All program, more than three lakh persons in over 870 villages have been screened for ten non-communicable diseases through door-to-door screening. The insurance cost available for each enrolled family under CMHT has been enhanced from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh per annum. A total of over 2.04 lakh families with 6.73 lakh beneficiaries have been enrolled under CM Hakshelgi Tengbang Scheme. over 1.30 lakh patients have benefited till date with their treatment cost of Rs. 148.9 crore borne under the scheme.

Union Budget 23-24: Children, once again, remained out of its radar - CRY

IT News
Imphal, Feb 2:

Commenting on the Budget for Children FY 23-24, Puja Marwaha, CEO of CRY - Child Rights and You said, "While the Union Budget 23-24, on the whole, has tried to trace a robust roadmap towards inclusive growth for the country in the post-COVID times, children who constitute more than one-third of India's total population seems to have largely remained out of its radar."

Highlighting the positive aspects of the budget, she said, "Whereas child education and health segments have witnessed some incremental increase, allocation for Mission Vastalaya has remained constant with Rs. 1,472.17 cr. for 2022-23 BE and

2023-24 BE. Allocations for Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 have increased by around 1.44 per cent from Rs. 17,223.61 crore (2022-23 BE) to Rs. 17,471.16 crores (2023-24 BE) with increase in absolute numbers of Rs. 247.55 Crores. The Samagra Shiksha budget has seen a miniscule increase just by 0.19 per cent from Rs. 37,383.36 crores (2022-23 BE) to Rs. 37,453.47 crores (2023-24 BE) with increase in absolute numbers of Rs. 70.11 crores."

"It's indeed a positive news that the overall fiscal outlay in the Union Budget FY 23-24 has increased 14.15 per cent from 22-23, and the total child budget has increased by Rs. 11054.20 Cr from year 2022-23 BE (Rs 92,736.5 Cr) to 2023-24 BE. (Rs. 103,790.70 Cr.), but a

closer look at the fine prints clearly suggests that there has been 0.05 per cent points decline in the share of allocation for child budget to the Union Budget from 2.35 per cent (2022-23 BE) to 2.30 per cent (2023-24 BE). Further analysis reveals that, in reference to GDP, the percentage share of Child Budget to the GDP has declined to 0.34 per cent in 2023-24 BE when compared to 0.36 per cent in 2022-23 BE," Puja added.

"In all, as the detailed budget allocations across child-centric programmes and initiatives suggests, it seems that the Union Budget will fail to reach the last mile when it comes to the overall development of the vulnerable children, residing under the shadows of multidimensional poverty," Puja further noted.

Immediate action warned against the employer that failed to deposit EPF Contributions for employees

IT News
Imphal, Feb 2:

During a one day 'Outreach programme on EPF and MP Act, 1952' held at the Examination

Hall of Regional Institute of Medical Science (RIMS), Lamphel, Imphal West today, Commissioner of the Regional PF Khundrakpam Rupesh Singh announced that immediate action shall be taken against the employer under the Act if they failed to deposit EPF Contributions.

As a follow-up to that announcement, at the first instance, 234 defaulting establishments in the State of Manipur were identified and notices has been issued to them as a precursor to prosecuting the employers under section 14 of the Act which provides for im-

prisonment which may extend up to 3 year.

Further, action will also be taken up against employers of establishments who have employed 20 or more employees and are coming under the purview of the EPF & MP Act 1952 but are not registered with EPFO and are not depositing EPF dues. All employers coming under the purview of the Act should immediately comply. It should be noted that for all employers coming the purview of the Act, deposit of EPF and allied dues is mandatory and not voluntary.

Age Bucket	2021-2022	April to November 2022
Less than 18	14	22
18-21 Years	261	440
21-25 Years	494	977
25 to 28 Years	276	643
29 to 35 years	306	715
More than 35 years	253	552
TOTAL	1604	3349

ENPO's 'Frontier Nagaland' demand: Centre offers autonomous council for eastern districts

Agency
Kohima, Feb 2:

The central government has offered creation of an autonomous council in the eastern districts of Nagaland.

According to reports, the offer by the central government came after conclusion of a two-day long talks with Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO).

ENPO which represents seven Naga tribes of the six districts in Nagaland - Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator.

The ENPO has been demanding a separate "Frontier Nagaland" state since 2010 over alleged discrimination.

The crucial talks between the ENPO and a central government committee was conducted amid threats by the organisation to boycott the Nagaland assembly elections.

The six districts of Nagaland, which the ENPO represents, consist of 20 seats in the Nagaland legislative assembly.

With the offer of creation of an autonomous council in the eastern

districts of Nagaland, the ENPO reportedly is set to review its stand on boycotting the elections.

"The Centre's offer is for an autonomous council with [a] possible legislature and the new proposed body could be called the 'Frontier Nagaland Autonomous Council', "a local Nagaland daily reported.

Notably, polling for the elections to the 60-member Nagaland assembly elections is slated to be held in a single phase on February 27.

Counting of votes will be conducted on March 2.

Tousem Area Students Organization condemn Joint Survey

IT News
Imphal, Feb 2:

The Tousem Area Students Organization (TASO) strongly condemned the notice served Vide No. DC (TML) F&E/2018 dated 23.01.2023 of the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Tamenglong regarding joint Survey of Kaiphundai Reserve Forest extension headed by Divisional Forest Officer, Jiribam and the Sub Divisional office Staffs of Tousem.

A statement by the student body said that the Kaiphundai village is under the jurisdiction



of the Tousem Sub Division. Hence any survey of the Government officials must consult with the local people, Village Authority, and the civil orga-

nizations, says TASO statement.

It added that such survey is intended to intrude and grabbed the land of the tribal

community. Hence encroachers will not be tolerated. TASO cautioned not to conduct this survey without prior consultation with indigenous people and urge the Government to reiterate its statement.

It also warn indefinite bandh anytime if the government did not listen to the people voice. The Tousem people will not take any responsible if any untoward incident met defying this notification. Further, the Divisional forest Officer, Jiribam and the Forest Department, Manipur will be held responsible, the statement by TASO added.

15 leaders of NNC and other Naga Rebel factions joined ZUF

IT News
Imphal, Feb 2:

Fifteen active leaders belonging to the NNC (Parent Body) Zeliangrong Region (AMN) and other Naga rebel factions have reportedly joined to the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF). The NNC (Parent Body) is an active member of NNPGs.

A statement by John Pame Secretary, Information & Publicity of the ZUF said that the fifteen leaders who had joined the ZUF were warmly accorded with honours.

The statement by John



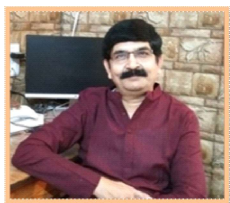
Pame said that the Joining of leaders and cadres to the fold of Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) with their true and honest commitment to work

together for the common cause and aspiration of the Zeliangrong kindred people is taken to be incredible and positive circumstance in con-

sonant with the signing of the peace agreement with the Govt. of India for political dialogue.

contd. on page 4

Smart Budget



By- Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her fifth straight budget viz the last full budget of Modi 2.0 govt before the next parliamentary elections in 2024. She has rightly said that the Indian economy is on the right path and heading towards a bright future. We all are aware that the last three years were challenging for the Indian economy. FM has elaborated on the key areas that the government has identified to focus on during the financial year 2023-24.

Covid dealt a heavy blow to India's large informal economy resulting in massive job and income losses. India is currently the fastest-growing large economy in the world.

The Budget mainly focusses on four major points: empowering women, tourism, helping "vishwakarma" (artisans) and green growth. The government with its 7-priorities and a greater focus on Financial Sector and infrastructure and Investment have stepped in the right direction. It is not just a budget, but also a vision document of the 'Amrit Kaal' of futuristic India. The Budget is an outstanding as it is disciplined, growth-oriented, inclusive and sustainable.

It is nice that the Finance Minister has made a big announcement for the taxpayers. Now in the new tax regime, no tax will have to be paid on annual income up to Rs 7 lakh. This will provide relief to new entrants in the job market, many of whose salaries would be well within this limit. The new taxation regime has now got greater incentives, and attractions so that people can unhesitatingly move from the old to the new. There is no doubt that the budget is an inclusive and futuristic, keeping in mind the empowerment of job professionals, youth, women and farmers as distinctive focus has been laid on infrastructure development, health, employment generation, housing, social welfare, farmers welfare, higher education, innovation and research. Focus on overall infrastructure development and on Tier 2 and 3 cities will be key to overall economic development. The emphasis on core infrastructure, including increased funding for railways and clean energy, as well as the government's ambitious plans for the agricultural sector, will help to improve rural incomes. States are also being incentivised to spend more on infrastructure. Rs 2.40 lakh crore has been allocated for Indian Railways, which is the highest it has ever been.

As the budget has a vision for growth and development it will give benefit to the people in villages, women, rich or poor. The budget has strongly focused on education to make up for the learning losses incurred during COVID-19. The focus on job creation and skilling in this budget is a step in the right direction to completely rebrand India. The government's decision to remove tax-free status in insurance policies can potentially have a second-order impact on salaried individuals.

India has made rapid strides in infrastructure development in recent years. Projects like Bharatmala, 'Sagarmala' and 'PM Gati Sakti' are transforming the economy's infrastructure. The 66% increase in the allocation to Prime Minister Awaas Yojana to Rs 79,000 crores is a sure boost for affordable housing. It is another step towards the government's Housing for All missions.

One would have observed that since taking office in 2014, PM Modi has ramped up capital spending including on roads and energy, while pursuing investors through lower tax rates and labour reforms, and offering subsidies to poor households to clinch their political support. It is also encouraging that the budget signals the government's desire to engage with the tourism sector on a "mission mode" – tourism is a significant economic multiplier on job creation, foreign exchange receipts as well as infrastructure. It is also to be appreciated that there has been an 11% increase in the Sports budget which has now become a total of Rs 3,397 crores and around Rs 1,000 crores will be spent only on 'Khelo India Games'. The move on electric vehicles will help in controlling pollution. Overall Budget has enhanced capital spending, provided tax relief to salaried middle class.

Defence gets 5.94 lakh crore in budget 2023-24, a jump of 13% over previous year

PRO (Defence), Kohima & Imphal

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh terms Union Budget 2023-24 as Growth-Oriented; says, it will help in achieving the government's goal of making India a \$5 Trillion Economy within few years

The Armed Forces have to be battle ready to meet any eventuality. Towards that end, Non-Salary revenue outlay has been enhanced significantly from Rs 62,431 crore in Budget Estimates (BE) 2022-23 to Rs 90,000 crore in BE 2023-24, representing a 44% jump. This expenditure is expected to close critical gaps in the combat capabilities and equip the Forces in terms of ammunition, sustenance of weapons & assets, military reserves etc. This Budget has also sustained the thrust on Modernisation and Infrastructure Development of the Defence Services, by continuing an upward trend in Capital Outlay.

The Union Budget for Financial Year 2023-24 envisages a total outlay of Rs 45,03,097 crore. Of this, Ministry of Defence has been allocated a total Budget of Rs 5,93,537.64 crore, which is 13.18% of the total budget. This includes an amount of Rs 1,38,205 crore for Defence Pensions. The total Defence Budget represents an enhancement of Rs 68,371.49 crore (13%) over the Budget of 2022-23.

Highlights:

Increase in the Non-Salary/operational allocations

- In keeping with the Government's resolve and focus towards maintaining a high level of Operational Preparedness of the Defence Services to face current and future challenges, the Non-Salary Revenue/operational allocation gets a boost of Rs 27,570 Crore, with the budgetary outlay under this segment augmented from Rs 62,431 crore in BE 2022-23 to Rs 90,000 crore in BE 2023-24. This will cater to sustenance of Weapon Systems, Platforms including Ships/Aircrafts & their logistics; boost fleet serviceability; emergency procurement of critical ammunition and spares; procuring/hiring of niche capabilities to mitigate capability gaps wherever required; progress stocking of military reserves, strengthening forward defences, amongst others.

MoD is committed towards infrastructure strengthening in the Border Areas, particularly the Northern Borders.

Accordingly, the Capital Budget of Border Roads Organization (BRO) has been increased by 43% to Rs 5,000 crore in FY 2023-24 as against Rs 3,500 crore in FY 2022-23. Also, the allocation under this segment has doubled in two years since FY 2021-22. This will boost the Border infrastructure thereby creating strategically important assets like Sela Tunnel, Nechipu Tunnel & Sela-Chhabra Tunnel and will also

enhance border connectivity. **Recognising the crucial role of Research, Innovation and Technological development towards capacity building of the Armed Forces as well as fueling India's Mission of Aatmanirbharta**

- Towards strengthening Research and Development in Defence, the allocation to DRDO has been enhanced by 9%, with a total allocation of Rs 23,264 crore in BE 2023-24.

- To further foster innovation, encourage technology development and strengthen the Defence Industrial eco-system in the country, iDEX and DTIS has been allocated Rs 116 crore and Rs 45 crore respectively representing an enhancement of 93% for iDEX and 95% for DTIS over 2022-23. This will fulfill Ministry of Defence vision to leverage ideas from bright young minds across the country.

- The Union Budget 2023-24 has announced a National Data Governance Policy to unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia. This will enable access to anonymized data which will further boost the Defence Start-ups and iDEX scheme.

- The Union Budget 2023-24 has also announced that the revamped Credit Guarantee scheme for MSMEs which will take effect from 1st April 2023 through infusion of Rs. 9,000 Crore in the corpus. This will enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs. 2 lakh crore. Further, the cost of the credit has also been reduced by about 1 per cent. This scheme will give a further fillip the MSMEs associated with the Defence Sector.

Budgetary provision to comprehensively raise the overall ease of living for our esteemed veterans

- The Defence Pension Budget registers a notable jump of 15.5% in FY 2023-24. In absolute terms, this amount is Rs 1,38, 205 Crore in BE 2023-24 against Rs 1,19,696 crore in

BE 2022-23. Further, RE 2022-23 allocations at Rs 1,53,415 crore records a significant jump of 28%, amounting to Rs 33, 718 crores. This includes an amount of Rs 28,138 Crore to meet the requirement on account of revision of Armed Forces Pensioners/ Family Pensioners under One Rank One Pension (OROP).

- Towards the Government's commitment in transforming Healthcare outreach to our veterans, Defence Budget 2023-24 registers a notable increase of 52% in the allotment for Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) with BE allocation of Rs. 5431.56 Crore in FY 2023-24 against Rs. 3582.51 Crore in FY 2022-23. This enhancement will ensure 'Cashless Health Services' and improved 'Service Delivery' to our veterans and their dependants across India.

Welfare of Agniveers

- The Union Budget 2023-24 has provided Exempt-Exempt-Exempt (EEE) status to the Agniveer Fund.

Through a series of tweets, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman for presenting a growth-oriented Union Budget for FY 2023-24, stating that priority has been given to provide support to farmers, women, marginalised sections and the middle class, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Rajnath Singh asserted that the Budget demonstrates the government's commitment towards supporting growth and welfare oriented policies that will benefit all sections of society including small businesses owners, farmers, and professionals alike.

The Raksha Mantri exuded confidence that the Union Budget 2023-24 will help in achieving the Government's goal of making India a \$5 trillion economy and among the world's 'Top Three' economies within few years.

Land in Himachal Pradesh cannot be transferred to a non-agriculturist without state's permission: SC

By -Sanjeev Sirohi, Advocate

While ruling on a very significant legal subject with a host of far reaching legal and other consequences, the Apex Court in a remarkable, robust, rational and recent judgment titled *Ajay Dabra vs Pyare Ram & Ors.* in SLP (C) No. 15793 of 2019 and cited in 2023 LiveLaw (SC) 69 which was delivered as recently as on January 31, 2023 in the exercise of its civil appellate jurisdiction minced just no words to hold unequivocally that land in Himachal Pradesh cannot be transferred to a non-agriculturist, and this is with a purpose. It must be mentioned here that the Bench of Apex Court comprising of Hon'ble Mr Justice PS Narasimha and Hon'ble Mr Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia clearly stated that the purpose is to save the small agricultural holding of poor persons and also to check the rampant conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. So we thus see that there is an underlying logic in what the Apex Court has ruled and the same has to be

complied with certainly in totality. The Apex Court very rightly did not find any scope for interference and due to this both the appeals stood dismissed. At the very outset, this extremely commendable, cogent, creditworthy and convincing judgment authored by Hon'ble Mr Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia for a Bench of the Apex Court comprising of himself and Hon'ble Mr Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha sets the ball in motion by first and foremost putting forth in para 2 that, "Both these Appeals before this Court are by the plaintiff who had filed a suit for specific performance, which was dismissed and later his First Appeal before the High Court was dismissed on the grounds of delay. We may state here that the Plaintiff/Appellant was not a party to the contract of which a specific performance was sought. The contract was executed between the defendant and a company called M/s Himalayan Ski Village Pvt. Ltd. which was for sale of an 'agricultural land' in Himachal Pradesh. There were two plots of land for which two different 'agreements of sale' were

executed, and hence two civil suits were filed."

To put things in perspective, the Bench then envisages in para 3 that, "In both the above appeals, there is a common challenge against order dated 17.12.2018 passed by the Single Judge of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh in CMP (M) No.75 of 2018 & CMP (M) No.76 of 2018. The impugned order dismisses the delay condonation applications filed under Section 5 of the Limitation Act, 1963, declining to condone a delay of 254 days, because the reasons assigned for the condonation were not sufficient reasons for condonation of the delay. The Appellant herein had earlier filed two suits (bearing nos. 28/2012 & 29/2012), for specific performance which were dismissed by the District Judge, Kullu vide order dated 30.12.2016."

Needless to say, the Bench then states in para 4 that, "According to the Appellant the delay ought to have been condoned and his appeal should have been heard on its merits."

It is worth noting that the Bench notes in para 9 that, "We do not have a case at hand where the appellant is not capable of purchasing the court fee. He did pay the court fee ultimately, though

belatedly. But then, under the facts and circumstances of the case, the reasons assigned for the delay in filing the appeal cannot be a valid reason for condonation of the delay, since the appellant could have filed the appeal deficient in court fee under the provisions of law, referred above. Therefore, we find that the High Court was right in dismissing Section 5 application of the appellant as insufficient funds could not have been a sufficient ground for condonation of delay, under the facts and circumstance of the case. It would have been entirely a different matter had the appellant filed an appeal in terms of Section 149 CPC and thereafter removed the defects by paying deficit court fees. This has evidently not been done." Briefly stated, we need to note that the Bench states briefly in para 11 that, "This apart, even on merits, we do not find it a case which calls for our interference. The facts of the case are that one, M/s. Himalayan Ski Village Pvt. Ltd. had entered into an 'Agreement for Sale' with an agriculturist/landowner of Himachal Pradesh, for sale of his agricultural land. Now the admitted position in the State of Himachal Pradesh is that under Section 118 of the Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and Land Reforms Act, 1972 (for short '1972 Act'), only

an agriculturist, which is defined under Section 2(2) of the 1972 Act, can purchase land in Himachal Pradesh, which would mean a landowner who personally cultivates his land in Himachal Pradesh. If a non-agriculturist has to purchase a land, it can only be done with the prior permission of the State Government under Section 118 of the Act. M/s. Himalayan Ski Village was a private company, which was admittedly not an 'agriculturist' and therefore was not capable under the law to purchase the land in Himachal Pradesh and therefore it was a condition of the agreement to sale that the defendant would secure the necessary approval from the government within a stipulated period of time. The admitted position is that this approval was not given to the defendant by the State Government and then the defendant assigned his right to the plaintiff who thereafter filed the suit for specific performance."

It cannot be glossed over that the Bench hastens to add in para 14 stating that, "The Trial Court dismissed the suits of the plaintiff primarily on grounds that getting permission from the State Government was an essential condition, which had not been fulfilled by him as per Section 118 of

the 1972 Act and under the facts and circumstances of the case, the assignment in terms of the Plaintiff was not proper and valid."

Quite significantly, the Bench as we see then clearly points out explicitly in para 16 that, "In the present case the assignment is not valid as there was no prior consent or approval of the seller before the assignment. In the absence of such a condition and in lieu of the fact that before assignment of its rights to the plaintiff/Appellant herein no permission of the seller was obtained, there was no question of granting a decree of Specific Performance in favour of the plaintiff. Consequently, this is not a case which calls for our interference."

Most significantly, the Bench then mimes just no words to hold in para 17 what constitutes the cornerstone of this notable judgment wherein it is held that, "We may here add that the whole purpose of Section 118 of the 1972 Act is to protect agriculturists with small holdings. Land in Himachal Pradesh cannot be transferred to a non-agriculturist, and this is with a purpose. The purpose is to save the small agricultural holding of poor persons and also to check the rampant conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

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Adani Enterprises Calls off FPO, the Company to return money to investors

By - Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb. 2:

Adani Enterprises on Wednesday, February 01, said that it has cancelled its Follow-On Public Offering (FPO) and will return money to its investors, amid ongoing controversy that erupted after American short seller, Hindenburg Research, accused the company of using tax havens and flagged debt concerns in a report.

In a letter to BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited, Jatin Jalundhwal, Company Secretary and Joint President (Legal) stated that, in the meeting of the Board of Directors of the company, held on February 01, in the interest of its subscribers, it was decided not to proceed with FPO (scrip Code 512599, ADANIENT) of equity

shares aggregating up to Rs 20,000 crore of face value. Re one on partly paid up basis, which was fully subscribed.

In a media release, Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Enterprises said that given the unprecedented situation and the current marketing volatility, the company aims to protect the interest of investing community by returning the FPO proceeds and withdraws the completed transaction. This decision will not have any impact on our existing operations and future plan.

The company is working with its Book Running Lead Managers (BRLMs) to refund the proceeds received by it in escrow and to also release the amounts blocked into investors' bank accounts for subscription to this issue, he stated.

"The Board takes this opportunity to thank all the investors for your support and commitment to our FPO. The subscription for the FPO closed successfully yesterday. Despite the volatility in the stock over the last week, your faith and belief in the Company, its business and its management has been extremely reassuring and humbling. Thank you," Adani said.

"However, today the market has been unprecedented, and our stock price has fluctuated over the course of the day. Given these extraordinary circumstances, the Company's board felt that going ahead with the issue will not be morally correct. The interest of the investors is paramount and hence to insulate them from any potential financial losses, the Board has decided not to go ahead with the FPO", Adani stated.

Hindenburg Research, accused the Adani Group of using offshore tax havens and stock manipulation and also raised concerns about high debt and the valuations of its seven listed companies. However the Adani Group denied the allegations, saying the short-seller's narrative of stock manipulation had "no basis" and it stemmed from an ignorance of law. It has always made the necessary regulatory disclosures, the release added.

Due to the Hindenburg impact, the Adani group has already suffered a stock loss of Rs 8.8 lakh crore. Its stocks were down up to 60 per cent from their respective 52-week highs, wiping out more than \$100 billion dollars from their cumulative market capitalization.

SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern found in deer in US: Study

Agency
Washington, Feb 2:

Scientists have found white-tailed deer, the most abundant large mammal in North America, are harbouring SARS-CoV-2 variants that were once widely circulated, but no longer found in humans.

The researchers from Cornell University, US, said that whether or not deer could act as long-term reservoirs for these obsolete variants is still unknown, even as they continue to collect and analyze new data.

According to the study, it represented one of the most comprehensive studies to date to assess the prevalence, genetic diversity and evolution of SARS-CoV-2 in white-tailed deer.

The study is published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"One of the most striking findings of this study was the detection of co-circulation of three variants of concern - alpha, gamma and delta - in this wild animal population," said Diego Diel, associate professor at Cornell.

Over the course of the pandemic, deer have become infected with SARS-CoV-2

through ongoing contact with humans, possibly from hunting, wildlife rehabilitations, feeding of wild animals or through wastewater or water sources, the study said.

"A virus that emerged in humans in Asia, most likely after a spillover event from an animal reservoir into humans, apparently, or potentially, has now found a new wildlife reservoir in North America," Diel said.

The 5,700 samples used in the study were collected over two years in New York from 2020-22.

When the researchers compared the genomic sequences of the variants found in deer with sequences of the same variants taken from humans across New York, they found the viruses had mutated in the deer, suggesting the variants had likely been circulating in deer for many months, the study said.

By the time alpha and gamma variants were detected in deer, for example, there was no evidence of these viral strains still circulating in humans, the study said.

"When we did sequence comparisons between those viruses recovered from white-tailed deer with the human sequences, we observed a significant number of mutations across the virus genome," Diel said, adding that some of the viruses had up to 80 mutations compared with the human sequences, providing further evidence that the viruses had likely been circulating in the deer for some time.

The mutations suggest the virus has adapted to deer, possibly making it more transmissible between them, the study said.

More study is needed to confirm whether these variants will disappear in deer over time or whether there is risk of SARS-CoV-2 spreading to other wildlife, including predators, the study said.

"Because of the evidence obtained in our study, it is very important to continue to monitor the virus in these animal populations to really understand and track changes that could lead or favour spill back into humans and other wildlife," Diel said.

There are an estimated 30 million white-tailed deer in the United States. A 2022 study by Diel and others found that across five states surveyed in 2021, SARS-CoV-2 was found in up to 40 per cent of white-tailed deer, the study said.

ICG Plans to Procure Additional Choppers and Aircraft by 2025

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, Feb. 2:

As part of its readiness plan, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), recently concluded a maiden contract for acquisition of 10 Multicopter drones in consonance with Government of India policy of embracing drone technology, capable of being launched from both ships and shore stations.

Equipments

The ICG which celebrated its 47th Raising Day on Wednesday, is focused on updating its existing capabilities. To overcome the obsolescence in Dorniers, a contract has been signed for Mid-life upgrade of 17 Aircraft with state-of-the-art system/sensors. Procurement of additional 100 drones by 2025, Multi Mission Maritime Surveillance Aircraft (MMA) and Twin Engine Helicopters (TEHH) are also envisaged to bolster the operational capability of the Indian Coast Guard, official sources here said.

The ICG is also in the process of modernizing its airfields under the "Modernization of Air Field Infrastructure (MAFI)" project with installation and commissioning of modern airfield equipment like Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range (DVOR), High Power Distance Measuring Equipment (HP-DME) and Air Traffic Management System (ATMS). This up-gradation of navigation aids and infrastructure would enhance the operational capability of air operations even in poor visibility and adverse weather conditions, whilst enhancing aero safety, the officials stated.

Under Government's "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India) initiative, the ICG acquired 06 ships built from Indian Shipyard and 04 Air Squadrons (16 ALHs) built by M/s HAL. Further, 21 ships (including 02 Pollution Control vessels) are under construction at 03 shipyards. They will be ICG's frontline ships for combating marine pollution.

In keeping with the nation's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) and "Neighbourhood First", the Indian Coast Guard imparted training to several officers and personnel below officer ranks from friendly foreign countries in 2022.

On the marine environment protection front, the ICG, the Central Coordinating Authority for oil spill response in Indian EEZ, ensured that there were no major oil spill incidences in Indian waters throughout 2022. Besides, it undertook active pollution response preventive measures to prevent the spill risks during grounding of "MV Princess Miral" off New Mangalore (Karnataka), "MT Global King-1" off Porbandar (Gujarat) and "MT Parth" off Ratnagiri (Maharashtra) in the last one year.

Besides, a National Level Pollution response Exercise (NATPOLREX-VIII) was conducted off Goa in April 2022 in which 13 CG Ships, 09 Aircraft, two foreign Coast Guard Ships participated. The exercise witnessed by observers from 19 countries showcased ICG capability to respond to any major oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) spill in Indian EEZ and to extend support to friendly countries in case of any contingency.

Achievements

True to its motto "Vayam Rakshamah" ("We Protect"), the ICG has saved over 11,881 lives since its inception in 1977. These include 279 lives saved in 2022. Besides, its institutionalized mechanism of sharing information with littoral countries, led to seizure of drugs and contraband worth Rs.3260 crore in three different operations.

In addition, its vigilance resulted into seizure of weapons and narcotics worth Rs. 2924 crore. The apprehension of Pak Boat "Al Soheli" with about 40 kg of Narcotics along with 06 pistols, 12 magazines and 120 live rounds in Okha (Gujarat) is a telling example of ICG's robust detection and response mechanism.

Steady Growth

From a modest beginning with just 07 surface platforms in 1978, ICG has grown into a formidable force with 158 ships and 78 aircraft and is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025.

On the occasion of its 47th Raising Day, the President of India, Vice President, Prime Minister and Defence Minister extended greetings and congratulated the ICG on completion of 46 glorious years of yeoman service to the nation.

AR foils cross border smuggling of illegal Wildlife Products



IT News
Imphal, Feb 2:

Assam Rifles foiled Tengnoupal Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) foiled Cross border smuggling of Pangolin Shells at Village

Khudengthabi, Tengnoupal on 31 January 2023.

Based on specific Input, a Team was launched in Village Khudengthabi to prevent smuggling of Contraband items. During the Operation, 5.190 Kgs of Pangolin Shells

were recovered. The seized Wildlife Products were assessed to be worth Rs 5.19 Lakhs.

The recovered Wildlife Products were handed over to Forest Department, Moreh for further investigation.

Contd. from Page 2

Land in Himachal Pradesh cannot be transferred

A person who is not an agriculturist can only purchase land in Himachal Pradesh with the permission of the State Government. The Government is expected to examine from a case to case basis whether such permission can be given or not. In the present case, it thought it best, not to grant such a permission. However, the purpose of the transfer remains the same, which is a non-agricultural activity. By merely assigning rights to an agriculturist, who will be using the land for a purpose other than agriculture, would defeat the purpose of this Act. In the case of Ashok Madan and Another versus State of H.P. and Other9 the Himachal Pradesh High Court had laid

down the following important observation with respect to Section 118 of the 1972 Act: "12. The law is, therefore, clear that merely the nomenclature or the title of the document will not determine what are the rights created by the document. The intention of the parties must be gathered on a combined reading of all the documents and the behaviour of the parties in the manner in which they treated the document. Section 118 was introduced with a view to restrict the transfer of land in favour of non-agriculturist except to specified persons as contained in the Section itself. The purpose behind it was that the economically advantageous class does not take undue advantage of the

small agriculturists by purchasing their small holdings. The provision was introduced as rich persons who were not agriculturists were purchasing agricultural land in Himachal Pradesh at high price exploiting the local Himachali people. However, the section itself provided that in special cases permission can be granted for transfer of land to non-agriculturist. The constitutional validity of this Section was upheld in Smt. Sudarshana Devi v. Union of India, ILR 1978 HP 355."

Finally, the Bench concludes aptly by holding in para 19 of this learned judgment that, "Under the facts and circumstances of the case we do not find any scope for

interference in the matter. Consequently, both the appeals stand dismissed."

In conclusion, we thus see that the Apex Court has made it indubitably clear in this latest, laudable, logical, landmark and learned judgment that a land in Himachal Pradesh cannot be transferred easily to a non-agriculturist without the permission of the State Government. Of course, it thus merits no reiteration that the logic underlying this refreshing judgment is to save the small agricultural holding of poor persons and also to check the rampant conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. Very rightly so!

Smuggling of Timber

IT News
Imphal, Feb 2:

Shangshak Battalion under aegis of Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) foiled Timber Smuggling in general area Gamnuom village of Kamjong District on 01 Feb 2023. The Assam Rifles troops intercepted 01 x Shaktiman truck loaded with illegal timber in general area Gamnuom village, evaluated to be worth Rs 1.28 Crores.

The seized timber along with apprehended smugglers and vehicles were handed over to Forest department, Kamjong for further legal action.

AR distributed the final installment of Scholarships of Sainik School Imphal

IT News
Imphal, Feb 2:

Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) distributed the final installment of scholarships in total amounting to Rs 3 lakhs to the four students on 31 January 2023, who had qualified for admission to Sainik School, Imphal in Class VI this year and belonged to Economic weaker sections.

The aim of the scholarship is to enable the parents of above

students to afford quality education for their children. This initiative has been undertaken by Assam Rifles in partnership with Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank.

The Commandant of Keithelmanbi battalion distributed the cheques to four students under Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) scholarship scheme on the 51st Raising Day of Sainik School, Imphal.

Budget Session: Motion of thanks on President's address in Parliament today

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 2:

The Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha will start separate discussions on Thursday on President Droupadi Murmu's address which she delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on January 31.

Both Houses will move a motion of thanks on the President's address in the second half of the day.

In Rajya Sabha, Member of Parliament K Lakshman is to move the motion initiating a debate

on the President's address to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on January 31.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP and former Union Minister Prakash Javadekar will second the motion.

However, BJP MP Chandra Prakash Joshi will move the motion for debate on President's address in the Lok Sabha. BJP MP Uday Pratap Singh will second the motion.

The President's address is seen as one of the most solemn occasions in the Parliamentary

calendar. It is the only time in the year when the whole Parliament comes together. Both Houses of Parliament later move motions to hold a debate on President's address.

Ahead of the Union Budget on Wednesday, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday addressed the joint sitting of Parliament for the first time after assuming the position in July 2022 and spoke on the achievements of the government as well as its future goals.

In her speech, she lauded Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's government, saying that it "respects honesty" and is "stable, fearless and decisive, and works to fulfill big dreams".

The Rajya Sabha, however, will start at 11 am with Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar offering an obituary reference to the passing away of Shanti Bhushan, ex-Member of the House of Elders.

Besides, Union Ministers Ashwini Kumar Choubey, SP Singh Baghel and BL Verma will table separately papers of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

In Focus

Union Budget 2023-24 is not fair to the vulnerable sections Social sector needs get sidelined to mollify vocal middle class

By Dr. Gyan Pathak

"The fundamentals of the Indian Economy are sound as it enters its Amrit Kaal, the 25-year journey towards its centenary as a modern, independent nation. Policies pursued carefully and consciously to ensure..." was of course

noisy and highly opinionated statement of the Economic Survey 2022-23, but the Union Budget 2023-24, tabled in the Parliament of India on February 1, is even noisier, sounding much on the pre-general election mantlepiece that is being meticulously and beautifully being constructed before the General Election 2024, which does remind the proverb "empty vessels sound much."

Obviously, Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman has emphasized about "Achievements since 2014: Leaving no one behind" in her budget speech. She said that per capita income has more than doubled to Rs1.97 lakh. In these nine years, the Indian economy has increased in size from being 10th to 5th largest in the world. It is true but deceptive since accumulation of wealth in the hands of the rich has increased the average income as well as growth but impoverished the people sharply increasing the inequality during Modi regime.

This is also the first Union Budget as India enters the first year of the Amrit Kaal during which PM Narendra Modi, after successfully selling dreams during the last two general elections albeit failed in almost every promise, is trying to sell even bigger dream to be realized during the next 25 years culminating in emergence of India as the biggest power by 2047.

Union Budget 2022-23, thus presents the "Vision for Amrit Kaal" with the three priorities - Opportunities for Citizens with focus on the Youth; Growth and Job Creation; and Strong and Stable Macro-Economic Environment". In cannot be taken on its face value since about 23 crore youngsters between the age of 15 and 30 are on the roads now while only a little over 4 crore are in education and a little over 10 crore are in jobs including the majority in informal and unsalaried ones without any social security.

Since the Union Budget is also the last full budget before the general election of 2024, Union Ministry of Finance had no choice except to cover up failures of the Modi government in the last nine years of his rule, especially on social

sector, by blowing conch to sound spectacular achievements and the new proposals in the budget, reminding another assertion of the Mahabharata "Aavatthama Hato" which led to a gross falsehood.

It talks about the "Saptarishi" ie the 7 priorities it has purportedly set for the government during the Amrit Kaal - they are Inclusive development; Reaching the Last Mile, Youth Power; Financial Sector; Green Growth; Unleashing the Potential; and Infrastructure and investment. Rising inequality in the last nine years of Modi rule might have encouraged the government to bring the sacred name of the seven sages (Sapta Rishis) for the rescue of the government from the guilt of failure in almost all front of the economy, particularly in the social sector.

What the Union Budget 2023-24 was to do was even clearly indicated by the Economic Survey 2022-23, which "in a departure from the past", "introduced the chapter on India's social sector" and "not without reason", the document has asserted. However, in so many words the Survey tried to conceal the real "reason" which the Union Budget has clearly revealed to be only political consideration in a way that could be a vote catching tool.

In the backdrop of failing in "doubling the farmers income by 2022" the Union Budget talks about providing Rs 20 lakh crore targeted funding for agriculture credit. Under health it announces establishment of 157 new nursing colleges, new programme to promote research in pharmaceuticals. It boasts of increasing health expenditure from 1.4 per cent of GDP in FY19 to 2.1 per cent in FY23, and for education these figures are 2.8 and 2.9 per cent respectively.

Union Budget showcases the "The Big Tent that accommodates all" which was already indicated in the very chapter "Social Infrastructure and Employment: Big Tent" of the Economic Survey 2022-23. Budget showcases 9 crore drinking water connections, Rs 2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM-Kisan, 11.7 crore household toilets, 9.6 crore LPG connections, 2.2 crore vaccines et al.

However, given the dire situation in the grassroots level, the government's claim that "the social sector expenditure outlay of the Centre and State Governments has increased steadily to stand at Rs21.3

lakh crore in FY23 (BE) with its share in total Government expenditure standing at 26.6 per cent" sounds audacious. Even cursory glance of the highlight of the budget is enough to give an idea as to how it tried rouging the paling face of the economy that is ailing at its core.

Hollowness of the claims and the proposals is more pronounced in the health and employment sector. The last three years under the shadow of pandemic had already exposed the dire situation of the health infrastructure when people were reported dying in thousands due to lack of oxygen. Entire health infrastructure was overwhelmed which also exposed the lack of health professionals and workers, included doctor and nurses. Public health expenditure, both of the central and state government budgeted expenditure, could reach only 2.1 per cent of GDP for 2022-23, even less than revised estimate of 2.2 per cent in 2021-22. India was to increase this to 2.5 per cent by 2025 as per National Health Policy of 2017.

In the employment sector India has entered the era of joblessness only after three years of Modi rule in 2017-18. Unemployment rate reached 45 years high at 6.1 per cent and was 8.3 per cent in December 2022. Independent India has never suffered such a joblessness as is suffering now under present regime.

As for poverty alleviation, the gains of the decades have already been washed out fast due to joblessness during the first six years of Modi rule and then by the pandemic that have pushed lakhs of people into extreme poverty according to several latest data of the UN agencies and the World Bank. The Budget has little to arrest this decline.

Union Budget 2022-23 has much talked about social protection schemes, customized for different sections of the population such as elderly, unorganized workers etc. It talks about special focus on aspirational districts, health, education, financial inclusion, and basic infrastructure. Under the bouquet of social sector, government had 318 central schemes and over 720 State DBT schemes. Clearly there is no dearth of schemes to entice voters, but what is clear from the Union Budget 2023-24 is that they are not funded enough to provide real succour to the common people.

Union Budget 2023-24 will therefore not bring the much-needed relief to the common people at a time when there is a likelihood of considerable downturn in the Indian economy as per all authoritative estimates.

(IPA Service)

Contd. from Page 1

Governor La. Ganesan highlights government...

Under AB-PMJAY over 1.53 lakh households with 4.76 lakh beneficiaries have been enrolled. 85,866 beneficiaries have availed treatment till date with treatment cost of Rs. 111.80 crore borne under the scheme. State Government medical college at Churachandpur with 100 MBBS seats has commenced its maiden session. MBBS seats in JNIMS have been enhanced to 150 seats.

Regarding Finance and Planning, the Government has been taking various steps towards resource mobilization to increase tax revenue. The state's own tax revenue increased from Rs' 586 crore in financial year 2017-19 to Rs.1,649 crore in financial year 2021-22. This is an average annual growth of 23% during the period, mainly on account of growth in collection of State GST. The Government has ensured that expenditure on capital outlay is increased vis-à-vis revenue expenditure. During financial year 2021-22, expenditure on capital outlay increased by 33% vis-à-vis 2% for revenue expenditure. Higher expenditure on physical and social infrastructure not only enhances welfare but paves way for higher growth through multiplier effect. With increased allocation for expenditure on capital investment at Rs.573 crore for 2022-23 under special Assistance to states under capital investment, the upward trajectory in expenditure on capital outlay is expected to continue.

For Tribal Affairs, Minorities and SC & OBC Welfare 5 tribal health centres have been set up at Impa, Chamu, Moreham, Thingpuikul and Kangyang. These centres provided health care to about 4,376 patients during 2022. To support and provide quality education to poor tribal students, 3 Eklavya Moder Residential Schools are being established at Sapermeina, Moreh and Tamenglong. During 2022-23, under PMJVK, 116 projects costing Rs.90.93 crore were completed consisting of Sadbhav Mandaps, Hostels, school infrastructure, healthcare facilities, toilets, amongst others. Since the in-

ception of the scheme, 17,417 units amounting to Rs.544.17 crore are completed and 382 units amounting to Rs.639.49 crore are ongoing. Under Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Meritcum-Means based scholarship schemes, 57,524 minority students were given scholarship amounting to Rs. 33.11 crore during 2021-22. 10,992 OBC and SC students were also given pre-matric and post-matric scholarships amounting to Rs. 6.77 crore.

For Power Sector, the Government has been providing 24x7 power supply to town areas and around 23 hours per day power supply to other areas. For lighting up important areas, 74 High Mast have been installed across the state. 929 numbers of LED Street Light has been commissioned. Pre-paid energymeter for 4.41 Lakh consumers have been installed till date. The AT&C Loss for FY 2022-23 is 20% with a target to reduce it to 15% by FY 2024-25 by augmenting to AB Cable and saturation of pre-paid meters. In the past year, five 33/11 kV sub-Stations at Ibuduh Marjing, Leimapokpam, Hiyangthang, Khangabok, Moirangpalli and Heirok were operationalized. Various existing 132/33 and 33/11 kV sub-stations were augmented with additional capacity. At present, 21 new 33/11kV sub-stations and 2 new 132/33kV Sub Stations are under construction. For safe and secure grid operation and real time power supply management, a wide network of Fibre optics cable of about 2,000km is being laid across the State. State Load Despatch Centre, Manipur was conferred the first ever LDC Excellence Award, under the category of Emerging State Load Despatch Centres at the 9th International Conference on Power Systems - 2021.

Water Resources and Management, Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide functional household tap connections to over 4.5 lakh rural households in Manipur at estimated cost of Rs. 2,631.96 crore. Household with tap water connection was 5.74% of target in August 2019 and the same has now increased to 75%. Manipur is 11th

Rank at National level and 1st Rank among North Eastern States in coverage of functional household tap connections. Out of 2,555 total villages, state has declared 412 Har Ghar Jal villages. Integrated Water Supply Project for Imphal Planning Area Phase-III at a cost of Rs. 1,052.49 crore is under progress. Chingkhieiching Water Treatment Plant for providing additional 45 MLD to Imphal City was also taken up under State Capital Fund and is under trial run. Drinking water distribution network for a total length of 356 km. in Imphal Municipal Corporation areas was completed under AMRUT. Installation of Smart Water Meter for 44,000 households is also under progress. Integrated Sewerage System for Imphal City Phase-II at a cost of Rs. 1,255.84 crore will be taken up with New Development Bank funding. The project will cover 16 IMC wards in Imphal City.

Under National Food Security Act, beneficiaries have been fully digitised in the public portal and all Fair Price shops in the state have been automated. All ration cards have been Aadhaar seeded. Under Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, to ameliorate the hardships faced by the poor, additional free rice of 5 kg. per person per month was provided to all NFSA beneficiaries till December 2022. 2,00,658 beneficiaries have benefited through free LPG connection under Ujjwala 1.0 and Ujjwala 2.0.

For Education, the government is taking various steps to develop the education sector. Under Mission NAAC 2.5+, the accreditation of 20 Government colleges by National Assessment and Accreditation Council has been achieved. Assist civil service aspirants, free physical classroom coaching has been started for 200 aspirants under the chief Minister's Scholarship scheme for Civil Services Coaching. Under Chief Minister's College Maheiroi E-Support Scheme, 2,000 smartphones were distributed to meritorious students belonging to poor families for providing access to various e-learning platforms. Under School Fagathansi

Mission', 120 High and Higher secondary schools, have been covered. Student enrolment increased by over 30,000 from 2019 to 2022 academic sessions. An increase of 5.9% was recorded in Phase-II. To address other gaps, 10,630 pairs of dual desk and benches were provided; 106 new classrooms, 98 new toilets and 32 science Laboratories and Libraries constructed, and 667 classrooms repaired.

For Agriculture and Allied Activities and Natural Resources, Under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi yojana, 6,20 lakh farmers are enrolled and about Rs. 614.19 crore of income support were released to farmers. Infrastructure development works were taken up under RKW-RAFTAAR. Farmers training hall and hostel at Wangoi and Chandel are under construction. 4 Agro Market sheds were constructed. Under value addition link production projects, 3,570 farmers were provided financial assistance for purchase of agricultural equipment and 7 Farmers interested Group for Honey Bee Rearing. Financial assistance was also released to 4,650 farmers for conducting demonstration on wheat and Barley cultivation of 340 hectare and integrated Nutrient Management and integrated pest Management demonstration for an area of 800 hectare. 14s. 44 Metric tonne of HW paddy seed were distributed covering an area of 2,424 hectare. considering hardship faced by farmers due to scarcity of rainfall during Kharif 2022, 39 Metric tonne of pea and 54.34 Metric tonne of Mustard certified seeds to cover 650 hectare and s. 434 hectare respectively were distributed at free of cost as an alternative Crop plan. Under PM Krishi Sinchayee yojana - per Drop More crop, financial assistance through direct benefit transfer were provided to 5,043 individual small and marginal farmers for 5,043 sprinkler sets with water pump set. Financial assistance for construction of 161 water harvesting structures, 4g check Dams and 10 irrigation channels were provided to 220 farmers creating irrigation potential of 338 hectare

15 leaders of NNC and other Naga Rebel....

It added that the leaders with rank and files have been officially inducted with Oath Taking act of affirmation conducted on February 2, 2023 at the CHQ. ZUF. Those joined to ZUF and took oath are - 1. Erang Kuame - President of NNC PB, 2. Adibo Nchang - Secretary of NNC PB, 3. Iralung Samding - Joint Secy.

of NNC PB, 4. Kebayi Meru - Major of NNC PB, 5. Nsalu Hega of NNC PB, 6. Paulhungyi Hegui of NNC PB, 7. Heibalsing Hega of NNC PB, 8. Majaklung Rientia of NNC PB, 9. Ramdora Hegui of NNC PB, 10. Widaulungbo Chawang of NNC PB, 11. Deihding Diswang of NNC PB, 12. Irangkam Nren of NNC PB,

13. Tariwangbou Pamai @ Atapbo - Leacy of NSCN IM, 14. Akie Nren of NSCN K, 15. Namdanghing Samding of NSCN R.

The ZUF statement said that the right and bold patriotic decision of the leaders and cadres to march together with the banner of Zeliangrong Revolu-

tionary Front towards striving for fulfilment of the common political aspiration. The door is opened for all civil and military youth and leaders whose integrity and credibility are stable with earnest commitment to work and serve for liberation, peace, and prosperity of the Zeliangrong kindred people, it added.