

Sushri Anusuiya Uikey assumes office as Governor of Manipur

IT News
Imphal, Feb 22:

Governor designate Sushri Anusuiya Uikey was today sworn in as the 16th Governor of Manipur (Regular) excluding 7 Additional Charge Governors. She was administered the oath of office by Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Manipur Justice M.V. Muralidaran. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his Council of Ministers, Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly Th. Satyabrata Singh, MP (Rajya Sabha) Sanajaoba Leishemba, MLAs, Chief Secretary, DGP and senior officers of paramilitary forces attended the oath taking ceremony held at the Darbar Hall of Raj Bhavan in Imphal.

After taking the oath, Governor received Rashtriya Salute and inspected Guard of Honour accorded by personnel of Manipur Rifles and India Reserve Battalion.

Later, talking to media persons, Governor thanked the President of India Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving an opportunity to serve the beautiful State of Manipur. She said, she has been entrusted to serve the



State and issues will be solved and developmental activities will be taken up in consultation with Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers. Recalling her past three and half year's service as Governor of Chhattisgarh, Governor said, she received a lot of cooperation and support from the people there and many developmental activities were taken up. She appealed to all the stakeholders especially the people of Manipur to extend cooperation and support for bringing up the State in the

higher level of development and prosperity.

Sushri Anusuiya Uikey has assumed the charge of the office of the Governor of Manipur with effect from the forenoon of 22nd February, 2023. She extends her good wishes and greetings to the people of Manipur.

Anusuiya Uikey (born 10 April 1957) is a politician and currently serving as the governor of Manipur & formerly of Chhattisgarh. She was elected to the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from Damua in the 1985

Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly election as a member of the Indian National Congress. She became Minister for Women and Child Development in Arjun Singh cabinet. By 1998, she had crossed over to BJP and was its losing candidate in 1998 Vidhan Sabha election from Damua. She became a member of Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh in 2006.

She was Governor of Chhattisgarh from 16 July 2019 to 12 February 2023 & appointed as Governor of Manipur on 12 February 2023.

CM and Education Minister wishes students appearing X and XII examination

IT News
Imphal, Feb 21:

CM N Biren Singh wishes the students appearing in the X and XII examination conducted by BOSEM and COHSEM. "I extend my best wishes to the students, who are appearing in this year's Class X and Class XII examinations conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur and Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed in his book "Exam Warrior" that students appearing for examinations should become exam warriors, not worriers, and appear for the

exams in a more enjoyable and less stressful way. Although these examinations are crucial and important in shaping one's career, students should never get stressed but treat exams as a celebration, creating a 'stress-free' environment. Though, students need to study hard and prepare well for the exams to score good marks, it is important to compete only with one's own self, not against anyone else.

At this critical phase, parents and teachers must guide the students to perform with confidence and should not put unnecessary pressure on students. I would like to appeal to our beloved students not to be

over anxious but study with a calm mind.

Th Basanta Kumar, Minister, Education, Law & Legislative Affairs also wishes the students for their examination. "I extend my warm wishes and best greetings to the classes — X and XII students (2022-23) batch who are appearing in the ensuing examinations conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur (BOSEM) and the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM) Examination 2023, which is scheduled to be held from 16th March to 3rd April and 23rd February to 15th April, 2023."

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Chairman of KNLA along with four apprehended

IT News
Imphal, Feb 22:

Mantripukhri Battalion, Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) apprehended four active cadres of the proscribed outfit Kuki National Liberation Army (KNLA) and one active cadre of National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-IM) from Sapermeina, Kangpokpi District of Manipur

on February 20.

The arrested cadres have been identified and SS Chairman of KLA Mr Ngamkhogin @ Hegin, under leadership of whom, notorious activities like extortion & wpm smuggling are being carried out.

Based on reliable information the operational columns were launched in General Area Sapermeina, Kangpokpi District. The operation party established

a mobile check post and during the checking and frisking of suspected passersby Mr Ngamkhogin @ Hegin was apprehended. Further operations led to the apprehension of four additional cadres.

The arrested persons along with seized items have been handed over to the Yangangpokpi Police Station for taking up further necessary legal procedures against them.

LiDAR survey for Imphal-Moreh new railway line project

IT News
Imphal, Feb 22:

Northeast Frontier Railway is using the most modern survey technology, LiDAR (Aerial Ground) for Imphal-Moreh railway line project for the first time. LiDAR (Aerial Ground) for Final location survey of Imphal-Moreh railway line project started from Imphal where a helicopter fitted with state of art aerial LiDAR and Imagery sensors took the first flight from Imphal airport and captured the data related to

ground survey.

LiDAR sensor, mounted on a specially equipped Helicopter scans the ground surface using laser beams and measures heights and positions of millions of points on ground surface with an accuracy of few cm. The LiDAR can penetrate densely forested areas, thus revealing the bare earth, which satellite images or other techniques cannot do. Adoption of this technology will fast-track the survey work, thereby saving considerable time and will also record every minute of the

ground features. During this survey, details of 5.0 Km (2.5 Km on either side) of the proposed alignment is being captured. Based on the findings of the survey, design of the vertical and horizontal alignment, structures, locations of the stations and depots, land requirement, identification of project affected plots/structures will be decided. The Project is being executed by Skylark Designer & Engineers Pvt Ltd under Ircon ISL (Govt. PSU). The work is taken up by Dr. Paramesh Banerjee, renowned

Indian Scientist.

The Final location survey of the proposed Imphal-Moreh railway line (Approx. 110 km) project is currently underway and is expected to be completed within couple of months. The proposed railway line from Imphal to border town of Moreh is part of proposed trans-Asia railway network and will connect India with South-east Asia. The proposed railway line is strategically important and is expected to boost the infrastructure & connectivity in the region.

MoU signed between DSA Chandel and Stadium FC

IT News
Imphal, Feb 22:

A Memorandum of Understanding was entered today between the District Sports Association, Chandel the official organisation responsible for the development of Sports in Chandel District, Manipur represented by Ts. Chamna Anal President, DSA, Chandel and Stadium FC a Youth Club and residential Academy based in

Bangalore, Karnataka represented by Arun Bhatt, Managing Trustee, Sports Stadium Trust who are providing football development program with education options to youths.

The signing of the MoU was held in Dweller Saka Caffe, Japhou Bazar, Chandel with the official witnesses by Lucky Kalia Head Coach, Stadium FC, and Ng. Belling Moyon Asst. GSDSA, Chandel.

In the mutual agreement

both the parties promise to have a good partnership and relationship between it to enroll talented youths from Chandel in the Academy with an aim to train them and develop football for a long-term sponsorship of 3 to 5 years under the agreement. The parties further agreed to start Grassroot Football program for boys and girls in the age group of 8 years to 14 years in Chandel District.

Prolonged Detention of Under-Trials Violation of Article 21 : Manipur HC

By: Sanjeev Sirohi, Advocate

While coming down heavily on prolonged detention of under trials, the Manipur High Court in a learned, laudable, landmark and latest judgment titled *Khongbantam Hitler Singh Vs The Officer-in-Charge, Imphal Police Station in Bail Appln. No. 30 of 2022* that was reserved on February 8, 2023 and then pronounced as recently as on February 14, 2023 granted bail to a person who was alleged to have committed murder of two women and an unborn child in 2017 and termed prolonged detention of under trials as violation of Article 21 of the Constitution. It must be mentioned here that the Single Judge Bench comprising of Acting Chief Justice Justice M.V. Muralidharan said in the order quite sagaciously that, "A humane attitude is required to be adopted by a Judge while

dealing with the bail application. Even if the offence is a serious offence, requires a humane treatment by the Court, humane treatment to all including an accused is requirement of law." Very rightly so!

At the very outset, this brief, brilliant, bold and balanced judgment authored by the Single Judge Bench comprising of Acting Chief Justice M.V. Muralidharan of Manipur High Court at Imphal sets the ball in motion by first and foremost putting forth in para 1 that, "This petition has been filed by the petitioner under Section 439 Cr.P.C. to release him on bail in connection with FIR No.169(5)2017 under Section 302/449/120-B IPC on the file of Imphal Police Station, who is under trial prisoner in Sessions Trial (CAW) Case No.1 of 2018 pending on the file of the Additional Sessions Judge (FTC)

Crime Against Women, Manipur."

To put things in perspective, the Bench envisages in para 2 that, "The case of the prosecution is that on 30.5.2017 at about 5.40 p.m., the complainant Soram Tomba Singh lodged a written complaint with the Officer-in-Charge of Imphal Police Station that on the same day at about 4.45 p.m., when he returned home in his car he found the gate closed from inside and despite horn, neither his wife nor his daughter came out to open the main gate. Thereafter, he crossed the fencing wall by climbing on the car parked near the gate and opened the main gate. Then, he parked the car inside the campus and when he tried to enter inside the house, he found both front doors were fastened with bolt from inside. So, he immediately moved towards the rear door on the

northern side found it to be open. When he entered from the rear door, the complainant found his wife Soram (O) Lakhpyari Devi lying in a pool of blood on the floor. When he proceeded to the next room, he found his daughter Monica Soram, who was pregnant for 8 months, also found lying on the floor in a pool of blood. Then, he opened the front door, ran out of the house and shouted for help and he again went inside the house and checked their bodies. However, they were found dead with grievous injuries on their bodies. Immediately, he rushed to the police station and lodged the complaint. Based on the written complaint, the Imphal police registered an FIR No.169(5)2017 under Section 302/449/120-B IPC against unknown person and investigated the case. During investigation, on 2.6.2017, the investigating

officer arrested the petitioner in connection with the said FIR and sent him to judicial custody."

Do note, the Bench notes in para 14 that, "The tracking report of the case history regarding S.T. (CAW) No.1 of 2018 produced by the respondent clearly shows that the trial has started way back in the year 2018. Though most part of the period covers Covid-19, the materials on record would show that after lifting the lockdown and allowed the Courts to conduct the trial of the cases in the year 2021, no regular trial/day-to-day trial took place in the instant case. It is not the case of the prosecution that the petitioner has delayed the trial. On the other hand, the record reveals that due to failure of the prosecution in bringing the witnesses, the trial stands adjourned from time to time."

Needless to say, the Bench then points out in para 16 that, "It is settled law that the grant or refusal to grant bail lies within the discretion of the Court. The grant or denial is regulated to a large extent by the facts and circumstances of each particular case. In the case on hand, as stated supra, the petitioner seeks bail mainly on the ground of delay in the trial, which started way back in the year 2018 itself. The pandemic started during March, 2020 and in between 2018 and March 2020, no sufficient progress had been taken to conclude the trial."

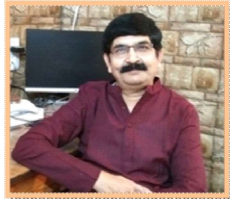
While citing the relevant case law, the Bench mentions in para 17 that, "In State of Kerala v. Raneef, (2011) 1 SCC 784, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held:

"15. In deciding bail applications an important factor which should be certainly be taken into consideration by the

court is the delay in concluding the trial. Often this takes several years, and if the accused is denied bail but is ultimately acquitted, who will restore so many years of his life spent in custody? Is Article 21 of the Constitution, which is the most basic of all the fundamental rights in our Constitution, not violated in such a case? Of course this is not the only factor, but it is certainly one of the important factors in deciding whether to grant bail. In the present case the respondent has already spent 66 days in custody (as stated in Para 2 of his counter-affidavit), and we see no reason why he should be denied bail. A doctor incarcerated for a long period may end up like Dr. Manette in Charles Dickens's novel *A Tale of Two Cities*, who forgot his profession and even his name in the Bastille."

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Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time



By: Vinod Chandrasekhar Dixit

23rd February is celebrated as the World Peace and Understanding Day which focusses on a few specific themes to give it universal importance, such as basic education, literacy, and equality, economic and community development, disease prevention, and so on. The day is celebrated to honour the formation and the contribution of the Rotary Club over the years.

Living together in peace is all about accepting differences and having the ability to listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as living in a peaceful and united way. Peace and Harmony is the basic requirement of any nation. The citizens of a country feel safe and secure and can prosper only if a peaceful environment is maintained. The Day is a significant occasion to commemorate to promote a sense of unity and recognise the importance of peaceful life and is observed to restore unity in a fractured society and to maintain a peaceful dignity among groups.

With a new vision, we can collectively generate and convey a profound change to build the society of tomorrow and propose a tool to express, loud and clear, this will to learn better living and doing together. The more numerous we are to choose "living better together", the more our commitment will change the world. Though the people of our country live peacefully with each other, often the peace is disturbed owing to some political, social, economic and religious factors. Price rise and unemployment also creates unrest among the people. People often come forward to protest against these issues due to which the normal functioning of the society is disrupted. Equal respect to all the religions is a way of promoting peace and harmony in the country. The concern of the humankind for peace can be assessed by taking into account the fact that all religions, all religious scriptures and several religious ceremonies are committed to the cause of peace and all these advocate an elimination of war. People belonging to different religions rejoice each other's company and celebrate all the festivals with equal zeal. In schools, at work places and various other places, people study and work together harmoniously. One elementary way of defining peace has been to say that peace is absence of war. While it was successful in preventing a global war, we have failed to prevent local wars and in fact gave rise to several tensions, stresses, strains and crises in international relations.

It is only when each citizen recognizes the dangers of disunity, would there be complete peace and harmony in the country. The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony. The purpose of this day is to promote peace through a harmonious living together regardless of nationality, gender, language or religion. Peace and harmony are the building blocks of any society. Only if there is peace and harmony in the country would there be growth and development. We must remember that the government cannot be held responsible for maintaining peace and harmony in the country. Each one of us should take it as our responsibility to nurture feelings of brotherhood with fellow citizens. In contemporary times, the most urgent and important international objective has been to preserve protect and defend peace against terrorism.

Human Wellbeing and Global Science Teaching

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

"Education is the most powerful path to sustainability. Economic and technological solutions, political regulations or financial incentives are not enough. We need a fundamental change in the way we think and act." Ethics is, according to Savater (1995), the art of living well, of knowing how to live. To have, practice, and manage the art of living well is ought to provide a good life. A good life implies choosing, which for those with less academic resources is more difficult. Our well-being depends on the existent biodiversity and on ecosystems' prosperity. However, people still choose to deplete natural resources, affecting other species, hence reducing biodiversity, and even annihilating it.

The 2000-2010 decade was productive in ideas, congresses and documents about how the loss of biodiversity jeopardizes our future. It is the decade of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and of the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment (MEA). The MEA (2005) highlights the fact that society does not understand completely how biodiversity and well-being are linked. Most people recognize that their lives depend on natural functions, which provide fresh water, food, shelter, fibers; but people take the benefits they take from Nature for granted. In developed countries, schools teach how important it is to preserve biodiversity. Of course, in these countries, native biodiversity has been deeply affected by the development of societies through centuries. We became aware of the importance of preserving forests, dealing with waste, and purifying water to drink. Schools in developed countries have projects like ECOSCHOOLS, and most (if not all) subjects (English, Geography, History, Informatics, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, etc.) incorporate themes related with the Brundtland Report (1987) and the Agenda 21 (1992) themes. Whereas developed countries have been improving their school systems and acquiring experience in teaching and creating experiences related with biodiversity and sustainability, de-

bating about science and ecology, which are complex issues for kids, teenagers and even adults, developing countries are struggling to bring more children to school, to build better schools, to train more teachers and to improve subjects' curricula (see "progress of goal 4 in 2017" at SDG 4 (2015)). Because people's future will depend on how they relate to ecosystems, it is urgent to provide strategies to empower teachers and learners on a global basis.

"Biodiversity change is inextricably linked to poverty, the largest threat to the future of humanity identified by the United Nations". The contribution done here addresses the concern of empowering society to understand the link between biodiversity and human well-being in such a way that almost every aspect of people's lives could be conducted by a better philosophy of choosing healthier ways of relating to ecosystems' functions, services and species. Our way of living is not yet oriented towards sustainability, and the only way to improve it is by reaching as many people as possible through education. "Education is a public good, a fundamental human right and a basis for guaranteeing the realization of other rights. It is essential for peace, tolerance, human fulfillment and sustainable development." Science, as an institution, has been concerned with these issues and debates a way to "translate economic and socio-cultural values of ecosystems services into monetary values" to make people understand better its importance. Science is still deciphering how biodiversity is linked to ecosystem services, while the United Nations (UN) assesses governments on their efforts to reach Sustainable Development targets related to climate (SDG 13), biodiversity on land (SDG 15) and sea (SDG 14) goals, among others.

Education through life is also an ambitious goal, and, perhaps, still far from reach in many parts of our world. But, the effort of providing information to adults will help people ask more questions and

search for answers.

A basic curriculum for children can be used and adapted to adult's need of learning more about science. "Education transforms lives and is at the heart of UNESCO's (2017) mission to build peace, eradicate poverty and drive sustainable development". Education about conservation ecology is important to improve human relation with natural goods and benefits. Only through education will it be possible to improve the human relationship with ecosystems. The public and governments' interest in reverting the pressures on wild species is increasing, as Rands et al (2010) emphasize, but not effectively to halt biodiversity loss. Perhaps due to the fact that, like climate change, ecology's complexity demands more understanding and compliance from governance and policy, sponsors, markets, education systems, and from common people. "Education systems must be relevant and respond to rapidly changing labour markets, technological advances, urbanization, migration, political instability, environmental degradation, natural hazards and disasters, competition for natural resources, demographic challenges, increasing global unemployment, persistent poverty, widening inequality and expanding threats to peace and safety."

Human-wildlife conflicts another example show the complexity of the human need to use ecosystems and compete with other species. For humans, other species have different value. Some are just to contemplate, while others provide material goods (many of which have been prohibited to collect). Elephants are poached because of their ivory, and though it is prohibited to hunt them, many poachers still take the risk, because of the profit generated in the market. Many elephants are also killed because they are feared and destroy goods. But in all cultures they are seen as symbols of nature, used as flagship species. Beyond the problems they cause, elephant's species are gardeners of the eco-

systems, and they are classified as keystone species, hence, they play an important role in the ecosystems, which humans cannot afford to lose. Conservation ecology is a multidisciplinary field that depends on understanding peoples' beliefs and needs (sociology, anthropology), how ecosystems function (ecology, biology), and how society experiences their time and space (economics, political science, communication science, education science). What can we do, as a global society, to help preserve species like elephants, and people? A general science curriculum for the first nine years of school that emphasizes themes related with human well-being and ecosystems conservation, that enables the debate of complex questions like "what can we do to mitigate ivory poaching?" Poor countries need to be creative in finding solutions. Rich countries need to be supportive and share know-how. For now, our concern is delivering a curriculum for seven years of schooling that conjugates Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Geology in one single subject: Natural Sciences.

To make a difference in a child's life is to empower that child to become free to choose and act, feel and seek security in the environment, have access to basic materials, healthcare and information in a society that enables good social relations among people and that respects ecosystems and other species (MEA, 2005). Educating children from an early age in Science themes will increase their capacity to ask important questions, and to seek answers through their adult life. The Incheon Declaration has the goal of providing nine years of quality education to every child in the World. Whereas some countries have the means and the experience of good practices, underdeveloped countries struggle with many problems, including having a task force which is either unprepared or not large enough to guarantee nine years of studying for every girl and boy.

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Congress needs a composite strategy to take on BJP in 2024 Lok Sabha polls

By Nitya Chakraborty

The Congress is holding its three-day plenary session at Raipur beginning February 24. This conclave is going to be crucial for the party in framing its strategy for the coming Lok Sabha elections in April-May 2024 that are barely 13 months away. In the current round of the state assembly elections in 2023, the Congress has taken a cavalier attitude to the three northeastern states — Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland — where polling will be over by February 27. The three state Congress units are upset that the party high command has let them down by not offering the much-needed assistance in terms of resources, including cash and organisational support.

The party leadership should have held the plenary in March first week after the polls in the NE states and much before the Karnataka assembly elections scheduled in April-May this year. The neglect of campaigning in these three states is not a good augury for the Congress. The party could have performed much better if the state units got the required assistance and senior leaders like Rahul Gandhi had taken part in the campaigning. Now, the polls are over in Tripura (February 16) and the two other states

will go to polls on February 27, without any participation by central leaders, as they all are busy with the upcoming plenary session.

The Congress has to focus now on the remaining six states going to polls in 2023. The most important of them is Karnataka right now as this is the state where the Congress has the potential to defeat the BJP on its own strength, even though there is no electoral understanding with the JD(S). The ground situation in Karnataka has slipped away from the BJP in the last few weeks. The Congress cadres are now rejuvenated after the success of Bharat Jodo Yatra, and the joint campaigning by the two factional leaders, S Siddaramaiah and D K Shivkumar, has boosted their confidence further.

In the recent pre-plenary press conference, senior Congress leaders have underlined their eagerness in building up the broadest unity of anti-BJP parties. As a follow-up, the party should open a dialogue with the JD(S) for an electoral understanding. Senior opposition leaders like Sharad Pawar can help facilitate the process. A big defeat for the BJP in Karnataka polls would likely trigger a new momentum which should help the Congress in

the three other key states — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh — to defeat BJP comfortably. If somehow, the BJP is able to scrape through in Karnataka polls, it will have a demoralising impact on the Congress in other states. So the defeat of the BJP in Karnataka assembly polls is of crucial importance to the whole of the non-BJP opposition, and not just the Congress.

Right now, all attention of the Congress party should be on Karnataka and the plenary should work out its strategy accordingly. Once the BJP can be defeated in Karnataka, the Congress will find it easier in the states where it is the main party taking on the BJP. In Telangana, the main party fighting the BJP will be the BRS of K Chandrasekhar Rao. The Congress has to fight in that state with both the BJP and the BRS. In Mizoram, the Congress has to look for alliance with the non-NDA regional parties of the state.

Another extremely important matter to carefully consider during the plenary session should be the approach towards other opposition parties ready to fight the BJP jointly in the coming Lok Sabha elections. It is a fact that the Congress is the strongest non-BJP party even now among the opposition, despite its decline over the last nine years. But still, in the interest of the grand old party itself, the

Congress leadership has to be pragmatic in allowing the leading regional parties who are fighting the BJP to be the bigger electoral partner in their respective states, for the sake of building stronger alliances.

For the Congress, the best course will be to follow a three-point strategy regarding the non-BJP opposition parties. Right now, there are model alliances in Bihar and Tamil Nadu, which effectively demonstrate how the anti-BJP parties can be united under one umbrella. Similarly, in Kerala, the 20 seats will be divided between the CPIM-led Left Democratic Front and the Congress-led front. So, the seats will be with the anti-BJP parties, despite fighting between the fronts. In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress is the main contender against the BJP both within the state and in the next Lok Sabha polls, wherein the TMC is expected to do better than the last time. Whatever TMC gains, will be a loss to the BJP, and that will belong to the opposition front.

In order to make the opposition unity broader and sustainable, two issues should be taken into account by the Congress as also the joint opposition. First, the matter of the prime ministerial face should be kept open till the 2024 Lok Sabha elections results are out. The post-election scenario will determine the PM position, on the basis of the respective strengths of the parties,

including the Congress. Apart, there cannot be a set-in-stone pre-poll alliance of the opposition parties against the BJP, and a flexible approach is need of the hour. Efforts should be made for maximum understanding to avert any division of non-BJP votes. Although, political reality on the ground might lead to some electoral contestation among the non-BJP parties in individual states, but that should not prevent the anti-BJP opposition parties to join hands after the 2024 polls, in case of a hung Lok Sabha.

In sum, the strategy should be the main non-BJP opposition party in every state will be the leader in that state in taking the fight to the BJP, and it can choose allies, if needed. As per this, the Congress will be the decider in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and also in Assam. Similarly, RJD will be the decider in Bihar, DMK in Tamil Nadu, where the model fronts are continuing. TMC will fight on its own in Bengal. The Left Democratic Front and the UDF will be fighting as usual in Kerala.

Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are dominated by the regional parties who have maintained distance from the anti-BJP opposition. But these parties are feeling the heat from the BJP and if the BJP becomes a minority after the Lok

Sabha polls, these two parties may extend support to the non-BJP alliance provided they get the due confidence. In Telangana, BRS will fight both the Congress and the BJP, but there are chances that the BRS will support a non-BJP government after the elections. Similarly AAP will move alone and it will fight the Congress in the states. Only in the post poll situation, AAP can be persuaded to join the non-BJP front.

For Congress, the primary task at the Raipur plenary should be to ensure that optimum mobilization of party resources and cadres are made to ensure victory of the party in the state polls, where it is the main contender taking on the BJP. Victory in Karnataka and the three other states in the assembly polls this year could set the pace for 2024 Lok Sabha elections. If the Congress comes out successful in at least 120 seats in the Lok Sabha polls, then automatically, the party can vie for leadership position in the event of a hung parliament. Much like in the event of the 2004 elections, the other opposition parties would have no problem in supporting a Congress-led government at the centre in 2024 as well. The Congress should move fast and steady after the Raipur session to match the killer instinct shown by the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah duo in Indian election battle.

(IPA Service)

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Over 100 Kg smuggled gold worth Rs 51 crore seized by DRI

Seven Sudanese among Ten, held in a Pan India operation codenamed "Golden Dawn"

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 22:

In a pan-India operation, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a gold smuggling syndicate of Sudanese nationals operating through the Nepal border and seized 101.7 kg smuggled gold, valued at about Rs 51 crore early this week.

In the operation, codenamed "Golden Dawn", DRI also seized foreign currency worth Rs 74 lakh and Indian currency worth Rs 63 lakh and arrested 7 Sudanese and 3 Indian nationals, official statement here said.

The DRI intercepted the smugglers at Patna (Bihar) and Pune and Mumbai (in Maharashtra). In Mumbai the raids were conducted at Colaba and Zaveri Bazar in South Mumbai.

The seized gold, mostly in paste form, was being brought to Patna through the India-Nepal border and then transported via train or by air to different parts of the country, largely to Mumbai. The contraband included about 20.2 kg of smuggled gold in assorted forms seized from different premises in Mumbai, being used for extraction/storage of smuggled gold.

Three Indians were apprehended in this follow-up action. They included two brothers-Saif Sayyed Khan and



Shamsher, operating from Colaba in South Mumbai, who used to purchase the gold from foreign nationals and sell it to a merchant-Manish Prakash Jain, operating from Zaveri Bazar. Jain was said to be involved in the clandestine deal earlier too.

The DRI officials intercepted three Sudanese nationals late night on February 19 while boarding a train from Patna railway station for Mumbai. Paste containing gold weighing 37.126 kg in 40 packets was recovered from two Sudanese nationals who had ingeniously concealed it in specially made cavities of the sleeveless jackets worn by them. The third person was the handler coordinating the smuggling activity at the border area

and arranging the transport of the smuggled gold.

The second set of two Sudanese women nationals was held on February 20 in Pune while travelling from Hyderabad to Mumbai via bus and 5.615 kg of gold in assorted forms concealed in their handbags was recovered from them.

The third set of two Sudanese nationals travelling to Mumbai from Patna was intercepted at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus on Central Railway in Mumbai on the same day. Paste containing gold weighing 38.76 kg in 40 packets was recovered from them.

DRI has earlier unearthed different modus operandi of smuggling foreign-origin gold into India such as from the north-eastern parts of the

country either through courier routes of logistics companies, using concealment methods in vehicles, in person by bus, train, flight, etc, or recovery of gold from the seabed in Tamil Nadu coast after it was thrown away by smugglers from a fishing boat, etc, apart from the traditional modes used by crooks. The recently detected gold smuggling in paste form is relatively new method.

Forex Seized

In another development a passenger-Poonam Sombaya (53) travelling on an American passport was arrested along with foreign exchange -10 lakh US dollars and 37 Singapore dollars (worth Rs08.36 crore) by the Customs officials at Mumbai airport. The foreign exchange was hidden in a bag.

Delhi's new mayor is ex-professor, first-time AAP councillor Shelly Oberoi

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 22:

Aam Aadmi Party's first-time councillor Shelly Oberoi was elected Delhi's new mayor Wednesday, ending a months-long fight between the ruling AAP and Opposition BJP over voting rights to nominated members.

Oberoi was elected a councillor in the December municipal polls from the Delhi East Patel Nagar ward — which is a BJP stronghold.

The 39-year-old is a former visiting professor, and has a PhD from the Indira Gandhi National Open University's (IGNOU) School of Management Studies.

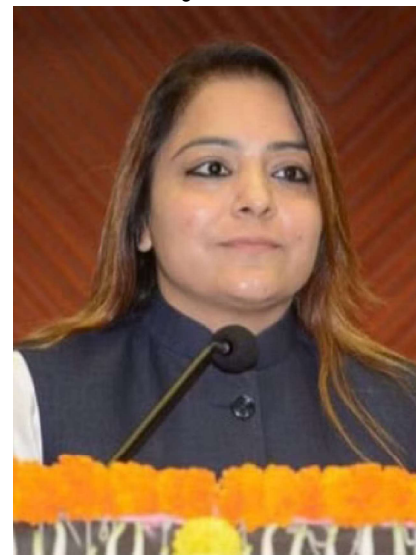
The last three attempts to elect the mayor, deputy mayor and six members of the standing committee failed due to a political tussle between the Aam Aadmi Party and Bharatiya Janata Party over voting rights to the House's 10 nominated personalities, also called aldermen.

The AAP contended that since these members had been nominated by the Lieutenant Governor — who reports to the Centre — their vote might skew numbers in favour of the BJP in the all-powerful, decision-making standing committee.

The AAP was expected to win the mayor and deputy mayor's posts in any case.

After elections on 4 December, which the AAP won by dethroning the BJP, the civic House convened on 6 January, 24 January and 6 February to elect the mayor, deputy mayor and the six standing committee members.

But the House was stalled amid unruly scenes all three times over the aldermen's



oath-taking and the question of their voting.

In the last meeting, presiding officer Satya Sharma of the BJP administered oath to the aldermen, before calling the elected councillors. AAP strongly objected to this move, and the House adjourned for the third time.

A plea was thereafter filed in the Supreme Court by AAP, challenging Delhi LG V.K. Saxena's decision to permit the nominated members to vote.

Giving the ruling party's argument a big leg-up, a top court bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud ruled that nominated members could not vote in these elections. "Nominated members cannot go for election. The constitutional provision is very clear," the bench observed.

The apex court then issued a notice to the LG to hold the mayoral elections soonest.

The municipal elections in Delhi were held on 4 December and results were announced on 7 December. The AAP won 134 seats out of the 250, while the BJP got 104.

According to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, the Municipal House has to meet within a month after the conclusion of the civic polls to elect the mayor. That process was significantly delayed this time.

There were a total of 274 valid votes for the mayoral elections Wednesday, including those of 10 MPs and 14 MLAs. Nine Congress councillors boycotted the polls. Either of the two mayoral candidates needed 134 votes to win.

Gulab Chand Kataria sworn in as Assam's 31st Governor

Agency
Guwahati, Feb 22:

Gulab Chand Kataria was sworn in as the 31st Governor of Assam at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati on Wednesday.

The 78-year-old is a resident of Udaipur in Rajasthan. He was previously the Home Minister of Rajasthan and a leader of the opposition in the state assembly.

On Tuesday, Kataria and his wife Anita were given a warm welcome by several cabinet ministers of Assam on their arrival in the city.

He succeeds professor



Jagdish Mukhi, who completed his term on February 19.

Kataria resigned as MLA last Thursday, days after being named the governor of Assam.

Kataria handed over the resignation letter to Rajasthan assembly speaker CP Joshi.

Kataria served eight terms as MLA, representing the Udaipur assembly constituency in Rajasthan.

With the resignation of Kataria, the number of MLAs in the house of 200 has reduced to 199.

Assembly elections in Rajasthan are due later this year.

Active Covid cases rise to 1,935

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 22:

India recorded 125 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases increased to 1,935, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll stands at 5,30,762 with one death re-

ported by Chandigarh, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The virus case tally was recorded at 4.46 crore (4,46,85,257) while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.81 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from

the disease surged to 4,41,52,560, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent. According to the ministry's website, 220.63 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

How to Improve Your Memory?



By: Vijay GarG

retain, and retrieve information.

A few simple procedures and exercises I shall share with you for attaining good memory within a short period of time.

Step 1: Write Down Things You Are Grateful For
This is a great step to take as a beginner and this would enable you to start thinking of the events of the day. During this process, you would find yourself being grateful for certain events that took place.

Step 2: Write a Paragraph of a Positive Experience
The day has many events happening. Before going to bed, make it a habit that you write down at least one small paragraph of a positive experience that you went through the day. Definitely, every day would have some positives for you.

Step 3: Exercise

Exercising is also the best way to circulate oxygen in your body and your brain needs good amount of oxygen to stay fresh and healthy.

Step 4: Have a Proper Diet

Food is important by all means for you. Food not only fuels your body but also the contents in the right proportion help your brain cells to be active and energetic. Try having small meals for 5-6 times, rather than the 3 large meals.

Step 5: Pay Attention

Paying attention to your surroundings is one good way of improving your memory. It is a pathway to boosting your memory.

Step 6: Stay Organised

A cluttered mind would not be able to recall things. Organise yourself. Following

a pattern of maintaining your daily accessories or maintaining a diary, or having reminders or simply maintaining notes, would help you to plan things and help you to stay in order.

Step 7: Visualise Events

Your brain has great powers of imagination and visualising things. When reading a book or listening to anything, visualise them. Pictures leave back greater effects than words.

Third party image reference

Step 8: Repeat

Try repeating the information for several times, so that sticks to your mind. When you rewind the information, the chances of remembering are more and the tendency of forgetting becomes less.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR DIRECTORATE OF VETY. & A.H. SERVICES

E-TENDER NOTICE

Imphal, the 9th February, 2023

No.1/NLM/2020-Vety(Pt.II): The Director, Vety. & A.H., Govt. of Manipur hereby invites E-Tender with 2 bid system from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved intermediary and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) registered Insurance Companies for Livestock Insurance of 9739 Cattle Units (1 Cattle unit = 10 sheep/goat/pig/rabbit) under National Livestock Mission (NLM) to be covered in all Districts of Manipur in respect of Vety. & A.H. Services, Manipur for the year 2022-23.

Description of each item are enclosed in the Annexure "I" and "II".

The detail of the Tender will be available on the website www.manipurertenders.gov.in

Sd/-
(Ng. Ibotombi Singh)
Director, Vety. & A.H. Services,
Manipur.

Contd. from Page 1

Prolonged Detention of Under-Trials Violation of Article 21...

Quite ostensibly, the Bench underscores in para 10 stating that, "It is settled law that the grant of bail ought not to be denied only on the perceived apprehension by the Court that the accused, if restored to liberty, will tamper with the evidence. There must be some prima facie evidence on record or reasonable and justifiable grounds to believe that in case the benefit of bail is extended to an accused, he is going to misuse his liberty or he would create conditions which are not conducive to hold a fair trial. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in various judgments has confirmed that "bail is the rule and jail is an exception. The object of bail is neither punitive nor preventive but is meant to secure presence of the accused during the trial."

Quite forthrightly, the Bench mandates in para 19 observing that, "In a catena of decision, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that a procedure which keeps large number of people behind bars without trial, for long, cannot be regarded as "reasonable, just, fair" so as to be in conformity with the provisions of Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Detaining the under-trial prisoners in custody for an indefinite period is a gross violation of Article 21 of the Constitution of India."

While citing yet another relevant case law, the Bench states in para 20 that, "In Sanjay Chandra v. CBI, reported in (2012) 1 SCC 40, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held: "21. In bail applications, generally, it has been laid down from the earliest times that the object of bail is to secure the appearance of the accused person at his trial by reasonable amount of bail. The ob-

ject of bail is neither punitive nor preventative. Deprivation of liberty must be considered a punishment, unless it is required to ensure that an accused person will stand his trial when called upon. The Courts owe more than verbal respect to the principle that punishment begins after conviction, and that every man is deemed to be innocent until duly tried and duly found guilty."

There can be no gainsaying that the Bench then mentions in para 21 that, "As stated supra, the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as this Court held that bail is the rule and commitment to jail is an exception. The Courts have also observed that refusal of bail is a restriction on the personal liberty of an individual guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India."

Most laudably, the Bench then holds in para 22 that, "The way in which the trial is conducted in the case on hand clearly shows that the trial is not likely to be concluded in near future. Therefore, as rightly argued by learned counsel for the petitioner, keeping the petitioner in custody indefinitely till the completion of trial would cause great hardship to him and also hits personal liberty. When the under-trial prisoners are detained in jail custody to an indefinite period, Article 21 of the Constitution of India is violated. Therefore, the petitioner cannot be made to languish behind bars for a longer period of time."

It would be instructive to note that the Bench then while citing a recent and relevant case law minces no words to state in para 24 that, "In Dataram Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh and another, reported in

(2018) 3 SCC 22, the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that a fundamental postulate of criminal jurisprudence is the presumption of innocence, meaning thereby that a person is believed to be innocent until found guilty. However, there are instances in our criminal law where a reverse onus has been placed on an accused with regard to some specific offences, but that is another matter and does not detract from the fundamental postulate in respect of other offences. Yet another important facet of criminal jurisprudence is that the grant of bail is the general rule and putting a person in jail or in a prison or in a correctional home is an exception. Unfortunately, some of these basic principles appear to have been lost sight of with the result that more and more persons are being incarcerated and for longer periods. This does not do any good to our criminal jurisprudence or to our society."

No doubt, the Bench rightly states in para 25 that, "Thus, it is clear that grant or denial of bail is entirely the discretion of the Judge considering the bail application, but even so, the exercise of judicial discretion has been circumscribed by a large number of decisions rendered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as by the High Courts in the country."

Briefly stated, the Bench enunciates in para 26 that, "To put it shortly, a humane attitude is required to be adopted by a Judge while dealing with the bail application. Even if the offence is a serious offence, requires a humane treatment by the Court, humane treatment to all including an accused is requirement of law."

While espousing bail for petitioner, the Bench states in para 27 that, "The cardinal principles of law for granting bail will not be affected when enlarging the petitioner on bail, inasmuch as the investigation has already been completed. As stated supra, the case is pending for examination of further prosecution witnesses. Therefore, the question of influencing to the witnesses or hamper or tamper of the prosecution case by the petitioner after his release does not arise."

Quite pertinently, the Bench while citing a recent and relevant case law observes in para 28 that, "In Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb, Criminal Appeal No. 98 of 2021, the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that once it was made obvious that a timely trial would not be possible and that the accused has suffered incarceration for a significant period of time, Courts would ordinarily be obligated to enlarge them on bail."

Most rationally and most significantly, the Bench holds in para 29 that, "Though the allegation against the petitioner is very serious in nature and he is alleged to have committed murder of two women and an unborn child in the womb, taking note of the fact that the petitioner is in jail since 2.6.2017 and also the trial of the case has not concluded yet for one reason or the other, in the interest of justice and in view of the undertaking given by the petitioner that he shall remain present in person before the trial Court on the date fixed for the examination of the last prosecution witness as well as till the stage of examination of him under Section 313 Cr.P.C. and its final order, this Court is of the view that the petitioner

can be enlarged on bail in the given facts and circumstances of the case, however, subject to certain conditions."

Finally, the Bench concludes by holding in para 30 that, "Accordingly, Bail Application 30 of 2022 is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be enlarged on bail in connection with the FIR No. 169(5)2017 under Section 302/449/120-B IPC on the file of Imphal Police Station, who is an under trial prisoner in Sessions Trial (CAW) Case No. 1 of 2018 pending on the file of the Additional Sessions Judge (FTC) Crime Against Women, Manipur, subject to the petitioner furnishing a personal bond in the sum of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand) with two local sureties each in the like sum to the satisfaction of the learned Additional Sessions Judge (FTC) Crime Against Women, Manipur with the following conditions:

(i) The petitioner shall not leave the place of his residence without the permission of the trial Court and shall ordinarily reside at a place of his residence and the complete address of such place shall be furnished to the learned Additional Sessions Judge (FTC) Crime Against Women, Manipur at the time of release.

(ii) The petitioner shall appear before the Additional Sessions Judge (FTC), Crime Against Women, Manipur weekly once i.e. every Monday at 10.30 a.m., apart from all hearing dates.

(iii) If the petitioner has passport, he shall also surrender the same to the Additional Sessions Judge (FTC), Crime Against Women, Manipur.

(iv) The petitioner shall not

contact nor visit nor threaten nor offer any inducement to any of the prosecution witnesses, particularly the complainant and his family members.

(v) The petitioner shall not tamper with evidence nor otherwise indulge in any act or omission that would prejudice the proceedings in the matter.

(vi) The petitioner is directed to co-operate the trial Court for speedy disposal of the case.

(vii) It is clarified that if the petitioner misuses the liberty or violate any of the conditions imposed upon him, the prosecution

shall be free to move this Court for cancellation of bail.

(viii) Any observations made hereinabove shall not be construed to be a reflection on the merits of the case and shall remain confined to the disposal of the present bail applications.

(ix) The Additional Sessions Judge (FTC) Crime Against Women, Manipur is directed to expedite the trial and dispose of Sessions Trial (CAW) Case No. 1 of 2018 as early as possible, preferably within a period of three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

CM and Education...

Education is not just a process of giving knowledge for a future job but a lifelong process which creates an understanding of moral and ethical values to guide one's life in the right path. The first and foremost thing about exams is never to be scared of them. Each examination is succeeded by preparatory time, which must be utilized optimally. If you do it, you will love to take any exam. The second thing about exams is to give

your hundred percent near the exams to studies. Don't panic. Revise as much as you can with proper breaks. Don't lose heart. If you give your best efforts, the results will be rewarding. Best of luck to all the children for success. Exam time is challenging for all of us. I am sure that with our encouragement, the hard work of the children will definitely pay off. As Education Minister and as a father, I wish to encourage all children.

NOTICE

I, Yengkhom Punimashi Devi (Existing Name of spouse as per change of Next of kin Record/Service Document), Name: Yengkhom Somorjit Singh (Name of Husband) Resident of Nameirakpam Leikai, Thongju, P.O. & P.S. - Singamei, Imphal East District, Manipur (Address) have change my Name from Yengkhom Punimashi Devi (Existing Name of spouse as per change of Next of kin Record/Service Documents) to Yengkhom Punimashi Devi (proposed/adopted New Name) vide Affidavit dated 16/02/2023 (Date of Affidavit in DD/MM/YYYY format) before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Imphal East Manipur (Name and place of the Court).

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

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Yaipha Thourang Handloom & Handicrafts
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