

## Manipur Assembly Session:

### India's Presidency of the G20 gives us a unique opportunity to strengthen India's role in the Global economic order – CM

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 21:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who is also the leader of the house today said that India's Presidency of the G20 gives an unique opportunity to strengthen India's role in the Global economic order and gives us a key role in international decision making, while presenting Budget estimate of 2023-24 on the 3rd sitting of the 3rd session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly session today.

N. Biren said that the theme of our Country's Presidency: "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future" highlights our belief for all countries to work together for the common good.

Sectoral allocation of today's budget estimate 2023-24 presented by the leader of the house N. Biren Singh for the state of Manipur are Rs. 3292 crore for the education, Rs. 377 crore for forest and environment, Rs. 1919 crore for the health sector, Rs. 95.7 crore for development of Sports sector, Rs. 100 crore for Entrepreneurship and Start-ups, Rs. 25.50 crore for tourism and Culture, Rs. 466 crore for connectivity, Rs. 586 crore for Agriculture and its associated sectors.

Chief Minister N. Biren said that the Union Budget for 2023-24 was the first Budget in Amrit Kaal, as the country moves towards 100 years of Independence. It lays the foundation for India's economic develop-

### CM N. Biren Singh present Budget estimate of Rs. 35022 crores

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 21:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, also in charge of Finance Ministry today presented Budget estimate of Rs. Rs. 35022 crores on the 3rd sitting of the 3rd session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly which began on February 2.

Presenting the Budget estimate Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that the total receipts are estimated at Rs. 34131 crores. The revenue receipts are estimated

at Rs. 27547 crores and capital receipts at Rs. 6584 crores. Total estimates of State's own tax and non-tax receipts are Rs. 3200 crores and Rs. 400 crores respectively.

"For the year 2023-24, I am proposing a total expenditure of Rs. 35022 crores out of the Consolidated Fund of the State", N. Biren Singh who is also in charge of Finance said.

He added that the total Revenue Expenditure is estimated at Rs. 20292 crores. Capital outlay is estimated at Rs. 10013 crores.

N. Biren said that the Budget deficit is estimated at Rs. 891 crore, which is a reduction from last year's budget deficit of Rs. 1230 crore.

"We will continue to consolidate our finances. Fiscal deficit is estimated at Rs. 2760 crores. This is 6.1 % of the GSDP. During 2023-24, the total outstanding debt as a percentage of GSDP is projected at 39.93 %. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2023-24 is estimated at Rs. 45145 crores.

ment for the future and gives the roadmap for growth, development and progress for all sections of society. As partners in the growth and development story of our great nation, Manipur has an important role to play, especially with our access to South-East and East Asia.

In the recent Union Budget, the Central Government had made announcements on personal income tax, which will benefit our hard working middle class. Now in the new tax regime, persons with income upto Rs. 7 lakhs will not have to pay any tax. The number of tax labs have now been reduced from six to five. The benefit of standard deduction under the

new tax regime will be extended to the salaried class and pensioners, including family pensioners. The highest surcharge rate in the new tax regime has been reduced from 37 percent to 25 per cent. All these new announcements will greatly benefit the working middle class of our country.

For FY 2023-24, the Central Government is continuing with the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SACI) and the Union Budget has made an allocation of Rs. 1.30 lakh crore for the Scheme. The State Government aims to make use of this special assistance to make capital investment in critical areas. The use of this assistance will be

mostly at the discretion of the State Government, but a part of the Scheme will be conditional on the State increasing its actual capital expenditure. Allocations under the Scheme will also be linked to the following purposes: (i) Scrapping old government vehicles, (ii) Urban planning reforms and actions, (iii) Financing reforms in urban local bodies to make them creditworthy for municipal bonds, (iv) Housing for police personnel above or as part of police stations, (v) Construction of Unity Malls, (vi) Children and adolescents' libraries and digital infrastructure, and (vii) State Share of Capital Expenditure of Central Schemes.

contd. on page 4

## Nonganba murder case:

### We have full trust in our police investigating the matter - CM

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 21:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who is also in charge of the Home Department today said that his government has full trust in the state police team investigating the murder of Akoijam Nonganba Singh, who was found murdered mercilessly on February 12 at Changoumbung Village in Kangpokpi district.

Replying to a calling attention motion raised by Congress MLA K. Ranjit Singh, in the ongoing state assembly session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who is also the leader of the house said that the government need to give moral boost to state police who are performing their duty with sincerity and dedication. He said that if the investiga-

tion lied limited due to jurisdiction of power the state government is ready to hand over the case to National Agency like the NIA.

Congress MLA K. Ranjit, while raising the calling attention motion said that one among the suspect arrested by the police in connection with the killing identified as Moses Gomnei is told to be the Deputy Kilonser of NSCN-IM, while the one absconding, identified as Stephen is also told to be Kilonser of the NSCN-IM, an armed rebel group undergoing peace talk with the government of India.

MLA Ranjit questioned if there is any connection with the NSCN-IM to the murder of AK Nonganba who was also the son of one legislator late AK Laingam.

"Our police team led by a DSP of the Kangpokpi Police

station have taken up a suo-motto case soon after the barbaric incident", N. Biren said and added that the car along with the lady (Thokchom Sonia) who reportedly went out with the deceased Nonganba was also summoned and interrogated. Besides, the special investigation team of the case also arrested one suspect in the murder case on February 13, who happen to be a Deputy Kilonser of NSCN-IM.

N. Biren said that as of now the police team are investigating whether there is any connection with the armed group NSCN-IM or not.

The Chief Minister while replying to the calling attention motion said that as far as the police team are doing their duty and in the progress, of the investigation, the government has not yet decided to hand over the case to NIA.

## 320.86 lakhs planted from 2018-2022 - Forest Minister Biswajit

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 21:

A total of 320.86 lakhs seedlings were planted from 2018-2019 to 2021-22, out of which 60-70% of has survived. This was answered by Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister, Thongam Biswajit Singh while replying to a question asked by MLA K. Ranjit Singh during question hour in the

ongoing Manipur Legislative Assembly session today.

51.59 lakhs seedlings were planted and 21.45 lakh seedlings were distributed to the public in the year 2018-2019, 21.09 lakh seedlings planted and 42.21 lakh seedlings distributed for the year 2019-20, 90.52 lakh seedlings planted and 9.70 lakh seedlings

distributed in the year 2020-21 and 45.93 lakh seedlings planted and 38.37 lakh seedlings were distributed to the public in the year 2021-22.

A total of Rs. 103.35 crores were spent on creating the seedlings, said Th. Biswajit Singh replying to MLA K. Ranjit Singh's question on the status of plantation of trees from 2018 - 2022.

## CSE exam

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 21:

Manipur Civil Services Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination, 2022 conducted by the Manipur Public Service Commission will be held on April 30, 2023. A notification has been issued by the Controller of Examination MPSC today.

## PM urges all to take part in Best Tourism Village Competition

PIB  
New Delhi, Feb 21:

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has urged all, particularly youngsters to take part in Best Tourism Village Competition. The Ministry of Tourism is launching Best Tourism Village Competition.

The core aim of this competition to honor the villages that preserve and promote the local art, culture and Lifestyle.

## Nagaland Assembly Elections 2023:

### Centre will sign agreement with ENPO after polls, says Amit Shah

Agency  
Kohima, Feb 21:

The Central Government is ready to sign an agreement with the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) over the body's demand for a separate "Frontier Nagaland" state.

This was claimed by union home minister and top BJP leader Amit Shah while campaigning for the Nagaland assembly elections at Tuensang on Tuesday (February 21).

However, Amit Shah said that the central government will sign the pact with the ENPO addressing the body's demands, only after the election process in Nagaland is over.

"The MHA held discussions with the ENPO, which were positive. And, after the Nagaland assembly elections are over, an agreement will be signed," said Amit Shah during poll campaigning.

He added that the signing of the agreement could not be done before the elections in Nagaland, as the poll dates



were announced and the model code of conduct (MCC) came into force.

Amit Shah said that signing of the agreement between the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) and the central government "will usher new age of development in the region".

"I want to inform the people of eastern Nagaland that solutions to your problems are not

far away," union home minister Amit Shah said.

Earlier, the ENPO had threatened to boycott the assembly elections in Nagaland if their demands are not met, following which the MHA held discussion with the organisation.

The ENPO after getting an assurance from the union home minister on February 4, withdrew its call to boycott the Feb-

ruary 27 assembly polls in Nagaland.

Amit Shah also stated that the central government is committed to find an early solution to the decades-old Naga political issue.

The union home minister said, "The NDDP-BJP coalition government would again return to power and then all Naga problems would be solved."

## Heavy rains likely in Arunachal, isolated rains may occur in NE

Agency  
Guwahati, Feb 21:

South-westerly winds from the Bay of Bengal will likely meet the eastern Himalayas, producing heavy showers in the mountainous region of Northeast India.

According to Weather Channel, Arunachal Pradesh, in particular, is likely to witness heavy downpours on Tuesday and Wednesday with a chance of thunderstorms.

Further, a western disturbance (WD) with associated Cyclonic Circulation could affect the Western Himalayan region and adjoining areas.

Under the influence of this system, isolated rains are likely to occur in Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Sub-Himalayan region on Tuesday and Wednesday.

While Assam and Meghalaya are likely to witness scattered rainfall with a chance of lightning on Tuesday and Wednesday, isolated rain may occur

in Nagaland, Manipur, and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal on Tuesday.

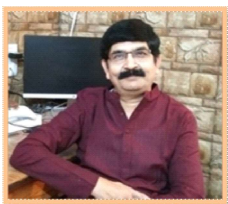
Scattered rain/snow is likely to occur over Sikkim on Wednesday. On the other hand, isolated rain may occur over Nagaland, Manipur and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal on Wednesday.

In view of these forecasts, a yellow watch (meaning 'be updated') has been issued over these states today and tomorrow.

In spite of the wet weather, however, the IMD does not expect any significant change in maximum temperatures over this part of the country for the rest of the week.

Since the beginning of 2023, the Northeast has experienced a major deficiency in rainfall. During the period from January 1 and February 20, Arunachal (50.60 mm) recorded a deficit of 50%, while Assam (7.90 mm), Meghalaya (0.10 mm), Nagaland (0.80 mm) and Manipur (0 mm) registered large deficits of 77%, 99%, 97%, and 99%, respectively.

## Acid attack - lack of implementation of the law



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Recently in Karnataka a man threw acid at minor girl a 17-year-old for rejecting proposal. Acid attacks are heinous crimes that are unfortunately in news constantly. According to the data of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there were 150 such cases recorded in 2019, 105 in 2020 and 102 in 2021. The charge sheeting rate of acid attacks stood at 83% and the conviction rate at 54% in 2019. In 2020, the figures stood at 86% and 72% respectively. In 2021, the figures were recorded to be 89% and 20% respectively. In 2015, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued an advisory to all states to ensure speedy justice in cases of acid attacks by expediting prosecution.

Even though the primary definition of an acid attack is given in the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Law Commission of India has also defined an acid attack, as a form of violence against women where the perpetrator splashes a person or object with acid to deface or kill them.

Such acid attacks have brought the focus back on the need for effective monitoring and regulation. With acids being available in the market, for purposes ranging from painting, use in car batteries, in de-weeding and as floor-cleaning substances, they easily fall in the hands of those who want to wreak vengeance.

Just the regulation of acid sales is, however, not enough. While there are scores of factories manufacturing acid without a licence, illegal sales of the deadly liquid are quite commonplace too. Moreover, the perpetrators of acid attacks, among the most heinous of crimes, deserve the severest punishment. It is necessary to impart and inculcate moral values and streamline the police and prosecuting agencies. Leaders cutting across party affiliations should show the requisite political will, courage and conviction to deal ruthlessly with crimes against women. Instead of preaching always now it is time to awake and do something for ourselves and for society otherwise such incident will be continued and we all here to repent after that. Only holistic education system and moral upliftment can bring the change in the society for this burning gender-sensitive issues.

In India, acid has often been used as a weapon against women who have turned down advances by men. Acid attacks are seen as one of the most vicious crimes as it causes perpetual suffering to the victim. Perhaps the most dangerous thing about acid attacks is the fear that they create. With just a few rupees, anyone can buy a weapon that can ruin another person's life in just a few seconds. Part of the reason is that acid is cheap and widely available. Many Indians use concentrated acid to sterilize their kitchens and bathrooms, as Americans would use bleach. There is an immense need to come out with legal measures and medical reforms by our government to help these victims. Men who commit these crimes are usually spurned suitors who want to avenge their rejection. The men should be punished so badly that no one will ever think of attempting to ruin a girl's life.

## Supreme Court is right in setting up its own panel to probe Adani affairs

By: Arun Srivastava

This is the highest order of double talk. Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju who in the past had on several occasions raised the issue of judicial accountability and transparency and had accused the Supreme Court of not following the ethics of transparency and probity in public life, has ventured to flout the basic tenet of transparency by sending the government stand on Adani to the apex court in sealed cover. He had even said "I just want to point out that there are loopholes and there is no accountability. It lacks transparency".

Through its action the law ministry was denying the peoples' right to know the government stand in the matter. "We would not accept the sealed cover suggestion because we want to maintain transparency," Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said. "Sealed cover means the other side is not seeing it. The impression will be that it will be a government-appointed committee even though SC appointed it." The Law ministry of the Modi government ought to have maintained highest order or transparency as its action would have direct bearing on the perception of the people.

At this point it is imperative to recall the statement of Rijiju: "Judges don't have to face elections and they have no public scrutiny, but people still 'watch' and 'assess' them for the way they deliver justice. In the era of social media, nothing can be hidden from anyone". This distinctly manifests the double standard of the Modi government.

The bench said, "We will not accept sealed cover suggested names from you (the Centre). We will tell you why. In constituting a committee, we want to maintain full transparency. The moment we accept a set of suggestions from you in sealed cover, it would mean that the other side (petitioners) have not seen it. Even if we do not accept your suggestions, they would not know which of your suggestions we accepted and which we have not. Then, there will be an impression that, well, this is a government-appointed committee which the SC has accepted, even when we do not accept your suggestions."

names, then trust us to come out with our own names. We will do a little research and come out with the names for the committee".

When the SC said that the court has to keep in mind market sensitivity while taking a decision on the issue in hand, the bench said, "But you yourself have said that the market impact (from the meltdown of Adani shares) is zero. We are not really on that as according to you there was no impact on the market. Actually, irrespective of the statistical data, there cannot be any denial of the fact that investors have lost huge sums of money because of this incident."

There is no denying the fact that market regulator SEBI has shut its eyes to this scam. Its claim that it was keeping a watch is a blatant lie. If short seller Hindenburg could come to know of Adanis indulging into stock manipulation and fraud how SEBI did not get these information. It is obvious that it was under instructions from its political masters not to meddle in Adani affair. If a short seller can ask questions, why can't the regulators? In this backdrop an independent commission poses a potential threat to the political system.

The doctrine of sealed cover is absolutely against the citizens' "right to know" and is against the Supreme Court's function of public reasoning. The most tragic aspect of the envelop episode is even the complainant or petitioner is denied his fundamental right to know of the nature and content of the government submission.

Realising the mood of the bench, solicitor general Tushar Mehta preferred to play safe and said the Centre has nothing to hide. He did not press for inclusion of any of the suggested names in the committee. The CJI-led bench said, "If we have to consider the (Centre's) suggestions, we have to first disclose them to the other side. Then there will be a sense of transparency and confidence in the process of the court. If you are not in favour of disclosing the suggested

Modi); and another PIL (ADR vs. UOI) alleging that the Modi government's electoral bonds scheme brings opaqueness and anonymity in political funding and goes against the citizens' right to know. In all these three cases justice has been denied. All the accused persons in conspiracy against Modi are still languishing in the jails. Rafale is in cold storage.

In the Rafale case, the key issue was pricing of the jets and that information was filed in a sealed cover. This is in the true sense against the principles of the Constitution. In the hearing of the Ram Jannabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, basic submissions were filed in a sealed cover. It's a different story that the chief justice Ranjan Gogoi had questioned the sealed covers since the contents appeared in media even before the judges could see.

An insight makes it clear that sealed covers were used as the instruments to conceal the misdeeds of the politicians, the government or frame someone who is not actually involved in any obnoxious game. There are several instances where sealed cover evidence has been admitted without any sufficient reasoning for the same. In the suspension of the ex-CBI Chief Alok Verma, the Supreme Court stated that the failure to use sealed covers would hamper public trust in the CBI.

Exceptions should not become the norm. What is really intriguing is the cases are presented in such a manner to justify it being a norm. None will say that the information affecting the privacy of individuals as the identity of a sexual harassment victim should be disclosed. But it is a fact that sealed cover procedure has caused irreparable damage to the petitioner or the appellants.

(IPA Service)

## How to choose a good school for your child



By: Vijay GarG

Every parent wants to give their child the best schooling and for this, they are ready to pay any amount. A good schooling from the very beginning can lead to a great success in the child's career in the future. A school is a place where a child begins to learn formally. Choosing a school for your child is a very important and a difficult task too. It is important because choosing the school is the foundation of the child's career. A good school will lay a good foundation for your child's education. A good school will shape your child's future. It will mould your child in a way to make him the best. It is a difficult task because there are many schools located near us and we do not know which the best school is. It is difficult to find the positive and negative points of all the schools which make all the more difficult to choose a good school. Choosing a good school may be difficult, but it is not impossible. Here are some tips and points to remember which will help you to choose a good school for your child.

Make a List: To choose a good

school for your child you should know which all schools are near your place. Make a list of all the schools near you. This could be done by searching the internet about the school in your locality or by going on a drive and noting down the schools which you encounter in your way. The list should neither be too short or not be too long. Twenty schools in the list are fine. If the number of schools will be less then there will be less option to choose from and if the list is too long then it will create a lot of confusion.

Ask Others: Everyone has friends and relatives whose children are going to school. Ask them about the schools their children are studying in. Inquire about the pros and cons of the school. Also, ask them if they are satisfied with the school or not. Asking the school representatives about the school is of no use because they will definitely quote cheesy lines to attract you. They will hide the negative points of the school. If you ask the parents whose children are studying in that school they will tell you the correct state of the school.

Make a Choice about the Curriculum: There are many education boards. CBSE and ICSE are the two major education boards in India. Along with them, there are different state boards also. All these boards have a different curriculum. The difficulty level of all the boards is different. The basics that will be taught will be different on all the boards. You should choose the board with the difficulty level which suits your child.

Visit the School: You cannot de-

cide about the school while sitting at home. You have to go out and visit the school. When you visit the school, meet the principal and teachers of the school. Get to know about their qualification and about their nature. The teachers should be well qualified and should have vast knowledge about their subject in order to teach your child. The teachers should neither be too strict or too lenient. If the teachers are too strict, the child will be afraid to go to school. If the teachers are too lenient, they will not be able to control the child and will not be able to make them disciplined.

Calculate the Travelling Time: Traveling time plays a very important role in choosing a school. The school should be near your house. The travelling time or distance should be minimal. If the travelling will be quite large, then your child will get tired of travelling and would not be able to devote his time to studying when he reaches home. For an efficient schooling, try to minimize the travelling time.

Find out the School's Achievement: Try to find out what the school has achieved in terms of board results, extra-curricular activities, sports competitions etc. The achievements will give you the brief idea of the school's effectiveness in teaching and the all-round development of a child.

Size of the Class and Number of Teachers: Find out about the number of children in one class. The maximum number of students in one class should not be more than forty. The more is the number of students in a class the less individual attention is paid to the students. It becomes difficult for the teacher also to take care of all the students. The students who

need special attention do not feel comfortable in such types of classrooms. Therefore, a classroom with the strength of twenty to forty is optimum. Less number of students creates limited discussion in the class.

Teaching Methodology: The teaching methodology should be such that it suits your child. Every child's need is different. Some children feel comfortable to understand the theory that is they need a theoretical approach but some children need a practical approach. You have to make sure that the school you are choosing follows the perfect approach which will suit your child. There are some schools which give a practical session once in two weeks, once a week or once in three days. If your child needs a more practical approach, then chooses the schools which give practical classes once in three days. Otherwise, the school which gives practical classes once in two or one weeks is also good.

Extra-curricular Activities: Studies are not enough for the all-round development of the child. Extra-curricular activities are also important. The schools should organize various competitions in fields like art and craft, sports, singing, dancing etc. This will help in developing the competitive spirit in the students. Extracurricular activities are also important to the students who want to take a different career, like acting, dancing or sports.

Fee Structure: There will be many schools in a city. Each school has a different fee structure. To compare the fees of a different school, first of all, see that what they are providing you in the fee you give them. There are some schools which charge more than other schools. These schools provide your child with stationery items and lunch whose price is included in the

fees. But if the school is charging more and is not providing any such facility then it is not a good choice. If you feel that you do not want such facilities you can go for the schools which charge less. You have to think about your pocket also while choosing a school.

The Recess: There are some schools which do not have a break or recess in their time table. These schools are not at all a good choice. Children cannot study continuously for such a long time. They also need some refreshment in between. Therefore a recess is must in the timetable.

Homework: Every school gives homework. What matters is the amount of homework given to the students. If the school gives a lot of homework, the students will feel pressurized. They will find no time for playing or rest. But if the school will not at all give any homework, then some careless students who do not want to study will not at all study. The homework given to the students should be in a medium range.

Fame: A school which has a good name in the market is not necessarily good. Do not go with the fame. Do proper research on the school to find out if it is actually worth the fame. If yes, only then consider it for your child.

Types of the Classroom: In these days, there is a trend of modern classrooms. These classrooms are very beneficial for the students. They help in better understanding of the subject and makes learning more fun. If you have to choose in between two schools out of which one has a regular classroom and the other has a smart classroom, then go with the school with smart classrooms. This will definitely give your child a bright start in their schooling. It will also

directly affect their result in a positive way.

Friend Circle: School is a totally new environment for your child. The child will find it difficult to make new friends or talk to other children at the first. This happens a lot when your child is shy. Then the child may start to feel lonely and will not want to go to school. So if you choose a school in which your child is already studying then he will not feel lonely and will not complain that he does not want to go to school.

Conclusion

Choosing a school is a difficult task but it can be made easy if we follow the tips mentioned above. Every child's needs are different. So if you are thinking that the school which suits your first child will also suit your second child is not correct. You should know the brain development rate of your child and then decide what type of approach he wants he wants in his education and then select the school accordingly. You may also have to make a choice in between single-sex and co-ed schools. In terms of the curriculum and teaching, both the types of school may be equally good but the single-sex schools may create a feeling of shyness in your child which will grow even more when the child grows up. Co-ed schools will be better in this case. Make sure that you visit the school at least once and talk to the students at the school or the parents whose children are studying in the school. This will give you the actual information about the reputation of the school. The school authorities will tell only good things about the school but the truth will only be revealed if you talk to the students or parents of the students.

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# Rajya Sabha Chairman asks privilege panel to investigate 'disorderly conduct' of 12 Opposition MPs

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 21:

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has asked a parliamentary committee to investigate the alleged breach of privilege by 12 MPs from the Congress and the AAP for repeatedly entering the well of the House, shouting slogans and obstructing its proceedings.

According to a Rajya Sabha bulletin, nine of the MPs are from the Congress and three from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The Congress MPs are Shaktisinh Gohil, Naranbhai J Rathwa, Syed Nasir Hussain, Kumar Ketkar, Imran Prattapgarhi, L Hanumanthaiah, Phulo Devi Netam, Jebi Mather Hisham and Ranjeet Ranjan.

The AAP members are Sanjay Singh, Sushil Kumar Gupta and Sandeep Kumar Pathak.

Reacting to the develop-



ment, AAP MP Singh said, "We have not done anything which amounts to breach of privilege. We have only stated the truth and exposed a scam related to crores of common people." "When we get the notice, we will respond to it," he told PTL.

In the bulletin dated February 18, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said, "...the Chairman...has referred a question of alleged breach of privilege arising out of gross

disorderly conduct displayed by (the MPs)...in violation of rules and etiquette of Rajya Sabha by repeatedly entering the well of the council, shouting slogans and persistently and willfully obstructing the proceedings of the council, compelling the Chair to repeatedly adjourn the sittings of the Council." The Rajya Sabha saw repeated disruptions due to protests by the opposition MPs over various issues during the first leg of the Budget

Session which concluded earlier this month.

In another notice, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said, "...members are informed that the Chairman, Rajya Sabha has referred a question of alleged breach of privilege arising out of non-adherence to the directions of the Chair vis-a-vis repeated submission of identical notices under rule 267 by Shri Sanjay Singh, Member, Rajya Sabha, under rule 203 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report." Sources said some members made complaints that frequent disruptions by some MPs was breach of their privilege.

As members cannot directly make complaints to the privilege committee, the matter came before the Chair, who referred it to the panel to examine, investigate and report, they said.

# 6.3 magnitude earthquake jolts Turkey-Syria border days after deadly tremors claimed over 47,000 lives



Agency  
Kahramanmaraş (Turkey),  
Feb 21:

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake at a depth of two km (1.2 miles) struck the Turkey-Syria border region on Monday, the European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said, Reuters reported.

Witnesses told Reuters that Turkish rescue teams were running around after the latest quake, checking people were unharmed.

This comes two weeks after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the region claiming more than 47,000 lives.

Turkey on Sunday said rescue efforts following last week's devastating earthquake had ended in all but two provinces.

Harsh winters have hampered rescue work in the affected areas.

Monday's tremors were felt in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Egypt, according to Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency.

Syria's state news agency, SANA, reported six people were injured in Aleppo from falling debris, while the mayor of Hatay said several buildings had collapsed, trapping people inside.

AFAD initially urged people in Hatay province, to the east of the Mediterranean Sea, to

stay away from the coast, warning that the earthquakes might cause the sea level to rise by 50cm (20 inches).

"We understand that four men had gone into the building to recover some belongings. Authorities had warned not to go into the buildings but nobody really expected another earthquake of the magnitude that we've seen."

Resident Muna al-Omar said she was in a tent in a park in central Antakya when Monday's quakes hit.

"I thought the earth was going to split open under my feet," she said, crying as she held her seven-year-old son. "Is there going to be another aftershock?"

On February 6, magnitude 7.8 and 7.6 earthquakes struck southeast Turkey and neighbouring Syria, killing more than 47,000 people and leaving one million homeless. The economic cost of the disaster is expected to run into tens of billions of dollars.

Mehmet Kokum, an assistant professor of geology based in Elazığ, Turkey, said there had been more than 5,000 aftershocks since the February 6 quakes.

"This is quite expected," Kokum told Al Jazeera. "We know from our experience, the aftershocks will last from months to years. But it's going to decrease day by day."

Lutfu Savas, Hatay's mayor, said several buildings collapsed on Monday. Savas said those trapped are believed to have either returned to their houses or were trying to move furniture from damaged homes.

In the Turkish city of Adana, Alejandro Malaver said people fled their homes for the streets and carried blankets to their cars, where many planned to sleep.

Abdulkafi al-Hamdo, an opposition activist in northern Syria, said February 6 quake survivors were terrified by the latest tremors.

"This earthquake, although it was shorter and a little bit weaker, caused more horror for people," he told Al Jazeera.

"Because of the previous experience, people have panic and trauma, so everyone rushed outside. Some people got into accidents rushing out, some even jumped from their balconies to escape the earthquake. People here are not safe."

Media outlets in Syria's Idlib and Aleppo provinces reported some buildings collapsed and electricity and internet services were disrupted in parts of the region, which was also badly affected by the quakes two weeks ago. Many people fled their homes and were gathering in open areas.

# INS Nireekshak Awarded CNS's Unit Citation

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Feb 21:

INS Nireekshak, a submarine rescue vessel, was awarded "on-the-spot" Unit Citation of the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) during the visit of the CNS Admiral R Harikumar to Kochi (Kerala) on Monday.

The CNS interacted with the diving team of the ship involved in the salvage operations at a depth of 219 meters in the Arabian Sea and commended the ship on the safe and successful conduct of the operations under most challenging circumstances. This was the deepest salvage carried out in the country's waters, an official statement read.

During his address to the ship's crew, the CNS complimented the dedicated effort of the ship in conducting the deep diving operations. He exhorted the undaunted spirit of the "Men Behind the Ma-



chine". The CNS awarded "on the spot" Unit Citation to the ship, a first in Indian Navy. He also awarded commendations to the crew involved in the salvage operation.

Nireekshak had recently completed a solemn dive at Diu near Gujarat coast to pay homage by laying wreath at 80 m depth, the resting site of erstwhile Khukri which sank during 1971 war.

INS Khukri, a British-origin anti-submarine warfare frigate has been the only Indian Naval vessel to have been lost in combat.

INS Nireekshak is a Dive Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel of Indian Navy. She was originally built in 1985 by Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the Oil and National Gas Corporation's offshore oil exploration work,

having a dynamic position facility and a recompression chamber. It was acquired on lease with an option for purchase by Indian Navy on June 8, 1989 and was later commissioned in 1995.

INS Nireekshak has been part of various diving operations and holds the record for the deepest dive carried out in the country to a depth of 257m.

# SC agrees to hear Uddhav Thackeray faction's plea against EC's decision on Wednesday

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 21:

The Supreme Court will hear the plea by Former Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray against the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s order of allotting Shiv Sena's name & symbol to Eknath Shinde on Wednesday.

Urging the bench to list the plea before the constitution bench, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal requested to pass some protective order.

"It's against the order of the ECI. It's based on 38 members. If this is not stayed - they'll take over everything. It'll also lead to disqualification. Bank accounts. Please take it up tomorrow morning before constitution bench so that some protective order can be passed," Sibal said.

Considering Sibal's contention the CJ said, "We won't disrupt the constitution bench tomorrow. We will finish the

constitution bench, give us some sort of an idea so that we can slot it after the constitution bench. We'll take it tomorrow. We'd like to read the matter."

Senior Advocate AM Singhvi had attempted to make an unscheduled mention before a bench of CJI DY Chandrachud on Monday. Refusing to grant urgent mentioning, CJI DY Chandrachud asked him to mention the same on Tuesday.

Terming the ECI's order as tainted and ex facie erroneous, Uddhav's plea while seeking a stay stated that apex poll body has acted in a manner that undermines its constitutional status.

It was also contended that the ECI erred in holding that there is a split in the political party and has failed to appreciate that Uddhav faction enjoys overwhelming support in the rank and party's file.

"The test of legislative

majority adopted by the ECI could not have been applied at all in view of the fact that the disqualification proceedings were pending against the legislators supporting the Respondent. If in the disqualification proceedings, the legislators are held to be disqualified, there is no question of these legislators then forming a majority. Thus, the basis of the impugned order itself is constitutionally suspect," the plea stated.

It was also stated in the plea that edifice of the ECI's order was based on Shinde faction's purported legislative majority which was an issue to be determined by the Constitution bench.

Since the ECI on Friday while allowing Shinde faction to use party's name & symbol "bow & arrow" had relied on the test of majority in the legislative assembly, the plea stated that legislative majority alone, in this case, could not

be the basis for passing its order. The apex poll body had noted that outcome of the majority in the legislative wing reflected clearly qualitative superiority in Shinde's favour.

"The ECI has failed to consider that the Petitioner enjoys majority in the Legislative Council (12 out of 12) and Rajya Sabha (3 out of 3). It is submitted that in a case of this kind where there is a conflict even in the legislative majority i.e., the Lok Sabha on one hand and Rajya Sabha on the other as well as Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, more particularly, having regard to the fact that there is a possibility of the alleged members losing their right of membership, the legislative majority alone is not a safe guide to determine as to who holds the majority for the purposes of adjudicating a petition under Para 15 of the Symbols Order," the plea had also stated.

# Meghalaya polls: State govt has no role in denying permission for Modi's rally in Tura, says CM Sangma

Agency  
Shillong, Feb 21:

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma claimed that neither he nor his party had any role in denying permission for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election rally at the PA Sangma Sports Complex in Tura.

"All permissions come from the side of the Election Commission of India. So, there is no say from NPP or my side," Sangma, who is also chief of the National People's Party (NPP) said in a statement.

The Sports department informed the West Garo Hills district authorities that permission cannot be given for the PM's

rally there as construction debris may pose safety concerns.

The saffron party, which last month snapped ties with ally NPP ahead of the February 27 assembly election, alleged that the ruling party was trying to stall a "wave of the BJP" in the state.

In a statement, chief minister Sangma said the accusation made by the BJP was false as permissions for rallies are given by the Election Commission and the district administration is now a part of it.

He said such things happen during elections but the BJP has made this into a big issue.

"The stadium has two parts. The first part consists

of the football stadium, which was inaugurated. The other part, which has an indoor stadium and a swimming pool, is not ready and we have made it clear," he said.

Sangma also said the possibility of denying permission may be due to the huge crowd the PM would draw.

"It is a fact that when PM Modi holds a programme, the crowd will be huge. So, I feel that the district administration may have felt that since it is a natural turf, and if many people come, it will damage the natural turf and also there is no parking facility there," he said.

The stadium was opened on December 16 last year.



# Arunachal a major stakeholder in India's Act East Policy, says Prez Murmu

Agency  
Itanagar, Feb 21:

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said that Arunachal Pradesh is an important part of India and a major stakeholder in India's Act East Policy.

Addressing the special session of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (APLA) here, Murmu said though the state and the North Eastern region had been long deprived of the benefits of economic development due to a lack of road, rail and air connectivity, the Union Government at present is giving top priority to the same.

"I am happy to note that the sun of development is shining in Arunachal Pradesh. With rich natural resources and quality human resources, the state has full potential to become an attractive investment destination and a hub of trade and business," she said.

Addressing the members of the legislative assembly the President said a vibrant system of self-governance and grassroots democracy has existed in the land of Arunachal Pradesh for centuries.

The people of this state have actively participated in the modern democratic process as well, which reflects their political consciousness and faith in democracy. The citizens expect from people's representatives that they would always strive for the development of the state and public welfare. As the apex



policymakers of the state, the members of the assembly have a vital role in the development of the state, Murmu said.

The President said that discipline and decorum are the hallmarks of the parliamentary system. We must ensure that the content and quality of the debate are of the highest standard.

"At the same time, we need to build a consensus on the issues of development and public welfare," she said.

Murmu also lauded the APLA for maintaining the highest standards of parliamentary democracy. She appreciated the present and former members of the assembly for maintaining the utmost regard for a healthy democracy.

The president further appreciated APLA for implementing the 'e-Vidhan' - paperless digital journey - under the 'Digital India' program.

She noted that the State Government has declared the

year 2022 as the 'Year of E-Governance' and has launched several E-Governance projects.

She expressed confidence that these projects would not only help in administrative reforms but also contribute to making life easier for the common citizen.

The president said that in today's era, environmental pollution and climate change are critical issues.

"We have to find solutions to these concerns quickly. These matters become more important for a geographically sensitive state like Arunachal Pradesh," she said while appreciating the policymakers of the state for taking care of the issue.

The president said Arunachal Pradesh has resolved to show commitment to climate change through the Pakke Declaration. She expressed hope that other states would also move towards adopting this model to tackle

the issue of climate change.

The president was also happy to note that access to the Assembly Library is available free of cost to the students of schools, colleges and universities.

Highlighting the 'Know Your Assembly' initiative of the APLA which invites students to acquaint themselves with the legislative functioning, Murmu expressed confidence that the younger generation would take advantage of the facility and contribute to the progress of the country and the state.

The president further said that for the overall and inclusive development of our country, there should be more participation of women in every field of work.

The participation of women should increase in all the state assemblies including the APLA as well as in other institutions of people's representation, she said.

Murmu said to ensure that the people of the North East region keep moving forward on the path of development without being cut off from their roots, one needs to lay emphasis on preserving and promoting the tradition, culture and values of the region.

"As the people's representative of Arunachal Pradesh, members of this Assembly have a critical role to play in promoting social change while preserving the richness of the state's cultural values and traditions," she said.

# Assam Rifles organised Awareness Programme on Agniveer Rally



IT News  
Imphal, Feb 21:

It has always been an endeavour of security forces to help the local youths from remote areas to fulfill their ambitions to join the defence forces. In view of the upcoming Agniveer rally for aspirant youth of Manipur, Churachandpur Battalion of IGAR (South) organised awareness for local youth of Tuining and neighbouring villages in

Sanaikot today.

Churachandpur battalion took this opportunity as an initiative to gather around 25 local youths from Tuning and contiguous areas for the awareness programme. The basic aim of this event was to guide on career prospects, registration, documentation and recruitment procedure to join Indian Army through Agniveer scheme 2023. Battalion assured all local youths for all

kind of assistance including free registration, theoretical classes, training of computer skills, physical training and communication skills. Pamphlets were also distributed.

The initiative was well received by the local youth of Tuning and contiguous areas who appreciated the efforts of Churachandpur battalion in reinforcing their motto of being the "Sentinels of North East".

**Contd. from Page 1**

# India's Presidency of the G20...

To fund developmental initiatives, the State requires adequate resources. For this, a robust public finances is required where the State's receipts can match its required expenditure and at the same time ensuring that borrowings of the State are kept within permissible limits.

The State Government continues to take steps to mo-

bilize resources to meet our increasing expenditure requirements. We are focusing on improving our own tax revenue, by increasing collection from existing taxes and also exploring new avenues of revenue mobilization. Technology-based analysis and identification is being used by our agencies to improve compliance. Any additional

resource mobilized will assist the State to meet its various obligations.

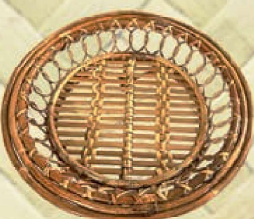
"Our efforts have borne fruit which can be seen from the growth in State GST by 28 % and in overall State's own tax revenue by 25 % growth in 2021-22 compared to 2020-21. I am confident that this trend will continue in the coming years", N. Biren continued.

# 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**