

COCOMI & UNC urge to commission NRC to check influx of immigrants

IT News
Imphal, Feb 24:

Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) and the United Naga Council (UNC) have urged the government of Manipur to begin work for Population Commission & NRC before it's too late.

A joint statement of the two apex organization said that the future of Manipur grim with present impact from influx immigrants. It said that with the continuous influx of immigrants' population in the state causing serious threat to the demography of the region, it is now pertinent to acknowledge the fact that various serious impact in the

state including the loss of forest area, massive deforestation, gross smuggling of drugs from across the border and unidentified and accounted number of influx population from all directions has led to the urgent need for the state to pull up socks and take some real action before it's too late.

The two indigenous Civil Society apex body COCOMI & UNC has been pursuing the state and the central govt. to take action regarding the matter and in relation with that we have submitted several memorandum demanding for NRC exercise, constitution of Population Commission which the present state cabinet has already approved and

to not recognize any new villages without proper verification and scrutiny at the govt. level.

"It would be wise to take note of the last Monsoon Session Assembly's private member resolution initiated by MLA Th. Joykishan in the floor of the house on 5th August 2022 where the house resolves the matter for NRC and Population Commission unanimously", the joint statement said.

It added that no visible action from the state govt. showing any sign of seriousness and urgent concern to such a serious issue of illegal migrants. With times passing by and the risk to rectify the problems becoming more big-

ger with each passing days, it is high time that the state govt. should begin some immediate action to save the future of this land and its people from all forms of impact arising out of the demographic imbalance and ever continuing pressure from illegal immigrants and migrants it added.

The two apex organization appealed the present govt. to act soon or the future of Manipur is likely to be doomed very soon. If the govt. fails to act as an urgent matter, COCOMI and UNC has no other options than to come forward and take its own course to save the future of our land and its people by all possible means, the two apex bodies warn.

Manipur Legislative Assembly Session: 34 Police Outpost to be set up in Border Areas: Chief Minister

IT News
Imphal, Feb 24:

Leader of the House, Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh stated that with approval of Ministry of Home Affairs, 34 police outpost will be set up in the border area to check infiltration from neighboring countries. This was replied during the Question Hour raised by Member of the House, MLA, K. Ranjit Singh, on the Fourth Day of the 3rd Session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly held today.

CM, N. Biren Singh further informed the house that from 01/01/2012 till date, the state apprehended 393 Myanmar; out of which 1 was deported, 107 in the judicial custody, 105 in detention center and 180 were released on bail.

He also highlighted the various measures taken up by the State Government to check/curb infiltration such as biometric surveillance, house to house Aadhaar verification, security alert, amongst others.

Regarding irrigation of paddy fields, N. Biren replied



that irrigation facilities are provided in 46,512 hectares of agricultural land by Minor Irrigation and Water Resource Departments. He continued that ground water extraction through tube wells, rain water harvesting and construction of check dams at the foothills are being taken up to provide continued irrigation facilities.

On the question raised by Member of the House, MLA, Th. Lokeshwar Singh on Land registration, Leader of the House stated that a cabinet sub-committee verified the land buyers whether they are indigenous people of Manipur. He asserted that strict rules are in place to protect the state's land from outsiders.

International Bioresource Conclave & Ethnopharmacology Congress inaugurated

IT News
Imphal, Feb 24:

The three days International Bioresource Conclave along with the 22nd Congress of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology and the 10th Congress of Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE SFE-2023) is inaugurated today at the City Convention Centre, Imphal, Manipur with the theme "Reimagine Ethnopharmacology: Globalization of Traditional Medicine". This International Bioresource Conclave and Ethnopharmacology Congress is being organized by Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Imphal in collaboration with Society for Ethnopharmacology, India



and International Society for Ethnopharmacology, Switzerland. This congress is happening for the first time at Imphal and also in the Northeastern Region to showcase different initiatives for promotion of bioresources and local tra-

ditional medicines.

During the programme, Chief Guest, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs and Education, Govt. of India highlighted about the unique bioresources and traditional medicines of

NER which need to be explored scientifically. He mentioned that this conference mainly focused on globalization of traditional medicines which is being organized for the first time in NER.

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District Skill & Employment Mela held at Ankhasuo Village, Pherzawl

IT News
Imphal, Feb 24:

The District Skill Committee, Pherzawl organized District Skill & Employment Mela 2023 at Ankhasuo Village Community Hall under Vangai Range Sub-Division of Pherzawl District.

Speaking as Chief Guest, Deputy Commissioner, Pherzawl Haulianlal Guite highlighted about the need for development of skill training in today's competitive job market where public sector jobs are limited. Urging the participants to avail the opportunities provided by the state and central governments, he ad-

vised the youths to focus skilling themselves on the right skills for employability and also self-reliant.

Stalls were opened by JCRC Skills Solution, National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Ozone Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Manipur State Rural Livelihood Mission (MSRLM) and Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET).

Mentioned may be made

that the Skill & Employment Mela 2023 was organised with an aim to provide employment opportunities to the district youth by providing them skill trainings and also build a vibrant Skill Development ecosystem by up skilling the youth and the unemployed.

The event was attended by, among others, Th. Autumn, DFO Pherzawl Forest Division and coordinated by Napoleon Khwairakpam, MNGF Pherzawl with the support of District Administration, Pherzawl. The Mela was held under the auspices of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India.

Meeyamgi Numit and Hill Leaders Day held at Chandel

IT News
Chandel, Feb 24:

The District Hill Leaders & Meeyamgi Numit for the month of February, 2023 was held at multipurpose hall, mini Secretariat, DC complex, Chandel today.

As part of today's programme the ADC Chandel

Md. Firoj Khan gave away various items to beneficiaries under various schemes of different departments. Under the Zonal Education Office, text books, activity books and uniforms were distributed to students of Lamphou Pasna Aided Primary school. Other materials like Mathematics Kits, Sports materials, like vol-

ley ball, badminton rackets etc and MDM plates were also given to the school.

As usual different departments like Health, Social Welfare, Agriculture, ICDS, and all the other departments of the district rendered services to many individuals of the district. Free medical checkups were also conducted by the

health department at the venue.

In today's programme and applications of various issues related to developmental works and others were received for further necessary actions.

Today's program was attended by, SDOs DLOs and other officials of the district.

District level awaeness program on International year of Millets held

IT News
Chandel, Feb 24:

A District level Awareness program on the International year of Millets were organised by the District Agriculture office Chandel, at the Multipurpose Hall Mini secretariat, DC complex, Chandel today.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, in the opening function of today's programme, the Addl. Deputy Commis-

sioner, Chandel Md. Firoj Khan, said that subsequent to the India government's declaration of the year 2018 as the National year of Millets, the UN General Assembly, declared the Year 2023 as the year of Millets, as proposed by the Indian Government and is being observed as the year of Millets throughout the world. He further added that Chandel being quite suitable for these

crops, the prospects are very high and urged the district level officers to create awareness amongst the people of the district.

In today program Dr. KL. Levis, Agronomy, KVK, Chandel spoke about Cultivation of Millets and Preparation of value added products of Millets and Dr. Lourembam Polen, Plant Pathology, Agri spoke on the Post harvest Management of Millets.

Today's function was attended by joint Director, department of Agriculture, Todingang Panmei, district Agriculture officer, Chandel Smt Ts. Gladney Mongsang as the guest of honour and the functional President respectively.

The programme was also attended by District level officers, staffs and officials of the department of Agriculture, Farmers, and many stake holders of the district.

Book House inaugurated



IT News
Imphal, Feb 24:

A new book store named People's Book House (PBH) has been inaugurated at Manipur University, Chanchipur. The store is located adjacent to the Central Library of Manipur University.

The inaugural program was attended by researchers, faculties, social activists, journalists,

and advisory members and office bearers of National Research Centre, Manipur.

The cutting of the ceremonial ribbon was done by Wairokpam Gonen, advisor of NRC.

Commenting on the idea of book house, the President of NRC Th. Ajit termed the book house as a collective initiative of book lovers and NRC to encourage the local publishers and

writers to expand the horizon of writing culture in Manipur.

"The idea of the Book House is to avail books on northeast India and Southeast Asian borderlands to students of Manipur to encourage students towards wider reading and research", continued Rk Gunikanta, Secretary General of NRC.

Several students visited the book store after the inaugural event.

The Drunken 'Nagaland'- Alcohol, Dirty Politics and Dawn of a New World



By: Akummoa Nokdir

Nagaland is a so-called 'Christian' state wherein by law buying and selling of liquor and also its storage as well as consumption has been banned. Nagaland has exhibited a serious 'policy phobia' regarding the question of liquor/ alcohol consumption. Nagaland is also one of those states that banned liquor, which evidently recorded the highest number of deaths due to ailments related to alcohol consumption. One report (2013-2018) which is available in the public domain, says around 4,051 patients were admitted in various hospitals with alcohol related ailments and 479 deaths have been recorded.

Article 47 of the Constitution of India says that, "the state shall make every effort to ban the consumption of intoxicating drinks and substances that are injurious to health". Though not legally enforceable, "Directive Principles of State Policies" set goals for the state so that the citizens can lead a good life. HOWEVER, what we have generally witnessed is that there is a great gap between theory and practice, and liquor ban certainly does not serve the purpose nor meet the objectives envisaged under Article 47. In fact, this hollow policy of liquor ban is responsible for actively encouraging the rise and shine of 'Liquor Black Market' and 'deaths of people' due to the consumption of contami-

nated alcohol. Moreover, since I have eyes and a brain, I can very well observe as to how the local/ state leaders/businessmen/influential people are actively involved in the indirect, illegal business of liquor and allied activities. Illegal liquor business could not have achieved full-on prosperity had it not been blessed by the tribal leaders, state politicians and the government servants.

We Nagas are primarily the most cunning people, we know how to play with the system that we ourselves have created to achieve our illegal objectives, unlawful goals and sinful desires. The Government of India has been lawfully helping Nagaland to manage its economy and maximum capital as well as revenue expenditures under its legal obligations as per Article 371 (A), however, it is we who misused the beautifully created system, and this observation gives a lot of pain to me as a Naga student. In short, Nagas were never troubled by any outsiders or non-Nagas, it is we the Nagas who have continuously troubled and stolen rights of the other Nagas and dug a big, deep 'CAVE' for ourselves. The current development in our state, for example, an ongoing movement of "Frontier Nagaland" is also not just a result of state failure, but the result of a failure of the Nagas as individuals as well as a community too. I feel ashamed as a Naga and an Indian - a citizen of this beautiful, free country which runs on the Rule of Law and the Command of the Constitution. As a student, I do not see any Law, Rule or System in Nagaland.

I have lived outside in different parts of India with my educated parents and now I am living in Nagaland. I can see the stark differences. Here, we do not value Law and System. We do not follow traffic rules. We do not respect Police in Nagaland.

We do not follow hygiene, we want to use washed-branded clothes but we shamelessly spit on the road and in the house. Furthermore, there are so many other things which otherwise may not be lawful or legal we do in the name of "cultural practices and traditions". For e.g. since the election season is going on - I would say, the practice of declaring "Consensus Candidate" by villages in Nagaland which is justified by people in the name of cultural practice and tradition, is the extreme violation of Law of the Land. There are people who manipulate/violate the right to vote of people by threat or money. When will Nagas wake up? We talk about the "Naga Solution", but first we have to find a solution to our own corrupt minds, demonic hearts, lusty desires and selfish souls. We have to free ourselves from the clutches of undemocratic rule of village councils and invisible forces. We Nagas first have to free ourselves from our own selfish nature - that is, I believe - is a real freedom, that is real solution, that is real achievement for our Nagas.

We are living in an interesting time, an era of grand transformation. We have suffered a lot in the hands of our own. We have seen how politics is being played in the last six decades. We have also witnessed how the inactive nature of politicians, their lack of vision and selfish character, Nagaland has evolved into the number one corrupt state in India. How long are we going to tolerate this? Old generation of leaders is teaching and indoctrinating younger generations of leaders with wrong ideas, wrong worldviews and wrong politics. The legacy of corruption, political blindness and social narrow mindedness seems to have been passed from the older generation to the younger generation. We should stop this immediately.

The wrongs and mistakes (knowingly, unknowingly) commit-

ted by the older generation of tribal leaders, Ministers, MLAs and Government servants of the state of Nagaland should never be repeated. Older generation of Politicians and the Old style of Politics should be compulsorily retired from Nagaland Politics.

Generation of Politicians and all those members of Legislative Assembly of Nagaland (current and past) that banned (support/encouraged) liquor and transformed our beautiful, innocent "Christian State of Nagaland" into "Drunken state of Nagaland", created fertile ground for corruption, kept people in the darkness, never created the culture of Rule of Law, never taught people/citizens their rights and duties, stolen the rights of the Eastern Naga people must be kept outside the political affairs of our state in the interests of all of us and our state of Nagaland. Time has come to initiate a cleanliness drive. This election is an opportunity for us.

Nagaland was created in 1963, since then nobody taught our people the meaning of Right to Vote or Justice. Today, nobody cares about choosing the right candidate. They understand elections as an opportunity to earn money. In Nagaland people take money and sell their vote. They do not understand that selling the vote is selling self-respect and honor. In Nagaland our leaders never taught us the meaning of "One Man, One Vote, One Value", our leaders never taught us the value of our Constitutional rights.

As I see, many so-called leaders, intellectuals or people who showed courage to go against the system are being bought with a few thousands or lakhs of rupees or offer of a high position in Government and soon they too become a part of the bandwagon/evil gangs of jokers, power agents, power mongers and political Dalals. However, in all

the darkness, I have also seen a handful of people who demonstrate to us through their actions the value of Self-respect, honesty and the true meaning of "Justice", who are standing strong like a Rock of Gibraltar - all alone shining like an afternoon Sun. Corrupt and criminal minded people are always found in groups, but the Lion with Wisdom, Knowledge and Strength roams alone. As a young man, I was attracted to a Lion and refused to surrender myself at the feet of cunning Foxes and Vampire Bats in Nagaland.

As a representative of the young Naga generation I strongly feel that we don't have to be that cheap for money. It is because of corrupt leaders that we elected under the lustful influence of money, Nagaland is suffering. What does Nagaland not have? We have natural resources, we have dedicated manpower, we share international boundaries, in fact Nagaland has a potential to become the richest state in India, but it is only because of the worst leaders, their supporters from the business community and the rotten system we have been dragged to the current situation.

As a young stakeholder, I want investment in Nagaland, I want international companies in Nagaland, I want Banks, I want insurance companies, I want Petroleum, agricultural as well as well-regulated Liquor industry in my state, I want international universities as well as engineering colleges, multispecialty hospitals, Research centers, IITs, NLU's in Nagaland. Why should there be no international manufacturing units in our state? I want roads similar to the roads of New Delhi. I want our Indian Railways to connect each and every district of Nagaland. I want public toilets everywhere. I want street lights. I desire and want everything that my Constitution of India guarantees me as a citizen of India. I will only vote for a candidate

who is able to give me a guarantee to respect and secure my Fundamental Rights as a citizen of this country.

Due to liquor ban the government has thrown Nagaland in the state of perpetual drunkenness, however, "Alcohol of power and political slavery" has also put our Nagaland into the state of perpetual amnesia. Time for the Constitutional Revolution has come.

It is our cardinal duty to choose the right candidate. We need to send the right people to the state assembly to achieve our developmental goals and most importantly to achieve structural transformation in the state governance.

Every single vote can make a difference. Nobody in this world can take your right to vote away from you. No person, no organization, nobody can threaten you or force you to violate your right to vote. Let us have complete faith in the Constitution of our country.

You and I can be the agent of change.

Don't sell your franchise in order to suffer tomorrow. Cast your vote fearlessly. Elect new leaders, young leaders, educated leaders, visionary leaders and most importantly elect leaders who can take you out from the darkness with their moral strength and character. We are modern young Nagas, architects of new Nagaland and New India. We will build a new world.

We young people are watching. We will make Nagaland Legislative Assembly members accountable for each and every action they take. The Law of the Land is with us. New generation is not mute, we know how to talk and how to act.

We "FREE" young boys and girls are the guardians of Nagaland. Beware of us.

[The author is a student of Class-XI (ARTS), Tetso College, Nagaland]

Cheque Cases Can Be Transferred From One State To Another Invoking Section 406 CrPC : SC

By: Sanjeev Sirohi, Advocate

While taking the final call on whether cheque cases can be transferred from one state to another, the Apex Court has in a most learned, laudable, landmark, logical and latest judgment titled *Yogesh Upadhyay vs Atlanta Limited in Transfer Petition (Cri) Nos. 526-527 of 2022* and cited in 2023 LiveLaw (SC) 125 that was pronounced finally on February 21, 2023 has minced just no words to hold unequivocally that it has power under Section 406 CrPC to transfer cheque cases from one state to another. The Court also made it unambiguously clear in para 13 stating that, "Notwithstanding the non-obstante clause in Section 142(1) of the NI Act, the power of this Court to transfer criminal cases under Section 406 Cr.P.C. remains intact in relation to offences under Section 138 of the NI Act - the contention that the non-obstante clause in Section 142(1) of the Act of 1881 would override Section 406 Cr.P.C. and that it would not be permissible for this Court to transfer the said complaint cases, in exercise of power there under, cannot be countenanced." Very rightly so!

At the very outset, this remarkable, robust, rational and recent judgment authored by the Single Judge Bench of Hon'ble Mr Justice Sanjay Kumar for a Bench of the Apex Court comprising of Hon'ble Mr Justice Dinesh Maheshwari and himself sets the ball in motion by first and foremost putting forth in para 1 that, "By way of these transfer petitions filed under Section 406 Cr.P.C., Yogesh

Upadhyay and his proprietary concern, M/s. Shakti Buildcon, seek transfer of SCC Nos. 25668/2019 and 26875/2019, both titled 'Atlanta Limited Vs. M/s Shakti Buildcon & Anr.', pending before the learned 22nd Jt. Civil Judge, Senior Division, Nagpur, and the learned 20th Civil Judge, Senior Division, Nagpur, respectively, to the South West District Courts, Dwarka, New Delhi, to be tried along with Complaint Case Nos. 42489/2019, 1464/2020, 7596/2020 and 4094/2020, all titled 'Atlanta Limited Vs. Yogesh Upadhyay'. These six complaint cases were filed against the petitioners by Atlanta Limited, the respondent herein, under Sections 138 and 142 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 [for short, 'the Act of 1881']."

To put things in perspective, the Bench then envisages in para 2 that, "The six cheques, which are the subject-matter of these complaint cases, were issued by the petitioners in connection with purchase of a NAWA-make crusher plant from the respondent company for a sum of Rs. 1,88,80,000/-, under Agreement dated 04.06.2019. This sale consideration was to be paid in seven installments by way of cheques. The first cheque, issued by the petitioners for a sum of Rs. 11,80,000/- was duly honoured upon presentation by the respondent company. The remaining six cheques, however, were dishonoured on the strength of 'Stop payment' instructions. The first two cheques that came to be dishonoured were presented by the respondent company through its

bank at Nagpur, Maharashtra. The first two complaint cases were accordingly filed before the Courts at Nagpur, Maharashtra. The remaining four cheques were thereafter presented by the respondent company through its bank at New Delhi and in consequence, those complaint cases were filed before the Dwarka Courts, New Delhi."

To state the ostensible, the Bench then points out in para 5 stating that, "It is now well settled that the offence under Section 138 of the Act of 1881 is complete upon dishonour of the cheque but prosecution in relation to such offence is postponed, by virtue of the provisos therein, till the failure of the drawer of the cheque to make the payment within 15 days of receiving the demand notice. However, jurisdiction to try this offence remained a troublesome issue for a long time."

While citing the relevant case law, the Bench deems it apposite to state in para 6 that, "In K. Bhaskaran Vs. Sankaran Vaidyan Balan and another [(1999) 7 SCC 510], this Court held that an offence under Section 138 of the Act of 1881 has five components: (1) drawing of the cheque, (2) presentation of the cheque to the bank, (3) returning of the cheque unpaid by the drawee bank, (4) giving notice in writing to the drawer of the cheque demanding payment of the cheque amount, and (5) failure of the drawer to make payment within 15 days of the receipt of the notice. It was further held that the Courts having jurisdiction over the territorial limits wherein any of the five acts, that constitute the components of the offence, occurred would have the jurisdiction to deal with the case and

if the five acts were done in five different areas, any one of the Courts exercising jurisdiction in those five areas would have jurisdiction and the complainant could choose any one of those Courts."

Subsequently, the Bench then while referring to a much recent case law mentions in para 7 that, "Thereafter, in *Dashrath Rupsingh Rathod Vs. State of Maharashtra* and another [(2014) 9 SCC 129], a 3-Judges Bench of this Court observed that the return of the cheque by the drawee bank would alone constitute commission of the offence under Section 138 of the Act of 1881 and would indicate the place where the offence is committed. It was, therefore, held that the place, situs or venue of judicial inquiry and trial of the offence must logically be restricted to where the drawee bank is located, i.e., where the cheque is dishonoured upon presentation and not where the complainant's bank is situated."

Be it noted, the Bench then notes in para 8 mentioning that, "In this regard, it may be noted that Section 142 of the Act of 1881, titled 'Cognizance of Offences', provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, no Court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under Section 138 except on a complaint in writing made by the payee or, as the case may be, the holder in due course of the cheque; such complaint is made within one month of the date on which the cause of action arises under clause (c) of the proviso to Section 138; and no Court inferior to that of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class shall try an offence punishable un-

der Section 138."

Do note, the Bench observes in para 9 that, "Significantly, the aforesaid original Section 142 of the Act of 1881 was renumbered as Section 142(1) when amendments were made in the Act of 1881 by the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Act 26 of 2015). Further, Section 142(2) was inserted in the statute book along with Section 142-A. The newly inserted Section 142(2), to the extent relevant, states that the offence under Section 138 shall be inquired into and tried only by a Court within whose local jurisdiction - (a) if the cheque is delivered for collection through an account, the branch of the bank where the payee or holder in due course, as the case may be, maintains the account, is situated."

Quite palpably, the Bench then specifies in para 10 that, "This being the statutory scheme, stress is laid by Mr. Chirag M. Shroff, learned counsel, upon the words: 'shall be inquired into and tried only by a Court within whose local jurisdiction.....' in Section 142(2) to contend that the Courts at Nagpur would have exclusive jurisdiction in relation to the dishonoured cheques presented by the respondent company through its bank at Nagpur."

Most remarkably, the Bench propounds in para 11 that, "Perusal of the Statement of Objects and Reasons in Amendment Act 26 of 2015 makes it amply clear that insertion of Sections 142(2) and 142-A in the Act of 1881 was a direct consequence of the judgment of this Court in *Dashrath Rupsingh Rathod* (supra). Therefore, the use of the phrase: 'shall be inquired into and tried only by a Court within whose local juris-

isdiction.....' in Section 142(2) of the Act of 1881 is contextual to the ratio laid down in *Dashrath Rupsingh Rathod* (supra) to the contrary, whereby territorial jurisdiction to try an offence under Section 138 of the Act of 1881 vested in the Court having jurisdiction over the drawee bank and not the complainant's bank where he had presented the cheque. Section 142(2) now makes it clear that the jurisdiction to try such an offence would vest only in the Court within whose jurisdiction the branch of the Bank where the cheque was delivered for collection, through the account of the payee or holder in due course, is situated. The newly inserted Section 142-A further clarifies this position by validating the transfer of pending cases to the Courts conferred with such jurisdiction after the amendment."

It would be instructive to note that the Bench hastens to add in para 12 noting that, "The later decision of this Court in *Bridgestone India Private Limited Vs. Indrapal Singh* [(2016) 2 SCC 75] affirmed the legal position obtaining after the amendment of the Act of 1881 and endorsed that Section 142(2)(a) of the Act of 1881 vests jurisdiction for initiating proceedings for an offence under Section 138 in the Court where the cheque is delivered for collection, i.e., through an account in the branch of the bank where the payee or holder in due course maintains an account. This Court also affirmed that *Dashrath Rupsingh Rathod* (supra) would not non-suit the company in so far as territorial jurisdiction for initiating proceedings under Section 138 of the Act of 1881 was concerned."

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Focus on Bigger Scale, Quality, Speed and Higher Volume: Union Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal

PIB
Mumbai, Feb 24:

The Union Minister for Textiles, Commerce and Industry, and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal has said that it is time for the Indian textile industry to focus on scale, quality, speed and higher volume. He was addressing the Key-note Session of 'Technotex 2023: Envisioning Indian Technical Textiles @2047', the 10th edition of the International Exhibition and Conference on Technical Textiles, at Bombay Exhibition Centre in Goregaon, Mumbai today.

"Time to Capture World Markets, with Growth, Scale, Speed and Volume"

The Minister said that this is the right time to capture world markets. "It is time we started looking at scale and more composite plants, to use more modern technology, thereby also enabling us to meet the needs of large corporate buyers across the world. Many international companies tell me that they are not able to find high-quality high volume suppliers, even though many would prefer to have a relationship with India and work with a democracy with transparent rule-based systems. In this context, it is time we look at growth, scale and speed. Today is the right time to capture world markets. Our Free Trade Agreements with UAE and Australia came into force last year. We are also working on agreements with other countries including those of the European Union. The direction is to become an international player; no country has become a developed nation without playing an integral role in the global supply chain. We have to integrate our economy with those of the developed countries to reach our potential and the desire of our young population."

The Minister said that given the vast range of usage for technical textiles, this is the area of the future. "I appeal to startups as well as large corpo-



ration to consider expanding rapidly in the technical textiles field. Our share of the global market is about 2.5%; I believe that the Indian market will grow faster than 12% if we are able to showcase its purposes."

"We can shoot for a 200 billion dollar industry in Technical Textiles" Also embed the link

Encouraging the participants to be big and bold, the Minister shared his belief that we can shoot for a 200 billion dollar industry in technical textiles. "The technical textile sector will enable us to find applications in modern technology areas. Technical textiles are going to be used increasingly in ocean ships and in the airline industry as well."

The Minister said that Technotex will help us showcase our own abilities to Indian companies and the rest of the world. "More webinars, seminars and conferences with technical people from different user sectors should be held, where the textiles industry can showcase the various applications of technical textiles." He exhorted the domestic industry to earn the trust of the world as reliable suppliers of technical textiles, so that the market share of India can be significantly expanded.

"Capture India's G20 Presidency Opportunity"

Speaking of India's G20 Presidency, the Minister asked the technical textile industry and the textiles industry in

general to capture the opportunities afforded by the G20 meetings to find opportunities to do business with friendly countries. The Minister recalled the 5-F Principle of Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign espoused by the Prime Minister as the way forward for the industry.

Asserting that the environment is conducive and positive, the Minister underlined that what we need are focussed goals and actionable agenda. Speaking of the Rs. 1,480 crore National Technical Textile Mission, the Minister urged the industry and other stakeholders to examine what new research, new compounds, fabrics, composites and final products can be leveraged in order to capture the global market. "We will be happy to offer all eight Textile Research Associations and other government institutes to support any private sector initiative, to get high quality scientific rigour into your innovations and fast-track your proposals."

"Train Two Lakh People in Two Years"

The Minister said that the Ministry could offer technical training in the SAMARTH scheme, along with a skilling component which is available under the National Technical Textile Mission. "I urge the industry to utilize these schemes, to contribute to the development of skilled personnel in the industry. I would like

the technical textile industry to have a target of 2 lakh people being trained every two years." The Minister announced that a Committee will be constituted to oversee and monitor the aforementioned training of manpower for the technical textile sector.

The Minister said that the Production Linked Incentive scheme is doing well and that the Ministry is coming up with further additions to the Scheme for finished products. Speaking of the circular economy, the Minister encouraged everyone to look at waste and keep sustainability as a key element of the work done by the industry.

The Minister exhorted everyone including the student community to make quality and sustainability a part of our lives. "All of us and our young generation should imbibe the principle of Zero Effect Zero Defect in our lives and make quality a mantra. BIS has come up with seven quality standards today, Quality Control Orders are also going to be institutionalized in the days to come. This will help us to make our products world-class." Let us aspire to make India Aatma Nirbhar, at the same time, we have the strength to make the world reliant on India, the Minister said.

The Textiles Minister appealed to the audience to consider gifting textile products made by our artisans and weavers.

PM addresses post-budget webinar on 'Agriculture and Cooperatives'

PIB
New Delhi, Feb 24:

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed the post-budget webinar on 'Agriculture and Cooperatives' today. It is the second of a series of 12 post-budget webinars organized by the government to seek ideas and suggestions for the effective implementation of the initiatives announced in the Union Budget 2023.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance given to the agricultural sector in this year's budget as well as budgets of the past 8-9 years. He informed that the agricultural budget which was less than 25 thousand crores in 2014 has been increased to more than 1 lakh 25 thousand crores today. "Every Budget in recent years has been called a budget for Gaon, Gareeb and Kisan", Modi said.

Noting that India's agricultural sector remained distressed for a long time since independence, the Prime Minister pointed out the country's dependence on the outside world for our food security. He highlighted how India's farmers transformed the situation by

not only making the nation 'atmanirbhar' (self-sufficient) but also capable of exporting food grains. "Today India is exporting many types of agricultural products", the Prime Minister said as he shed light on the efforts of the government to make domestic and international markets accessible to the farmers. He also stated that India's goal should not be limited to rice or wheat when it comes to self-sufficiency or export. Highlighting the imports in the agricultural sector, the Prime Minister gave examples of expenditures of Rs 17,000 crores in 2021-22 for the import of pulses, 25,000 crores for the import of Value Added Food Products, and Rs 1.5 lakh crore spent on the import of edible oils in 2021-22. He further added that the sum of all agricultural imports was about Rs 2 lakh crores. The Prime Minister emphasized that various decisions are being continuously taken in the budget to promote the agricultural sector so that the nation becomes 'atmanirbhar' and the money used for imports can reach our farmers. He gave examples of increase in MSP, promotion of pulse production, increase in the number of food

processing parks, and work in mission mode to become completely self-sufficient in terms of edible oil.

The Prime Minister underlined that the goal of complete development cannot be achieved until the challenges related to the agriculture sector are eliminated. He observed that private innovation and investment are keeping a distance from this sector which leads to low participation of India's youth in the agricultural sector compared to the other sectors which witness active participation and growth. The Prime Minister highlighted that various announcements have been made in this year's budget to fill this lacuna. Drawing an analogy to the open platform of UPI, the Prime Minister mentioned the Digital Public Infrastructure platform in the agriculture sector and noted the immense possibilities of investment and innovation in Agri-Tech domains. The Prime Minister listed out the opportunities such as improving logistics, making large markets more accessible, promoting drip irrigation through technology, installation of soil testing labs along the lines of medical labs.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE NO.- 76

Dated/Imphal, the 22nd February, 2023

The undersigned invite tender in PWD Form - 7/8 on behalf of the Governor of Manipur from the Electrical license contractors enlisted in PWD enrolment list & authorized agents of Manipur who have self registered with Taxation department (Income Tax / GST) Government of Manipur up to 3rd March, 2023 up to 3.30 PM.

Sl. No.	Name of work	E/Cost	E/Money	Cost of T/Form	Time Allowed
1.	Impvt. of IEI i/c replacement of existing fitting by LED in BDO Qtr. 3 nos. T/I Qtr. 15 nos. & T/I Qtr. 3 nos. For TD block at Tuibong, Saikot & Sakaikot, CCPUR.	Rs. 14,60,437/-	Rs. 29,209/-	Rs. 500/-	15 days
2.	Maintenance of IEI in the SDO/BDO office at Lamka South.	Rs. 8,07,976/-	Rs. 16,160/-	Rs. 300/-	15 days

The tender will be opened by the undersigned on 3rd March, 2023 at 4.00 pm in the presence of the tendered or their authorized representatives. The contractors should submit application for purchase of tender form on or before 28/02/2023.

The tender form will be issued on production of Contractor enlistment with fixed Earnest Money / Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Deposit certificate of PWD, Manipur. The term and condition and tender form can be had from the office of the undersigned upto 4:00 PM of 02/03/2023 during the office hour.

The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept all or any part of the tender or to reject all or any part of tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division No. II, PWD, Manipur

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE NO.- 75

Dated/Imphal, the 22nd February, 2023

The undersigned invite tender in PWD Form - 7/8 on behalf of the Governor of Manipur from the Electrical license contractors enlisted in PWD enrolment list & authorized agents of Manipur who have self registered with Taxation department (Income Tax / GST) Government of Manipur up to 3rd March, 2023 up to 3.30 PM.

Sl. No.	Name of work	E/Cost	E/Money	Cost of T/Form	Time Allowed
1.	Impvt. of IEI in the SDO Qtr. at Thanlon i/c solar compound lighting.	Rs. 11,04,233/-	Rs. 22,085/-	Rs. 500/-	15 days

The tender will be opened by the undersigned on 3rd March, 2023 at 4.00 pm in the presence of the tendered or their authorized representatives. The contractors should submit application for purchase of tender form on or before 28/02/2023.

The tender form will be issued on production of Contractor enlistment with fixed Earnest Money / Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Deposit certificate of PWD, Manipur. The term and condition and tender form can be had from the office of the undersigned upto 4:00 PM of 02/03/2023 during the office hour.

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Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division No. II, PWD, Manipur

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Cheque Cases Can Be Transferred From...

Most significantly, the Bench mandates in para 13 holding that, "Therefore, institution of the first two complaint cases before the Courts at Nagpur is in keeping with the legal position obtaining now. However, the contention that the non obstante clause in Section 142(1) of the Act of 1881 would override Section 406 Cr.P.C. and that it would not be permissible for this Court to transfer the said complaint cases, in exercise of power thereunder, cannot be countenanced. It may be noted that the non obstante clause was there in the original Section 142 itself and was not introduced by way of the amendments in the year 2015, along with Section 142(2). The said clause merely has reference to the manner in which cognizance is to be taken in offences under Section 138 of the Act of 1881, as a departure has to be made from the usual procedure inasmuch as prosecution for the said offence stands postponed despite commission of the offence being complete upon dishonour

of the cheque and it must necessarily be in terms of the procedure prescribed. The clause, therefore, has to be read and understood in the context and for the purpose it is used and it does not lend itself to the interpretation that Section 406 Cr.P.C. would stand excluded vis-à-vis offences under Section 138 of the Act of 1881. The power of this Court to transfer pending criminal proceedings under Section 406 Cr.P.C. does not stand abrogated thereby in respect of offences under Section 138 of the Act of 1881. It may be noted that this Court exercised power under Section 406 Cr.P.C. in relation to offences under Section 138 of the Act of 1881 even during the time the original Section 142 held the field. In A.E. Premanand Vs. Escorts Finance Ltd. & Others [(2004) 13 SCC 527], this Court took note of the fact that the offences therein, under Section 138 of the Act of 1881, had arisen out of one single transaction and found it appropriate and in the interest of justice that all such cases should be tried in one

Court. We, therefore, hold that, notwithstanding the non obstante clause in Section 142(1) of the Act of 1881, the power of this Court to transfer criminal cases under Section 406 Cr.P.C. remains intact in relation to offences under Section 138 of the Act of 1881, if it is found expedient for the ends of justice."

What's more, the Bench then holds in para 14 that, "In the case on hand, as the six complaint cases pertain to the same transaction, it would be advisable to have a common adjudication to obviate the possibility of contradictory findings being rendered in connection therewith by different Courts. As four of the six cases have been filed by the respondent company before the Dwarka Courts at New Delhi and only two such cases are pending before the Courts at Nagpur, Maharashtra, it would be convenient and in the interest of all concerned, including the parties and their witnesses, that the cases be transferred to the Dwarka Courts at New Delhi."

Finally, the Bench concludes by holding in para 15 that, "The transfer petitions are accordingly allowed and SCC Nos. 25668/2019 and 26875/2019, both titled 'Atlanta Limited Vs. M/s Shakti Buildcon & Anr.', pending on the files of the learned 22nd Jt. Civil Judge, Senior Division, Nagpur, and the learned 20th Civil Judge, Senior Division, Nagpur, respectively, are transferred to the South West District Courts, Dwarka, New Delhi, to be tried along with Complaint Case Nos. 42489/2019, 1464/2020, 7596/2020 and 4094/2020."

All in all, we thus see that the Apex Court has made it abundantly clear that cheque cases can be transferred from one state to another invoking Section 406 of CrPc if it is expedient in the interest of justice. No doubt, all the High Courts and District Courts must definitely pay heed to what the Apex Court has held so clearly, cogently and convincingly in this leading case!

Assam determined to eliminate child marriage menace

By: Nava Thakuria
Guwahati, Feb 24:

By 2026, Assam government will eliminate the menace of child marriage and if one believes in State chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's commitment, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led government in Dispur is ready to fight against the social evil in the State with full political will. Child marriage is a social scourge, and the State government is committed to ensure the evil practice is stopped, stated Sarma.

The saffron leader attracted national and international media headlines with a major crack-down on child marriages launching on 3 February. Assam police forces picked up over 3000 individuals (including 93 females) following 4,235 registered first information reports across the State. Most of them are still in judicial custody (temporary jails), some got bail and a few remain in the police custody.

The arrested individuals include mostly the accused and perpetrators, but they are not targeted because of their religious affiliations, asserted Sarma, adding that the ongoing drive against this social menace will continue till 2026, the year Assam is scheduled to go for the next legislative assembly elections. He also claimed that the crack-down has positively impacted the society as several families lately cancelled pre-scheduled marriages of underage brides (also grooms).

Needless to mention that Sarma is one of the longest serving State health ministers. He

took the charge of Assam health ministry in 2006 and continued till 2015 (during the Congress rule). Later he joined the BJP and again took the responsibility in 2016 for a full five years. His tireless efforts to save the lives during the Covid-19 pandemic were well appreciated. In May 2021, he took oath as the State CM and started many missions that remained unaccomplished in previous years. Sarma's latest priority emerges to bring down mother & infant mortality rates in Assam.

Pointing out that the child marriage is banned in India for nearly a century as it always threatens the lives, well-being and futures of girls, Sarma announced his firm decision on 26 January to erase the social menace. Later the State cabinet approved the proposal to take stern actions against those men who married underage girls under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Recently, a cabinet sub-committee for taking care of child marriage victims was also formed.

Recent data from National Family Health Survey reflects that Assam continues to record higher number of child marriages as well as cases of teenage pregnancy than all India levels. It is established that the child marriage in the State has directly influenced the mother & infant mortality rates. Assam loses around 195 mothers among 100,000 during the child births (national average is 97 deaths per 100,000 live births). Similarly, it records 36 infant deaths per

1,000 live births (where national average is 28).

The drive against child marriages, though logically supported by every conscious citizen, invited massive public out-rages too from different corners and at least two victims of circumstance committed suicides fearing impending police actions. Hundreds of young women (some may have attained minimum legal age of marriage ie 18 years) gathered in the police stations crying for their husbands' release. Many lodged protest demonstrations against the administrative action towards their 'innocent' husbands and relatives.

Opposition parties including the Congress, Asom Jatiya Parishad, All India United Democratic Front, etc also criticized the action terming it an abuse of law for political gains. AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal and AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi came down heavily against the BJP led government for the mass arrests concerning the unlawful marriages. They alleged that the drive was planned to harass the Muslim families in the State. Owaisi also questioned CM Sarma about the fate of girls and women whose husbands were taken into custody.

Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation also urged the government to immediately sanction at least Rs 2,000 per month (from the CM's relief fund) as financial assistance to the affected teenagers/women whose husbands have been detained or arrested. The foundation, even though supports the govern-

ment initiatives to eradicate the menace of child marriage by penalizing the perpetrators, insisted on extending due financial and legal supports to the victims. It also asked the concerned authorities not to ignore the children born out of child marriages.

Even the higher court in Guwahati criticized the government for detaining all these people with non-bailable charges under the POCSO act, rape, etc and creating havoc in their private lives. Granting the anticipatory bail to a group of individuals over the crime, Gauhati High Court observed that there was no need for custodial interrogation of the accused persons. It termed the mass arrest of individuals as a bad idea considering the children and elder members in their families. The court emphasized a society-driven change over the issue than adopting punitive actions.

Unmoved by the criticism, Sarma recently claimed that the stringent step, first of its kind in India by any State government, received necessary support from various sections in the society including the religious minority leaders. With an aim to pursue zero tolerance against this social menace, he emphasized on a robust ecosystem in Assam against the illegal practice of child marriage. The energetic leader opined that the government and law enforcement agencies along with the village heads, self-help groups, etc must be made the stakeholders in the ecosystem.

Nagaland 2023:

Cong used NE as ATM, BJP considers region 'Ashtalakshmi', says Modi

Agency
Dimapur, Feb 24:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday claimed that the Congress used the Northeast as an ATM, while the BJP considers the eight states of the region as 'Ashtalakshmi' (eight forms of Goddess Lakshmi) and is working for its peace and development.

Addressing an election rally

in Dimapur, he said the NDA is striving to bring permanent peace in Nagaland so that Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 is completely lifted from the state.

"The country can't be run by distrusting your own people but by respecting and solving their problems. Earlier, the Northeast had politics of divide, we have now transformed it into divine governance. The BJP does not

discriminate people on the basis of religion or region and religion," Modi said.

Noting that there was political instability in Nagaland during Congress rule, he claimed that the grand old party remote-controlled Northeast from Delhi, and siphoned off money meant for its development, while giving primacy to "dynasty politics, from Delhi to Dimapur".

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International Bioresource Conclave...

Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Chairman, ISSEFC 2023 and Director, IBSD highlighted various programmes during the congress where >105 scientific lectures by eminent scientists & >700 delegates representing over 35 countries and all the states of India. He mentioned that there will be > 300 oral and poster presentations by young researchers highlighting different aspects on development of bioresources.

ethnopharmacology and drug development. He also highlighted the research activities of IBSD for the development of bioresources and traditional healer's practices of this region for societal benefit and livelihood generation.

During the programme, Guest of Honour, Leishemba Sanajaoba, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Govt. of India welcome all the delegates from different parts of the globe to attend this congress at Imphal. He appreciated the ini-

tiative of IBSD for organising this congress in Imphal to showcase and development of unique bioresources of Manipur in particular and whole NER at large.

Prof. Gunter Vollmer, President, ISE, Switzerland highlighted that this conference is gala event of the 22nd Congress of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology and the 10th Congress of Society for Ethnopharmacology. He mentioned that the society is not only organizes regular meetings and promotes research and publication but also offers multiple ways to exchange information between scientists and anyone else interested in such topics.

Birendra K. Sarkar, President, Society for Ethnopharmacology, Kolkata highlighted various activities of SFE, India which is affiliated to ISE, Switzerland and working with a mission on "Globalizing local knowledge and localizing global technologies". Many experts including Prof. Marco

Leonti, Secretary, ISE, Indraneel Das, Vice President, SFE, Dr. C.K. Katiyar, Vice President, SFE and Dr. Subhash C Mandal, Secretary, SFE were present during the event.

During the congress, Prof. Sudhir K. Sopory, SERB Distinguished Fellow was awarded with SFE - Lifetime Achievement Award- 2023 for his contribution in Plant Biology.

During next three days, several special panel discussion sessions including "Publication ethics", "Traditional Healers Conclave", "Reimagine Ethnopharmacology", "Herbs in One Health", "i-Connect program: Business meet" is being organized for the promotion and development of Bioresources and Ethnopharmacology. This congress will provide an environment for knowledge sharing among researchers, policymakers, industry persons, healthcare practitioners, and decision-makers interested in the promotion of bioresources.

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