

## 5-day exposure tour to Maharashtra flagged off

### For 'One India united India and strong India', we need to know each other- CM N Biren

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 20:

Chief Minister N Biren Singh today flagged off a team of 30 students of the state along with three faculties on a five-day exposure tour to Maharashtra under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat - YuvaSangam programme. The chief minister flagged off the "Visit of youths of Manipur to Maharashtra" from February 20 to February 26, 2023 from chief minister's secretariat, Imphal in the presence of Union minister of state for education and external affairs Dr RK Ranjan, Manipur education minister Thibasantakumar Singh and director of IIT, Manipur Prof Krishnan Baskar among others. "To achieve the goal of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'One India united India and strong India', we need to know each other. That is the main objective of the expositor tour," chief minister N Biren Singh said at the flagging off ceremony. The chief minister asked the participating students to be decent while visiting the



places while asserting their decency will reflect the Manipuri society. Terming the programme as a unique initiative of the government of India, the chief minister hoped that it will provide an immersive experience of various facets of life, development landmarks, recent achievements, and connect the youths of the northeast states and other states. "Show your best and expose the best of Manipur to your destination state while learning the best from them,"

Union minister Dr RK Ranjan today said the students participating in the tour programme. He said, "The whole India is one India. We have a lot of diversity throughout the country, many languages, many cultures and many ethnicities. The Prime Minister is using this diversity as a great powerful force to make a strong India." The Prime Minister has a full confidence with the youths, particularly to the students to imbibe the oneness of India. The initiative will be an endeavor to create India, a

strong nation, he said. Director of IIT Manipur Prof Krishnan Baskar gave a detailed account of the exposure tour being organized as part of the YuvaSangam under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat under the Union ministry of education. Ministry of Education, Government of India, had conceptualized an initiative of 'YuvaSangam' under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) to strengthen people-to-people connect and build empathy between youth of the North Eastern States and other

States of our country. This program is being organized in collaboration with various other ministries and departments such as Culture, Tourism, Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs & Sports, Home Affairs, Department for Development of North-East Region (DoNER) and IRCTC. Around 1000 youth will participate in the pilot of YuvaSangam. Such project under the Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi, can be considered as one of the best by any government ever, to connect and strengthen the bond between young people of North Eastern States and rest of the country. During their visits, the students will have a multi-dimensional exposure under five broad areas - Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development), Prodyogik (Technology) and Paraspasampark (People-to-people connect). It's a youth exchange program where 70 students with 5 faculties will also be visiting Imphal on 27th of February 2023 and will tour in Manipur from 27th of February to 3rd of March 2023.

## State constitutes commission of enquiry over the death of VDF Premananda

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 20:

Home department of the Government of Manipur has constituted One-Man Commission of Inquiry headed by Retired District and Session Judge U. Kol to inquire into the circumstances leading to the death of Late N. Premananda Singh (Ex-VDF) who was found dead while on duty for destruction of poppy plantation at Chandel district as a part of the Manipur Government "War on Drug" mission.

Late Premananda (37), son of N. Dina Singh of Okram Maning Leikai, Thoubal district went missing on January 21 this year while on duty for destruction of poppy plantation at Urantop village under the jurisdiction of Chakpikarong Police Station in

Chandel district and was found dead on February 3 at Levanant Village, Chandel District.

As per an order by the state Home Department the term of reference of Commission shall be - to enquire into the causes and circumstances leading to the death of Late N. Premananda Singh (Ex-VDF); to find out whether the unfortunate incident could have been averted; to find out who is responsible for the death of Late N. Premananda Singh and to recommend corrective measures and remedies to prevent recurrence of such incident in future.

All the provision of the Sub-Sections (2), (3), (4) and (5) of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 (60 of 1952) shall be made applicable to the said commission.

## Class XII exam conducted by COHSEM to begin from Feb 23 36, 717 students to appear at 120 different examination centers



IT News  
Imphal, Feb. 20:

All preparations have been made for the upcoming Class XI and XII examinations, which will start on February 24 and February 23 respectively conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM). The COHSEM appealed to all the students who are appearing in this year's examination to appear in the examination without any fear or apprehension. The examination for Class XII will start on February 23 and will end on April 1. A total of 36, 717 students at 120 different examination centers will appear in this year's examination. For Arts stream, a total of 11391 students of which 5821 are male and 5570 female students are set to appear in the examination. For Science stream, 24513 students will appear in the examination, of which 12108 are male and 12405 are female students and for commerce stream, a total of 813 students will appear in the examination, of which 452 are male and 361 are female

candidates. 3205 Non-Government College, 13289 Government Higher Secondary School, 19991 Non-Government Higher Secondary School, and 232 Council Private students are set to appear in this year's Class XII examination. For class XI, the examination will start on February 24 and will end on April 5. Altogether a total of 32,899 students will appear in 219 examination centres. For Arts stream, a total of 23286 students of which 4811 are male and 4146 female students are set to appear the examination. For Science stream, 23286 students will appear the examination, of which 11584 are male and 11702 are female students and for commerce stream, a total of 656 students will appear the examination, of which 364 are male and 292 are female candidates. 2642 Non-Government College, 9162 Government Higher Secondary School, and 21095 Non-Government Higher Secondary School students are set to appear in this year's Class XI examination.

## AR organises lecture on drug abuse

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 20:

Churachandpur Battalion, Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised a lecture on Drug Abuse for the youth of Hengkot village of Churachandpur, Manipur on 20 February 2023. The aim of the event was to motivate the youth and educate them about the ill effects of drug abuse. The lecture also highlighted on the importance of yoga, sports to fight against drug abuse. Youth were motivated to indulge in sports and fitness activities to improve their lifestyle and were also made aware about various Govt Rehabilitation schemes to assist in detoxification and Nasha Mukti. A total of 40 youth of Hengkot village attended the lecture and applauded the efforts of Assam Rifles for providing such fruitful events. On the other hand, Modi Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) also organised awareness lecture as part of Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan for the locals at Village Wamku, Chandel on 19 Feb 2023. Villagers were informed about the menace of drug addiction, the impact on not only the individual but also their families and larger sections of society. The youth was also briefed about higher education, career opportunities and the type of entries in Armed Forces. 65 locals participated in the said event.

## KSO demands to introduce more UG programme at Churachandpur College

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 20:

Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) has demanded to introduce more under graduate programme in Churachandpur College. In a memorandum submitted to the Director of University & Higher Education, Government of

Manipur the student body said that Churachandpur College has become one of the fastest government colleges to achieve B+ among various government colleges as per NAAC Assessment 2022. The College fraternity had brought a positive growth for the welfare of the college and in particular to the students'

community respectively, the organisation said. The KSO urged the authority to convert the college campus as Multi-disciplinary learning Center by introducing more undergraduate programme in the college (as envisioned in NEP 2020). The KSO urged the concern government authority to

introduce Bachelor of Physical Education, Bachelor of Home Science, Bachelor of Psychology, Bachelor in Computer science, Bachelor of Environmental studies, Bachelor in Defence & Strategic Studies and Bachelor in Mass Communication and Journalism in the Churachandpur College.

## 2023-24 Budget has a number of projects for development of North-East The major problem is the lack of implementation speed and corruption

By KR Sudhaman

Come every budget, there is always questions raised if the union government is doing enough for the poorer states and particularly the hilly and bordering states in north-east India. This is a valid question and right from independence every government had claimed that its focus is to develop the backward regions but the growth and development has remained uneven. The concerns are genuine but the blame has to be certainly shared by central government, state governments, polity and to some extent people for not taking the initiatives to developing skills and wherewithal. It is certainly a combination of

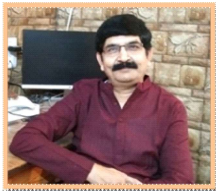
factors. Be that as it may, even the skeptics cannot deny the fact that ever since Narendra Modi government came in 2014, there has been some push to develop the north-east. Efforts have also been made to step up infrastructure development in the form of road, rail and air connectivity, besides development of border infrastructure, particularly after the Sino-India stand-off in Doklam in 2017-18. Border infrastructure development has become more pronounced since the Galwan Valley stand-off in Ladakh in 2020 and more recently in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. The over Rs 45 lakh crore expenditure in union budget 2023-24, presented by the Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman on February one, is widely expected to have a positive impact on the Northeastern region. There is certainly increased investment in infrastructure development besides measures to promoting entrepreneurship and job creation. It has made a honest attempt to tackle unique economic developmental challenges faced by the region. There is also what is known as absorptive capacity. The government may make big expenditure announcement but the economy as a whole should have the capacity to absorb that kind of investment. Already economists like Pranab Sen and former finance minister P Chidambaram have questioned whether the

government will be able to spend Rs 10 lakh crore public expenditure announced in the budget this year. Sen had gone to extent of saying that Indian Railways at the moment do not have enough projects to spend capital expenditure of Rs 2.4 lakh crore and it may end the year spending just half of what has been budgeted. On the face of it, the north-east region has certainly received sufficient attention in this year's budget as the region is characterized by hilly terrain and rich natural resources. But it has several economic and developmental challenges, which included poor infrastructure, inadequate financial services and skilled labour.

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## The more languages you recognize, the more you are human



By - Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Languages are the most powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. In order to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, 21<sup>st</sup> February is observed as the International Mother Language Day. Mother language has a very powerful impact in the formation of the individual. Although decades have passed since India gained independence from British Raj, the

debate whether learning English is more important than one's own mother tongue continues. The main purpose of celebrating this day is to promote the awareness of language and cultural diversity all across the world. It is International Mother Language Day is celebrated in memory of the four students who were killed while fighting for their mother language and is celebrated to tell them that we will never forget their sacrifices. Nelson Mandela has said that "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart." Every language spoken in the world represents a special culture, melody, color, and asset and to everyone the mother language is certainly one of the most precious treasures in our lives. It is important to learn one's mother tongue because language is the vehicle of culture and tradition. Since language and nationalism are closely related, we should also be careful that emphasis on mother tongue not lead to a narrow-minded linguistic nationalism either. One's mother language is ingrained in his/her cultural identity and history. Languages are the first and most valuable treasure to a Nation, lots of resources are destined to protect material heritage but very little to protect languages. Language is the essence and identity of culture, and is a major tool for communication. It is a major tool for exchanging ideas, emotions and feelings. To know your language is the key way to keep and preserve your culture. Mother-language plays a tremendously useful role in the education of a child. It has a great importance in the field of education. Preserving a language requires the strength and efforts of a community.

Researchers have discovered that children who are taught in their mother language understand concepts better. Children need to hear *quantity and quality language input* in order to have strong language skills, and parents are the primary individuals who can provide the language input needed in the mother language.

As a language dies, a society's history and cultures dies with it. Every human being deserves the right to use their mother language, and to take pride in it as we do. Acceptance and opportunities given by the universities have encouraged many students to venture out and experience their mother tongue to its full capacity. Original ideas are the product of one's own mother tongue. On account of the facility of thought and expression, new and original ideas take birth and get shape only in one's own mother language.

Using one's mother tongue at home will make it easier for children to be comfortable with their own cultural identity. It is very important for our Indian community children residing abroad to learn and respect their own mother tongue and this is possible only if parents inculcate this habit from the very infancy. There are instances where the people migrating to America from different linguistic regions of India and may choose to study Hindi even if it is not their "mother tongue". It is important that within India, diversity in language and culture should be valued by the establishment. Due to the inherent diversity within India, in most parts, people and society do accept diversity implicitly. It's a duty and responsibility to preserve our Mother language and pass it down from generation to generation.

## Allegation of consent on pretext of marriage gets shattered when women continues relationship with man even after his marriage: P&H HC

By - Sanjeev Sirohi, Advocate

While ruling on a very significant legal topic with far reaching legal consequences for those women who continue relationship with men even after marriage, the Division Bench of Punjab and Haryana High Court comprising of Hon'ble Mr Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Hon'ble Mr Justice Kuldeep Tiwari has in a learned, laudable, landmark and latest judgment titled *ABC v. State of Haryana and Another in CRA-AD-140-2022 (O&M)* that was pronounced as recently as on January 25, 2023 while upholding an order of acquittal passed by the Trial Court in a rape case said that allegation of commission of rape on the pretext of marriage loses significance if the woman continues to be in a sexual relationship with the man even after his marriage with some other woman. Therefore the criminal proceedings against the petitioner accused were quashed by the Court. Very rightly so!

At the very outset, this remarkable judgment authored by Hon'ble Mr Justice Kuldeep Tiwari for a Division Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh sets the ball in motion by first and foremost putting forth in para 1 that, "The instant appeal is directed against the order of acquittal dated 22.12.2021 rendered by learned Additional Sessions Judge, Jind, whereby, the respondent No.2 has been acquitted qua the charges framed against him, under Sections 354(D), 376(2)(N), and, 506 of Indian Penal Code (hereinafter referred to as "IPC"), in case FIR No. 178 dated 31.08.2018, registered at Police Station: Women, Jind, District Jind."

While dwelling on the appellant contentions, the Division Bench then lays bare in para 2 stating succinctly that, "The appellant has challenged the order of acquittal, on the averments that the learned trial Court has not appreciated, in its right perspective, the credible evidence as led by the prosecution, whereas, the statement of the prosecutrix (identity of the prosecutrix is withheld in view of provision of Section 228(A) of IPC (hereinafter referred to as the "prosecutrix"), alone was sufficient to bring home the guilt of the respondent No.2, as the defence has totally failed in

its efforts to impeach the veracity of her statement. Reliance has mainly been placed upon the statement of the prosecutrix, on the ground that, in a case involving sexual offences, the statement of prosecutrix does not require any corroboration to prove the commission of such offences by the wrongdoer(s). It is further averred that the statement of a rape victim is to be considered, at par with the statement of an injured victim, and therefore, weighty credence ought to have been imparted to the statement of the prosecutrix by the learned trial Court, whereas, the learned trial Court erred by placing reliance to the minor contradictions to reach at a finding of acquittal, rather, has misdirected itself."

To put things in perspective, the Division Bench envisages in para 6 that, "Finding a prima facie case, the respondent No.2 was charged with commission of offences punishable under Sections 354(D), 376(2)(N), and, 506 of IPC, to which he pleaded not guilty and claimed trial. The prosecution, in order to substantiate the charges framed against the respondent No.2, examined as many as 11 witnesses. The respondent No.2, in his statement recorded under Section 313 Cr.P.C., pleaded innocence and false implication in the present case. He took a specific stand therein, that he never extended any promise to marry the prosecutrix, rather, the prosecutrix entered into a relationship with him out of her own volition and their relationship was consensual."

As we see, the Division Bench then recapitulates in para 7 mentioning that, "The trial Court did not find the statement made by the prosecutrix credible and consequently, recorded the impugned order of acquittal. Moreover, while recording the impugned order of acquittal, it has been observed that, in fact, the prosecutrix was having a love affair with the respondent No.2, and, she freely exercised her choice between resistance and consent. There is no evidence available on record to conclusively prove, that the respondent No.2 had no intention from the beginning to marry the prosecutrix, and, had extended such promise only to establish sexual relationship with her. Accordingly, the learned trial Court ordered the acquittal of the respondent No.2."

Be it noted, the Division Bench

observes in para 9 that, "There is no dispute that this Court can re-appreciate the entire evidence while dealing with an order of acquittal. The High Court has full power to appreciate the entire evidence to reach its own conclusions and it is also open for the High Court, to re-determine the question of facts and law. For this, we place reliance upon the judgment passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court in *State of Maharashtra vs. Sujay Mangesh Poyarekar*, 2008 (9) SCC 475."

Also, Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Chandrapa vs. State of Karnataka*, 2007(2) RCR (Cr.) 92 laid down broad principles to be followed while dealing with an appeal against an order of acquittal, which are as under:

"(1) An appellate Court has full power to review, re-appreciate and reconsider the evidence upon which the order of acquittal is founded;

(2) The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 puts no limitation, restriction or condition on exercise of such power and an appellate Court, based on the evidence before it, may reach its own conclusion, both on questions of fact and of law;

(3) Various expressions, such as, 'substantial and compelling reasons', 'good and sufficient grounds', 'very strong circumstances', 'distorted conclusions', 'glaring mistakes', etc. are not intended to curtail extensive powers of an appellate Court in an appeal against acquittal. Such phraseologies are more in the nature of 'flourishes of language' to emphasize the reluctance of an appellate Court to interfere with acquittal than to curtail the power of the Court to review the evidence and to come to its own conclusion.

(4) An appellate Court, however, must bear in mind that in case of acquittal, there is double presumption in favour of the accused. Firstly, the presumption of innocence available to him under the fundamental principle of criminal jurisprudence that every person shall be presumed to be innocent unless he is proved guilty by a competent court of law. Secondly, the accused having secured his acquittal, the presumption of his innocence is further reinforced, reaffirmed and strengthened by the trial court.

(5) If two reasonable conclusions are possible on the basis of the evidence on record, the appellate court should

not disturb the finding of acquittal recorded by the trial court."

Ordinarily, the order of acquittal will not be interfered with, lightly, merely because other view is possible. Upon passing of an order of acquittal, presumption of innocence in favour of the accused gets reinforced and strengthened, as laid down by Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Harjiana Thirupala vs. Public Prosecutor*, High Court of A.P., (2002) 6 SCC 470."

Needless to say, the Division Bench then mentions in para 10 that, "On the touchstone of the aforesaid legal proposition, as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, we do not find any solid ground to interfere with the impugned order of acquittal, as recorded by the learned trial Court."

Most significantly, the Division Bench propounds in para 14 holding that, "On a conjoint reading of the statement of prosecutrix, recorded under Section 164 Cr.P.C., and, the MLR, containing assault history, we can safely conclude that it is a case where sexual relationship continued for a long period, i.e. more than 6 years, and it continued even after the marriage of respondent No.2. Insofar as the reasoning given by the prosecutrix, as stated in history of sexual assault in the MLR, for continuing her physical relationship with respondent No.2 even after his marriage is concerned, it lacks corroboration, as the prosecutrix was completely mute in this regard in her both subsequent statements recorded before Magistrate, under Section 164 Cr.P.C., and, before the learned trial Court. Therefore, it is a clear cut case of consensual sexual relationship. Even the allegation, as recorded in her sexual assault history in MLR, that she was in relationship with the respondent No.2 even after his marriage upon assurance given by the respondent No.2 to take divorce from his wife, remains unsubstantiated, in the absence of it being corroborated by her statements recorded before Court, and, before Magistrate, except it being carried in her complaint (Ex. P5). Moreover, the allegation that the consent was obtained under the pretext of marriage, loses its significance and becomes shattered, simply in light of the fact that the sexual relationship continued even after the marriage of respondent No.2."

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## Largest Democracy's Deafening Resilience

By - M.R.LALU

Lo and behold! A few months from now, we will see India becoming the world's most populous country. More than 1.4 billion people would walk on our landscape like ants. The Most Populous Country tag is a responsibility as well as a liability. Having celebrated its 75 years of independence, this has become the most crucial era for India, the era of Amrit Kaal. With 25 years to complete a century of its independence, it needs to capture the gist of the essential Indian potentiality rising above the crude regimentation of religion, region and linguistic disparities. In its race to move beyond the imaginations of tomorrow, India's focus should be on assuming the status of a global guru with the combination of its scientific, civilisational and economic might—something that would survive for centuries. Irrespective of blurry lights of social conflicts desensitising its vision and dreams, India should focus on incessant progress, which the country should know will not be possible without all the stakeholders

on board.

India's largest youth population is the youngest in the world. But India's civilisational background gives it the status of the mother of all traditions that survive on the face of the earth. This demographic advantage is a blessing as well as a challenge that India needs to confront. It is a blessing because its youth population holds the key to transform its potentialities to dream-f fulfilling results. It also poses a herculean challenge to the country in mobilising its resources for satisfying the demands of its population. With more than half of its total population under age 35, India's resource mobilization and utilization with social welfare knocking all the doors irrespective of differences ranging from socio-cultural to socio-political to socio-spiritual, gives it a mammoth challenge. The challenge, at least in the perspective of India gets deeper when its pluralistic and diverse social framework goes into intense paroxysm, when all its common aspirations for welfare get hijacked by illusory mindset and planted narratives. On the other hand, we should not be unmindful of noticing the warnings of

discontent looming large between religions and politics illicitly drawn closer to religious consolidations as they ideologically legitimize their estrangement from the cultural foundations of the country. India's vulnerability is that it is a miniature globe with its multiplicity of faiths and its susceptibility to aggressive inequalities and unfriendly dichotomy which is formidably high. Its well embroidered democratic framework for a free society had probably failed to dismantle the disparities.

With its G20 presidency becoming a reality, India's focus is also to amalgamate the warring religious ideologies across the globe through one golden civilisational catchphrase—One Earth, One Family, One Future. On 14<sup>th</sup> February India witnessed the early ripples of its G20 leadership getting acceptance and admiration. At the virtual launch of the Air India-Airbus deal, French President Emmanuel Macron applauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership saying, "India, under your leadership clearly can be the one to mobilise the whole world and help us to address the tremendous issues we have in front of us." As the global humanity faces severe climate crisis with uninterrupted religious radicalization causing unrest

all over the world and an infuriating war abysmally crushing the dreams and resources of millions of people; call for India's leadership will not only be for its political interventions but the globe as a whole is in need of India's emergence as a civilisational magnet; inclined to show the way for amity.

India's population in 1921 in its present landscape was 251 million while it climbed to 340 million in 1947. Numbers say that the population of India doubled between 1947 and 1981 census and the year 2001 brought the country to an astonishing one billion mark. Surpassing China in population does not push India to an adequately well placed situation. Emerging as the fastest growing economy, India needs to prove its efficiency in self-sufficiency. Glimpses of its competence could be seen when a ravaging pandemic brought nit-picking moments to humanity. The global community was conspicuously shattered by Covid 19 while human sustenance began to languish and dead bodies piled up with gut-wrenching silence seizing life everywhere. But India's vaccine drive could spearhead positivity and revive hope. A strong political leadership with a global vision for wellbeing could spear-head great global impact within

a short span of time. Prime Minister Modi's leadership is known for its candid upbringing of values by raising the ancient Indian philosophy giving it a global grandeur.

Though its Amrit Kaal is known to bring resonance of India's progress with greater vigour and might, its susceptibility to reel under the hostile influence of sectarian violence cannot be disregarded. Motivated narratives are planted to pluck the entrails of India's civility for exposing it as a volcano of intolerance. Narratives to frame the government under Prime Minister Modi as discriminatory on the country's minority will surface before India sink into its next national elections. The Indian constitution guarantees civil liberties including freedom to propagate religion and freedom of expression. Stay incidents in India would ignite deliberate outrage against it on global platforms. Fresh narratives would spring with vituperative vocabulary. The latest in the line of humiliation of India was the BBC documentary on Modi. A multiparty democracy such as India would definitely have political polarisation and that makes it more vulnerable than any other nation. Freedom of expression is an impulsive catchphrase normally used to

undervalue the Modi government at the centre or project it as demonic. India's majoritarian image has been framed for belittling its democratic essence since 2014 and recrimination levelling against it as a persecutor of the minorities has been planted with well defined intention. To say Modi has been an apostle of partiality does not stick since his initiatives are for the benefit of all. But it is true that the accusations are valid for all those who stand against him in India and internationally, for that was due to their spectacular downfall and hostile mentality. But the government and the country as a whole should be aware of the looming threat from agencies inside and outside capable of spreading wild narratives. Modi's unflappable conduct in public life is seen conquering the evil-minded accusations and it looks like the Prime Minister is all set to dispel the defaming narratives as India has all right to emerge as a global influencer. The Amrit Kaal, as he says, would turn out to be the defining period of India and for the international community it is to find reasons to get attracted to what India can globally present. We need to take our values of democracy with our deafening democracy.

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# Irengbam Chaoren in the National Liberation Movement of Manipur

Irengbam Bhorot popularly known as Chaoren and fondly called by cadres of RPF as - "Sir Ahal" - President, RPF (Revolutionary People's Front) met the tragic end of his life on the auspicious day of 10 February 2023 after a prolong terminal illness. May His Soul rest in peace in the Heavenly Abode!

Born to Late Irengbam Ibomcha and Tongbram Ningol Irengbam Ongbi Jamuna as the eldest son among three brothers on 2 November 1957, the 10 Hiyanggei at Khagempalli Huidrom Leikai, Irengbam Chaoren started his schooling at the Khagempalli Huidrom Leikai LP School. After attending school at the Keishamthong ME School, Elangbam Leikai, he cleared the High School Leaving Certificate Examination (HSLCE) in 1974 from the Ramlal Paul High School. While undergoing the Bachelor of Arts at the Manipur College after passing out Pre-University Course (Science) in 1976 from the Oriental College, Irengbam Chaoren began his maiden journey of a young revolutionary leaving behind his youthful student/college life. A sports enthusiast, Irengbam Chaoren was a good badminton and football player. He played with his peers at the community club and learnt Thang-Ta (an Indigenous Martial Arts Form) from different teachers.

Feeling the pain of the

forcible annexation of Manipur by India (15 October 1949) and the strong urge of an armed liberation movement against the Indian colonialism, Irengbam

Chaoren participated several meetings of the erstwhile Revolutionary Government of Manipur (RGM) since 1974 while still in high school days. Meeting a marathon of several leaders discussing and gathering multivarious revolutionary knowledge, Sir Ahal attended a secret college instituted by the RGM to gain more massive political wisdom. After participating in a 5-Day Revolutionary Leadership Training, Sir Ahal roamed far and wide across the territory of Manipur to meet young people and youths to instill revolutionary ideas in a view to build up a gigantic movement.

Amidst the huge ideological differences among the top leaders of the RGM, Irengbam Chaoren sided with those who upheld an armed revolutionary movement and at the same time prepared for the journey to China for obtaining military and political training/teachings. But, he failed to reach China after the Second Journey was intercepted by Indian security forces in 1977. On return of the trainees from China in 1978, Chaoren joined at the establishment of the People's Liberation Army and emerged as a prominent PLA Soldier with many a golden assignment at his hands. He

was instrumental in launching April 13 as the "Athoubasinggee Numit" (Patriots' Day) and the banning of the Indian made foreign Liquor (IMFL).

Went to Kachin State of the present day Myanmar in 1982, Chaoren achieved military and warfare training from the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) for several years. His political maturity got the silver lining touch when he pioneered the First Party Congress of the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF, incepted 1979) in 1990 after Oja Bisheswar joined the Indian electoral process/system as an MLA and the seemingly surrendering of some top leaders of the PLA. He was unanimously elected the President of the RPF and continued till his demise on 10 February 2023. He was also the Convener of the CorCom at the time of his death.

Sensing the need of the unification of all the revolutionary forces in the WESEA (Western South East Asia) Region, Chaoren took up a formidable task in the formation of RJC, MPLF and CorCom after becoming the President of RPF. To solidify the liberation movements in WESEA Region and for launching a United Front, he met several leaders including SS Khaplang of Nagaland, Poresb Asom of Assam and Ranjit Dev Burman of Tripura. Making a diplomatic turn and internationalizing the National Liberation Movement of



Irengbam Chaoren & Thuingaleng Muivah, NSCN Headquarters, Eastern Nagaland, 1987

Manipur, Irengbam Chaoren clinched out a rigid Foreign Policy. The RPF submitted Memorandum for the Decolonization of Manipur from the Indian Colonialism twice on 11 December 1996 and 21 September 1999 under the signatory of Irengbam Chaoren. Irengbam Chaoren catapulted Manipur as the Fourth Nation in the World after the PLO (Palestine), the ANC (South Africa) and the

SWAPO (Namibia) when he made RPF declare to abide by the Common Article 3 of the Four Geneva Conventions, 1949 on 6 August 1997 while the UN Human Rights Commission Session was going on and the whole world began to acknowledge Manipur People's Struggle as a legitimate National Liberation Movement and not terrorism as envisaged by India.

## Chaoren's Message to Comrades:

"Friends/Comrades! We should work ceaselessly seeing no pain and no distress to emancipate the liberation of Manipur during our time/period."

"Revolution has no meaning without people's movement. We should make progress all the time".

At the outset of the Russia-Ukraine War-2022, Irengbam Chaoren addressed his comrades. "Friends! Now the situation has come for a possible outbreak of the Third World War. Now is the perfect time for the Manipur People and the revolutionaries to take the right political step to lend support to whom for the liberation of Manipur in this crucial juncture lest the situation of Manipur should go down-and-out like during that of the Second World War in siding with false friends".

"To make Manipur self-reliant and banning some types of imported Indian fishes as a gradual continued policy in 2024 and increase the fish productivity in Manipur."

"Friends! Now the Party has been handed down/betrothed unto YOU. Make the Party stronger and liberate the Our Motherland". (Written message to the Comrades from his death bed)

"All the ethnic communities of Manipur are inseparable. We should bring every solution whenever any conflict arises among our brethren".

"Wide afforestation of Manipur

Hills and Plains to take part as a citizen of the world in preventing the global warming and saving the environment".

"Take the mightiest task/ responsibility in unifying all the revolutionary forces in/of Manipur".

"In 1982, 86 PLA soldiers including 10 women set out their journey to the Kachin State. Three soldiers died during an ambush by the Naga National Council (NNC). We met some cadres of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) while on a cross-road in the deep woods. We asked the cadres to signal the NSCN Headquarters for their arrival. Upon receiving appropriate information, we checked-in at the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the NSCN and stayed there for few days before formal invitation by Oja Muivah at the NSCN Headquarters. We could see how the three leaders of the NSCN - Isak Chisi Swu, Shangwang Shangyung Khaplang and Thuingaleng Muivah put up a well-coordinated life in the jungle that inspired us unbundedly. Most importantly being fluent in Meiteilon, Oja Muivah gave us invaluable teachings on the revolutionary movements. Later on, Th. Muivah set off a Captain with us for Kachin State. We the RPF sends out Red Salute to Oja Muivah umpteenth times for helping us in times of our needs. Lastly, we urge Oja Muivah to take the lead role in unifying all the revolutionary groups in the region and wage a United War". - Chaoren

# Yaipha Thourang Crafts Bazar

At MMRC & Unity Park, Khangbaok, Thoubal District, Manipur

DATE : 24th Feb., to 5th March 2023

TIME : 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Sponsored by :

Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)  
Ministry of Textile, Government of India

Organised by :

Yaipha Thourang Handloom & Handicrafts  
Co-operative Society Limited  
Leimaram Waroiching, Bishnupur District, Manipur

# Japanese Destroyer Ship "JS Makinami" Visits Mumbai



*The Japanese and Indian Navy officers interact during Japanese Naval vessel JS Makinami's visit to Mumbai.*

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, February 20

JMSDF Ship JS Makinami, a Takanami class destroyer, visited Western Naval Command, Mumbai on a goodwill mission and crew of Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) interacted with their Indian counterpart and also visited the places of cultural interest.

The ship is on passage to Manama, Bahrain and is being deployed for anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. She visited Mumbai from February 18 to February 20.

Captain FUJII Kenrichi, Commander Escort Division Seven (CED 7) and Commander NOSE Koji, Commanding Officer JS Makinami, accompanied by Officer (Operations) at

Headquarters Western Naval Command, Mumbai, and Capt TACHIBANA Hiroshi, Naval Attaché of the Embassy in India, called on Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar, Chief Staff and discussed subjects of common interest.

India and Japan conduct the JIMEX series of exercises regularly between their navies. Since 2015, Japan has also been participating in the "Malabar" series of naval exercises that now also include Australia. JS Uraga and Awaji visited Kochi from February 14 to February 16, prior proceeding to the Persian Gulf to participate in a multilateral exercise.

The Japanese ships visit India as part of the concept to strengthen the Indo-Pacific region, which was first

articulated by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. There are also various frameworks of security and Defence dialogue between Japan and India including the "2 + 2" meeting, annual Defence ministerial dialogue and Coast Guard to Coast Guard dialogue.

Exercise "Dharma Guardian" has begun between Indian and Japanese Army at Camp Imazu, Shiga Province, Japan on February 17 and it will on till March 02. This is the fourth edition of the exercise "Dharma Guardian" between India and Japan.

Over the decades, both countries have endeavoured to enhance cooperation in maritime affairs, military logistics and defence-industrial matters to develop niche weapon systems.

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The announcements in the budget provides an opportunity to address the challenges faced by the region and promote its growth and development. Northeast India is a region that has historically been neglected in terms of development. It faced several challenges including limited access to quality education and healthcare, and under developed agriculture. Lately the government has been spending money to improve transportation and communication networks, which can attract more investment to the region, leading to the creation of new jobs and a better standard of living for the people.

Lately, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh got air connectivity with the setting up of an airport. These measures can lead to the creation of new jobs, increased investment, and a better standard of living for the people of the region. By investing in the region, the government can help to improve the standard of living of the people, promote economic growth, and foster inclusiveness. But one critical factor is that people in the region should also become more enterprising as in Southern

Contd. from Page 1

## 2023-24 Budget has a number of projects for

and Western India in particular to equip themselves to cash-in on the opportunity that come their way. Lately, several nurses from northeastern region besides some skilled workers do take up jobs even in far off cities like Chennai and Bengaluru in hospitals and IT industry, which in course of time certainly help in the development of the region as well through demonstration effect.

More specifically, the union budget 2023-24 has increased allocation five times under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East, (PM-DevINE). This will be implemented by the North-Eastern Council (NEC). The region has long been plagued by lack of proper roads, bridges, airports, and other infrastructure, making it difficult for people to access essential services and opportunities. The budget also aims to improve access to quality schools, colleges, and universities. The 2023 Union Budget also includes funds for healthcare, which will improve access to medical care and health services in the region. This is particularly important for the rural areas of Northeast India, where access to healthcare facilities is limited. With the allocation

of funds, the government can build new hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities, which will help to improve the health and well-being of the people.

The 2023 Union Budget also includes funds for agriculture, which will help to support the farmers and improve food security in the region. The region is home to a large number of farmers, who face challenges such as a lack of water, poor soil quality, and limited access to markets. With the allocation of funds, the government can address these issues and help to improve the agriculture sector, which will have a positive impact on the local economy and the standard of living of the people.

According to North East Council Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Pradeep Bagla the northeastern region was set to "gain substantially" from the presented Budget. Also, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has made it clear that PM-DevINE schemes are meant to address developmental gaps in the northeastern region and "It will not be a substitute for existing central or state schemes. The scheme aims to support social development projects and livelihood activities for youth and women, and fund infrastructure in collaboration with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had allocated Rs 20,000 crore as total outlay for the infra-focused NMP in the 2022-2023 Union Budget with an aim of providing India improved connectivity and faster, more efficient transportation. As of September 2022, all states had on-boarded the NMP's comprehensive database. Sitharaman however did not rene the much-anticipated North Eastern Investment Development Scheme. Overall, there was nothing specific for the bottle-necked region. Industry captains of the Northeast, who were keenly anticipating the launch of a new industrial policy for the region to attract investments and tourists, both domestic as well as foreign, were left waiting. Chairman of Assam State Council, Indian Chambers of Commerce, Sarat Kumar Jain, thought positive with the budget in general, felt

expectations specifically for the Northeast have not been met. The long-awaited industrial policy was absent. Investments from outside the region have become lean for the want of a pragmatic industrial policy.

Former Chairman of the Federation of Industry & Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER) and budget analyst R S Joshi said, "Northeast may not have usual mention but that's fine so long it's very liberal in funding our infrastructure and socio-economic projects aimed at providing a better living to people of NER."

PK Bhattacharjee, secretary general of Tea Association of India (TAI), Kolkata, said, although there is no specific "Tea" centric proposal in the Budget, it is observed that support for social infrastructure projects has been further consolidated. These include increased allocation under PM-Awas Yojana (from Rs 77,130 crore to Rs 79,590 crore), and Jal Jeevan Mission (increase in allocation from Rs 55,000 crore to Rs 70,000 crore). It also proposed to strengthen human resources in 740 Eklaya Model Residential Schools, Northeast India expected to be hugely benefited.

There is a huge tribal population in Northeast India and three states where there is a sizable tribal population Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland are going to assembly polls. Ashwin Vaishnav, Union Minister of Railways said that the Gross Budget Allocation for Northeast Frontier Railway for the 2023-24 is Rs. 10,988.80 crores. The Minister informed that adequate fund has been allotted for overall development of railway infrastructure in all North Eastern states. For the first time, an amount of Rs. 1.20 lakh crore has been earmarked for connecting hilly and border areas.

Overall the budget has been good for Northeastern region with marked increase in many of the sectors of interest to the region. But one only hopes that the north eastern states develop adequate absorptive capacity so that the entire money provided for the region is spend and development activities take-off to keep abreast with other regions in the country.

(IPA Service)

## "ACT FAST AND ACT FIRST FOR NORTH EAST!" – INSIGHTS FROM BUDGET 2023-24

By- G Kishan Reddy

Winning the public mandate nine years back, the Government led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi exemplified the philosophy of "Karma Paramo Dharmaha", to work harder than ever with undeterred grit and honest intention. No matter the formidable challenges ahead, the dream of making Bharat a "Vishwa Guru" kept us firmly on our path.

While the entire nation has witnessed a paradigm change in these past 9 years, the rise of the North East region from the shadows of neglect and peril, to emerge as the growth engine of India, is an inspiring tale of unprecedented efforts and unrelenting will. This has resulted in an era of holistic progress and development.

As Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently announced the budget for 2023-2024, it is worth analyzing the path to progress with a North East Region lens. Without doubt, the *Ashlakshmistates* are set to benefit across the 7 priorities laid out as the *Saptarishi* - Inclusive development, Last Mile, infrastructure, investment potential, green development, youth and the financial sector reforms.

The enhanced budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for 2023-24 of Rs. 5,892.00 crores (114% over the RE allocation of 2022-

23 (Rs. 2,755.05 crore). This is undeniable and incontrovertible proof of intent meeting actions. It is noteworthy that, out of this Rs 4,093.25 (92%) have been provided for capital expenditure dedicated for the creation of capital assets.

Additionally, since 2014, there has also been a massive increase in the funds earmarked by 54 Union Ministries under the mandate of dedicating 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support for the North East Region. This has now risen to Rs. 94,679.53 crore which is almost 30% more than the allocation of 2022-23. Taking a vantage view of the financial impetus that the North East Region has received over the years, it is evident that 2023-24 provision for 10% GBS shows an increase of almost 281% over the actual expenditure of 2014-15, which was just about Rs. 24,819.18 crore. Approximately Rs. 5 Lakh crore rupees would have been spent in the North East Region by the end of this financial year and this is a reaffirmation of the Prime Minister's vision of making the North East Region as a gateway to South East Asia as elucidated in our Act East Policy.

The fiscal push is accompanied by well targeted packages and schemes of DoNER to ensure maximum impact on ground. For instance, Rs. 6,600 crores allocated under the new Prime Minister's Development

Initiative for North-East (PM-DEVINE) scheme is aimed at revitalizing infrastructure growth with bigger sized projects in the North Eastern States whilst creating livelihood opportunities for youth and women.

The budget's focus on strengthening our roots and empowering the last mile through initiatives like Pradhan Mantri PVTG (Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Group) program for the development and upliftment of tribal groups or the support to Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the PM *Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana* will also give a major boost to the huge potential for women led SHGs in the region.

The Agri-Horti sector of the North East is brimming with potential and the Budget opens several opportunities to tap into it. The North East Region can stand as a success story and inspire the nation to achieve the target of bringing 1 crore farmers under natural farming. Similarly, the agri-accelerator fund established will boost the existing potential for startups in the sector. Along with this, our focus on skill development, development of tourism potential, digitization and emphasis on sustainable development and green interventions complement the existing efforts being undertaken by the Government of India towards

sustainable development of the North East Region.

Security and peace was a key challenge of the region, but today, with constant efforts of the government and close collaboration with States, the North East has entered an unprecedented era of peace and stability. Since 2014, the region witnessed a 74% decline in insurgency, and more than 8,000 youth have surrendered their arms and are today looking at a brighter future today.

Similarly, the North East has witnessed no less than a revolution when it comes to connectivity. Before 2014, only Assam was connected to railways. Now Agartala and Itanagar have been connected while other capitals will be connected. To ensure seamless road connectivity in the North East through our National Highways, the Government is spending Rs. 1.6 Lakh crores. In terms of air connectivity, five north eastern States of Mizoram, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland witnessed flights take off for the first time since independence. From just 9 Airports in the region in 2014, the number of airports in the region has almost doubled to 17, with Donyi Polo of Itanagar being the latest addition. Telecom connectivity is also witnessing a major uptick with the Government of India setting a target of 500 days to

provide complete telecom connectivity in the region by end of 2023.

The final and most important building block is that of establishing people-to-people connect and deepening the emotional bond in the spirit of '*Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*'. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, cultural and emotional integration of the North East with the rest of India and removing the feeling of alienation has been a top priority. Youth cultural exchange tours will now be conducted under '*YuvaSangam*' to bring strong cultural ties among the youth. At least, 16 union ministers visit the NER every month to reach out to the people, interact with them, monitor implementation of schemes and undertake immediate action to resolve issues.

To quote Hon'ble Prime Minister's clarion call at the recent North East Council's Golden Jubilee celebrations, '*Act Fast for North east, Act First for North East*' is the mantra for the North East Region's journey ahead. Henceforth there is no looking back. There is no mulling over excuses as those days are over. The die is now cast firmly!

(G Kishan Reddy is the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region, Tourism and Culture in the Government of India)

## AR seizes contraband items

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 20:

Modi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) recovered contraband Betel Nuts from Wamku village, Tengnoupal District yesterday

On specific information, a Mobile Vehicle Check Post from Company Operating Base, Larong was established

on 19 Feb 2023 at Wamku road junction.

The party intercepted a truck, MN 04A 7682, at Wamku-Chandel junction and found the vehicle loaded with 140 bags of betel nuts worth Rs 19,60,000.

The seized items along with the driver and vehicle were handed over to Tengnoupal Police Station for further legal investigation.