

## Mann Ki Baat:

### PM Modi calls upon people to contribute towards Clean India & replace plastic bags with cloth bags

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 26:

Prime Minister has urged the people to resolve to contribute towards Clean India and pledge to replace plastic bags with cloth bags.

Addressing the nation in the 98th episode of his Mann Ki Baat programme on All India Radio, Prime Minister said the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has changed the meaning of public participation in the country. He mentioned a cleanliness campaign by the youth of Haryana in a village called Dulhedi.

The youth of Dulhedi decided that Bhiwani city has to be made exemplary in terms of cleanliness.

They formed an organization named Yuva Swachhta Evam Janseva Samiti. The youth associated with this committee reach Bhiwani at 4 in the morning and run cleanliness drives at different places in the city.

Prime Minister noted with satisfaction that these youth have so far cleared tons of garbage from different areas of the city. He said 'Waste to Wealth' is also an important dimension of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. He gave the example of Kamala Moharana from Kendrapada district of Odisha, who runs a self-help group.

The women of this group make items like baskets and



mobile stands from milk pouches and other plastic packing materials. Mr Modi said this is becoming a good source of income for them along with ensuring cleanliness.

Prime Minister expressed happiness that the number of tele-consultations in E-Sanjeevani App has crossed ten crores. Mr Modi termed it a big achievement. Through the E-Sanjeevani App, people can consult doctors through video conference.

Prime Minister highlighted that ten crore consultations through video conference signifies the amazing bond between patient and doctor. He congratulated all the doctors and patients who availed the facility. He called it a living example of how people in India have welcomed technology in their lives.

Prime Minister noted that

the power of Digital India is visible in every corner today. Different apps play a big role in taking the power of Digital India to every home. He hailed E-Sanjeevani App for being a boon for the people during the COVID period. Mr Modi spoke to Dr. Madan Mani from Sikkim to know how effective Tele-consultation has been for the people.

Dr. Madan Mani apprised him that through Tele-consultation, doctors in Sikkim connect directly with people in faraway places. He also said that availability of medicines in the Health and Wellness Centre through the Free Drugs initiative has benefited many people.

Prime Minister also spoke to Madan Mohan Lal, a resident of Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh, who availed the E-Sanjeevani facility. Sharing his experience, Madan Mohan

Lal said the App has been of great benefit to him and other patients and proper guidance is given through Tele-conference.

The earlier issues of traveling for kilometers, standing in long queues and losing an entire day have been resolved with the availability of E-Sanjeevani. Mr Modi said E-Sanjeevani is becoming a life-saving app for the common man of the country, for the middle class, and for people living in remote hilly areas. He stressed that this is the power of India's digital revolution.

Prime Minister also expressed pride at the power of India's UPI, saying that many countries are being drawn towards it. He said that UPI-Pay Now Link was launched between India and Singapore recently.

Now, people of Singapore and India can transfer money from their mobile phones in the same way as they do within their own countries. Mr Modi said Apps like E-Sanjeevani and UPI have proved to be very helpful in raising the Ease of Living of common man.

The 'Tribeni Kumbho Mohotshav' was organized in Bansberia of Hooghly district in West Bengal recently. More than eight lakh devotees participated in it.

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## Inquiry ordered into vandalization of Azad Higher Secondary School

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 26:

The State Government has ordered an inquiry into the vandalization of Azad Higher Secondary School, Yairipok yesterday by some irate students, inside the ongoing Higher Secondary Examination hall. The vandalization led to the fainting of a female invigilator and 15 students losing consciousness.

Th. Basantakumar speaking to the media said, the report of the inquiry would be submitted by Monday and the examination will be postponed for a day or two for the said centre.

The Minister's prompt action came after student organisations of the state Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur (DESAM),

Kangleipak Students' Association (KSA), Manipuri Students' Federation (MSF), and Students' Union of Kangleipak (SUK) demanded action against the student responsible for the vandalization.

A formal police complaint was lodged by Private School Development Committee, Thoubal to Thoubal Police Station for taking up action against the misbehaving students responsible for the vandalizing school properties. Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur Secretary Ch Biren visited and inspected Azad Higher Secondary School after the unfortunate incident and resumed examination with strict security measures.

It may be mentioned that the examination for Class

XII started on February 23 and ends on April 1. A total of 36, 717 students at 120 different examination centers are appearing in this year's examination. For Arts stream, a total of 11391 students of which 5821 are male and 5570 female students are giving the examination. For Science stream, 24513 students are appearing in the examination, of which 12108 are male and 12405 are female students and for commerce stream, a total of 813 students are appearing in the examination, of which 452 are male and 361 are female candidates. 3205 Non-Government College, 13289 Government Higher Secondary School, 19991 Non-Government Higher Secondary School, and 232 Council Private students are appearing in this year's Class XII examination.

## Promote climate-resilient and adopt environment friendly tech – MP Sanajaoba

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 26:

Rajya Sabha MP Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba urged experts and doctors to promote climate-resilient healthcare facilities and adopt environment-friendly technologies and use energy-efficient services in the healthcare facilities. During a One Day Seminar on the theme "Swasth Bharat, Carbon Shunya Bharat" and State Level Painting competition, the Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba, who was the Chief Guest of the seminar stated that India's greenhouse gas emissions are mainly from the Electricity and heat, Agriculture, Forestry and Land use, Manufacturing and Construction, Transport, Healthcare, Industry, Buildings etc.

The MP, also further stated

that India is also a signatory to the Male Declaration on Building Health Systems Resilience to Climate Change, 2017. India is committed to promoting climate-resilient healthcare facilities and adopting environment-friendly technologies and using energy-efficient services.

He informed that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India also identified two components underlying the principle of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – a) Lowering Carbon Emissions in Health Facilities: Strengthening management of energy, water, and waste at the facility level and b) Promoting lifestyle changes for patients, attendants and human resources at the facility. It is high time that we all need to work together and aim to achieve carbon-neutral and climate-resilient health facilities.

Dr. Koijam Mani Bhushan

Singh, Head of Department of Environment Science, DM College of Science, Dhanamajuri University, Imphal, Dr. S. Priyokumar Singh, Former Director, Science & Technology and Environment, Government of Manipur, Prof. (Dr. Ing Bakimchandra Oinam, Department of Civil Engineering, NIT, Manipur and Dr. Aditya K. Joshi, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Manipur were the resource persons of the seminar.

Prof. N. Sanjib Singh, Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital, Dr. Aditya K. Joshi, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Manipur and Prof. Paonam Guindro Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University of Culture, Imphal graced the occasion as President and Guests of honour respectively.

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## Assam Rifles apprehends KCP cadre

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 26:

Phundrei Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) apprehended an active insurgent of proscribed group KCP in Hiyanglam, Kakching District, Manipur on February 24, 2023.

Based on the specific input about the presence of an active KCP cadre who was in possession of arms and ammunition & had been involved



in illicit activities like extortion, the troops of Assam Rifles undertook a joint operation with Manipur Police which led to the apprehension of a KCP insurgent along with one 9mm pistol, one Magazine and three 9mm Rounds at Hiyanglam, Kakching District.

The arrested insurgent has been handed over to Hiyanglam Police Station for further investigation and necessary legal action.

## Farewell my departed friends from school to college days !

By: Nava Thakuria  
Guwahati, Feb 26:

It was shocking and heart-breaking news. Within four days, we have lost two college friends, both with ailments and gone too soon. Their untimely demise was mourned in the whatsapp group created for the 1985 - 90 batch of Assam Engineering College (AEC, Jalukbari, under Gauhati University). First it was Sandeep Goel, who breathed his last on 1 February 2023. I was his classmate in AEC with the same branch (Mechanical Engineering) and used to attend the classes where many acclaimed professors including our principal sir (Aparna K Padmapati) guided us to solve mechanical problems from the

textbooks. Sandeep was sober and intelligent. Unlike me (many of us), he spoke when only it was necessary. He was otherwise a serious student who later developed himself as a successful professional and eventually an adorable family man.

The second depressing news hit us with the demise of Gunagovinda Buragohain on 4 February. Guna was a student of Chemical Engineering and a boarder of Hostel 7, where we faced the usual trouble days together in the initial college days. A jolly man, Guna was so simple, well behaved and friendly in nature. We experienced all the fond moments while rushing to the college in the morning hours, going to take an

evening tea in nearby Sundarbari market and occasionally visiting the growing city of Guwahati with different missions. Very often we failed in our adventures, but Guna was very optimistic. I tried to support him in many cases with all my energy, space and commitments.

Soon after leaving the college, I opted to work in a newspaper (all my gratitude to AEC professor Surendra Nath Medhi and Natun Dainik's editor Chandra Prasad Saikia). I was often called on by classmate Pradip Medhi, who was looking for a job at that time. He was critical to me for selecting a job with no financial security and he himself imagined a fine future as an engineer. But a heart attack cut

short his dream journey, which I came to know very late. Studious AECian friends like Prabal Choudhury (a hardliner debater), Uttam Kumar Roy (fantastic actor and a creative theatre director), Manju Borah (a simple lady), Swapan Kr Das (gentleman in real sense), Bipul Sarma (humble and friendly in nature), Kamal Krishna Gupta (stout and stable), Monilal Brahma (a sweet person), Parag J Baruah (sober personality with a poetic mind), Ranjit Kr Saraha (smiling lad with a guiter on hands) lost their hard battles in life. Pranabiyoti Bordoloi, an energetic leader of our batch, died in a fatal road accident in college days.

During my high school days at Makhbaha, we en-

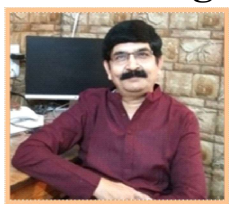
countered the untimely demise of classmate Shiva Prasad Thakuria with visibly thick & black hairs, who was suffering from serious illness for some time. He was followed by a number of classmates from our locality in later part of life, who left for the heavenly abode too young. Srimati Barman (married an early age to a distant village), Gopal Seal (who worked for national armed forces), Bhupen Bhattacharya (an agri-engineer), Phatik Thakuria (another engineer), Mahesh Sarma (a popular footballer), Ranjit Pathak (a strongman among us) and Dilip Deka (who was our first boy in class and went missing nearly two decades back during the troubled days in western

Assam) joined the list of departed souls.

I remember the day, when we received horrible news of losing a friend during my school days at Bhojkuchi, a typically isolated village of Nalbari district in central Assam. Some of our friends were playing at the school playground when a white ambassador car arrived. We followed the vehicle without knowing that one of our beloved childhood friends was lying inside it. Our classmate Prahlad Barman (whose handwriting was appreciated by everyone) suffered from some heart related ailments. Just before the seventh standard examination (at that time, it was the last exam in our school), he died in a Guwahati hospital.

For the last time we saw Prahlad, sleeping peacefully at the courtyard amidst heartbroken cries in sorrow by his aged mother and other relatives. Next day we had a condolence meeting at our school. Everyone wept while remembering him as a bright student with an amiable nature. Until then no photograph of Prahlad was available with his family. Later a close-up snap was arranged from a group photograph, where we all were present on the school campus, and was taken by Tihu-based award-winning photographer Mahendra Barua just before Prahlad went for treatment in the city. Even today, whenever I visit my village, I can hear his soft and crisp voice while feeling his warm presence.

## Treating Heat Stress



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

According to UK's Met Office weather service, 2023 is forecast to be a hotter year than 2022. Heat waves are among the most dangerous of natural hazards, the frequency and intensity of which will rise in the 21st century due to climate change. The Met Office annual global temperature forecast for 2023 suggests that next year will be one of the Earth's hottest years on record. The mercury is at its peak during the summer. Heat is unbearable even during the early hours of the day. The summertime in India can be brutal even for the most experienced of us. Besides making us feel tired and zapped, it can even be downright harmful by increasing the risk of heatstroke. Summer is especially warm because during this time that part of the earth is directly under the sun and its rays are focused on the area, drying up ponds and lakes and this can lead to a scarcity of water. Summer days can be extremely hot and people usually the elderly suffer from heat strokes, in the past this has resulted in some deaths, during this season children may also suffer from summer boils. According to the World Health Organisation, more than 1,70,000 people died due to heat waves from 1998-2019.

In summer, the heart rate is elevated. When running with a heart rate monitor, remember that higher temperatures also boost our heart rate even if we run at our usual pace. Therefore, it might be a good idea to take it a bit slower. If the outside temperature is too high with unbearable humid, one should consider doing an abbreviated exercise routine.

Drink lots of liquids to replace the fluids you lose from sweating. Do not wait until you feel like you need a drink. Thirst is not a reliable sign that your body needs fluids. When you exercise, you should take small sips of liquid rather than large drinks. Water is the best drink to replace lost fluids. Water with salt added can be used if you sweat a lot.

Doctors have always advised small, frequent meals during the day and not to skip breakfast for overall good health of a person. This becomes all the more important during summers as it prevents low blood pressure and dizziness during very hot days.

Fruits like watermelon and grapes nourish and cool our body and give moisture to our skin. They also help to counter the influence of the summer heat. Mango, another popular fruit available during this season, is also very good for health. It clears the skin, eyes, reduces cholesterol, and alkalizes the whole body. But, it should be consumed in limited quantity as too much consumption can raise the body heat and might cause stomach problems.

Don't forget to put on sunglasses when going out. Even wide-brimmed hats are effective to protect oneself from the sun. There are some who prefer to cover their heads with scarfs, stoles or dupattas. This is also a good option but make sure that the scarf or stole is of a light material like cotton. This will prevent the heat from directly reaching your head. It will also protect you from the hot too.

The leading food poisoning causes is consumption of contaminated food or water. It spreads by bacteria, viruses, toxins, and chemicals which, post entering the human body, cause the onset of stomach pain, nausea, diarrhea or vomiting. The primary reason behind the outbreak of diseases in summer is the presence of favorable weather conditions for bacteria, virus and other parasites to breed.

Let us follow the basic heat safety tips in order to avoid the dangers of heat exposure. What we need to do is to stay fit with the little awareness and few precautions to enjoy the good times.

## Should marks in exams be affected by handwriting of students



By: Vijay GarG

Should handwriting be considered for awarding marks in exams.

Students are always advised to work on improving their handwriting in schools. In fact, they are provided cursive writing books, writing exercise and even during vacations practicing writing on daily basis is included in students holiday homework. But, why so much value is given to handwriting in students' life? The conflict arises when people start comparing or even criticising an individual on the basis of handwriting. This comparison and ensuing criticism have led to the debate on whether handwriting should be considered a criteria to decide marks of any student.

Let us discuss and understand the role of handwriting in a student's life and it's importance for awarding marks in exams -

Handwriting is necessary for students' marks in exams:

Handwriting is a beautiful art. It is not only about putting letters on paper but it also indicates how organised and methodical a person is.

Good handwriting is important even in this era of computer typing and talking writing tools. We should start focusing on handwriting from an early age itself; say 4 or 5 years (Preschool and Kindergarten). It will help the young hands to gather control of their motor skills and also devise their unique writing styles which will develop as they grow up thus adding to their personalities.

When we write, it creates an invisible yet very strong connection between the brain and content, thus giving us a much better and intense understanding of the matter.

A good handwriting always attracts attention and appreciation, and subconsciously helps in studies as well. Many types of research have shown that there is a constructive association between good handwriting and better academic performances. Scientists have attributed this phenomenon to the fact that writing using pen and paper enhances memory hence adding up to the remembrance which is vital at the time of tests and exams.

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## A promising career in Ceramic Engineering

By: Kaustov Kashyap

Ceramic engineering is a branch of engineering which deals with the science and technology of creating object from inorganic and non-metallic materials. Ceramic engineering combines principles of chemistry, physics and engineering. Fiber-optic devices, microprocessors and solar panels are some examples of ceramic sciences applied to everyday life.

B.Tech in Ceramic Engineering is amongst the new engineering specializations that cover the production and manufacturing of ceramic products for use in different industries. Being one of the newest fields of engineering, research is one of the major parts of this field.

In this branch of engineering, students learn about different types of ceramic materials and ways to develop and crystallize them. Material strength and mechanics is also a major part of B.Tech in Ceramic Engineering.

**What does a Ceramic Engineer do?**

A Ceramic engineer focuses on the use of ceramics in the production of various products. The roles and duties of a ceramic engineer are as follows. A ceramic engineer:

- Develops procedure for processing non-metallic inorganic materials into various ceramic products like fibre optics products, glassware,

coating for space vehicles, pollution control devices, components of nuclear fuel, etc.

- Does research, product development, production of ceramic products according to the requirements.

- Develops heat tiles for space shuttles and supersonic space planes. Produce ceramic teeth, bones and joints as replacements parts for the human body.

- Contributes toward production of ceramic super conductors, lasers, and optical fibres.

- Helps in developing materials that enclose and support aircraft engines.

**Eligibility Criteria & Admission Process**

The detailed eligibility criteria for B.Tech Ceramic Engineering course can be checked below -

**Educational Qualification:** The candidates must have passed Class 12th in PCM or PCB stream with a minimum of 45-50% of marks.

**Age Limit:** There is no upper age limit for B.Tech Ceramic Engineering course.

The admission process for B.Tech Ceramic Engineering can be checked below -

**Admission through Entrance Exam:**

The candidates will have to clear a national-level entrance exam for admission in the respective course.

The candidates will have to take part in the online or centralized counselling conducted for admission. The selection will be based on rank/marks scored by the candidates in the entrance exam. The various national level exams may be: JEE Main, MHT CET, KCET, AP EAMCET, TS EAMCET, KEAM, Goa CET, WB JEE and UPSEE

**Direct Admission:** Direct admission is possible in various private engineering colleges. The candidates can get admission either by applying through the official website of the college or by visiting the college directly.

**Career Opportunities and Job Prospects**

A graduate in ceramic engineering can find numerous job opportunities in various domains like medicine, mining, aerospace, food and chemical industry, electronics, refinery, Industrial & Transmission Electricity and Guided Light Wave Transmission. Other domains where a ceramic engineer can find job opportunities are: Engine components manufacturing units, Design firms, Ceramic ware manufacturing units, Construction services, Research and testing firms, Table ware Industry, Sanitary ware Industry, Glass bulbs factory, Cutting tools Industry, Enamels factories, Kitchen ware Industry and Decorative ware Industry.

Since this is a new branch of engineering, job opportunities in the core sector are scares, however, there is a lot of scope in research and development. Following are some of the jobs that ceramic engineers can seek:

- Polymer Chemist
- Research Assistant
- Research Engineer
- Ceramic Sales Manager
- Senior Research Fellow
- Ceramic Technologist
- Ceramic Designer

Salaries in this sector vary from Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 4 lakh per annum. However, if candidates have pursued the course from a reputed institute such as an IIT or NIT, the salary packages can be very lucrative. The highest package at the institute can go up to Rs. 11 lakh per annum.

Top Colleges/Universities in India that offer Ceramic Engineering are:

- Anna University
- Chennai College of Engineering and Technology
- Bikaner College of Engineering
- Andhra University Government College of Engineering and Ceramic Technology
- Indian Institute of Technology
- Banaras Hindu University
- Rajasthan Technical University, Kota.

## RSS has a major role in BJP Poll campaign in three North Eastern States

*Sangh Parivar fighting with its back to the wall in Meghalaya, Nagaland*

By: Arun Srivastava

The central leadership of the BJP has been focusing its attention on the north eastern states of the country since then coming into power of the Party in 2014 and in its expansionist efforts, the main vehicle has been the RSS. In the present phase of the assembly polls to the three states Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland, all senior leaders of the BJP have campaigned including the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister Amit Shah. The polls in Tripura took place on February 16, the polling in the other two states is scheduled on February 27.

North East is the most favourite destination for the RSS, and of course its political wing BJP. The party which till two decades ago was alien to the people of the region has emerged as the only ruling party all India party and has been virtually dictating the political discourse. Like any other state the expansion and growth of the BJP owes to the Congress factor. Former Assam Congress leader Himanta Biswa Sarma shifting his loyalty to the BJP helped the party open its account in the North East, after defeating the Congress in the Assam assembly election.

The wrong handling of the Assam movement launched by the All Assam Student Union by the Congress provided the much needed opportunity to the RSS to enter into the mainstream politics through L K Advani in early eighties. In recent times, riding on the crest of the election victory, taking inspiration from Assam win, the party managed to expand into Christian-dominated states like Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram besides the Hindu-dominated state of Tripura.

Apparently BJP's slogan of Hindutva and communal politics preached by the Assam chief minister Himanta laid the foundation for ascendancy. But it was the silent work and sustained campaign of converting tribals into Hindus by the RSS since India attained independence that moulded its

growth and provided the readymade forum to take on Congress.

After Tripura, the two other states that will go to election are Nagaland and Meghalaya. Both these states will have elections on February 27, to elect its 60 representatives. Meghalaya has a population of 29.67 lakh with 74.59 percent Christians. Hindus constitute 11.53 percent while 4.4 percent are Muslims. The Congress had won 29 seats in the 2013 state poll, the BJP had won none. The political spectrum changed fast in the state. RSS started operations in Meghalaya with setting first shakha in 1946 under Vasantrao Oak in Shillong. The state was then a part of Assam. It attained full statehood on 21 January, 1972.

After that they started working among Garos, Jaintias and Khasis. They also started programmes for the Hajong and Koch communities which are plain tribes. It was their social work that made them acceptable in the region. At present the RSS has 6000 swayamsevaks. This number is quite encouraging since the state is dominated by Christians. In 2016 they had held "Know RSS" programme which was attended by 300 teachers out of which 125 were Christians. At present, there are 46 shakha, 30 milan (weekly meet) and 35 mandali (monthly meet) in Meghalaya.

Winning the assembly election is issue of life and death more for RSS as BJP losing the election will hasten up the process of peoples' action against the RSS. In Tripura also the emergence of BJP as the ruling party owes to the astonishing devotion of the RSS. The feedback from the think tank of the RSS helped erode the base of the CPI(M). Former Tripura chief minister Manik Sarkar had successfully converted the state into a Left bastion initially but the CPM could not motivate the party cadres and leaders to listen to the peoples' groaning. The long CPI(M) rule

under Sarkar led to stagnation and acute unemployment. RSS exploited the situation and BJP came to power.

Although the Naga People's Front (NPF) is an alliance partner of the BJP at the Centre, Manipur and in Nagaland, the BJP is yet to make any significant progress in this northeastern state. With 88 percent of its population being Christians the RSS has been finding a tough proposition to penetrate the region. The fact remains that religious equation has made the job far tougher for the RSS in its effort to gain a strong foothold in the state. As of today it has only two shakha running in Dimapur.

Though RSS has developed some amount of base in Meghalaya, it is unlikely that it is sufficient to ensure electoral victory to BJP in the state. RSS enabling the BJP to form North Eastern Democratic Alliance in 2016, a platform of non-Congress parties in the region with the avowed aim to keep the Congress out of power has not proved to be so effective.

States are high for the BJP, but more than that of the RSS. BJP will lose the electoral battle, but the RSS will face erosion of its base. In early years the people of the region, especially the tribals and Christians had not perceived the RSS as a major threat. However the recent attack of the RSS and BJP on their social and cultural bases have scared them of losing their identity. Obviously for the RSS and BJP it is a do or die situation. They cannot lose the gains made during these years. The nature of the stakes gets reflected in party's meticulous and long term planning for the forthcoming Assembly elections in Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Though the North eastern states have emerged as a strong base of the RSS and BJP, the fact remains that it is still tough for emerge as the major ruling party in the region. The BJP had put a strong fight in Tripura and it is going to do the same in Nagaland and

Meghalaya where the elections will be held on February 27. True enough the 2023 assembly polls in Northeast are a semifinal to 2024 general elections.

The alliance between the BJP and the National People's Party (NPP) in Meghalaya has been quite fragile. The BJP had supported the Conrad Sangma-led NPP to form a government. But both are fighting separately. Meghalaya has a legacy of political instability with constant changing of parties by the MLAs. In the state BJP is not a major player. The Garo and Khasi division in the state affects the voting patterns. With about 75% population being Christian and about 12% population Hindu, the Congress has enjoyed a hold over the Shillong region and the NPP has had a hold over the Tura region.

In Nagaland, meanwhile, the key issue is peace and security. The maverick stand of the BJP has turned the regional outfits not to rely on it. The ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) has been trying to negotiate a peace agreement with various militant groups, and the outcome of these negotiations will be a key factor in the elections. They nursed the impression that Union Home Minister Amit Shah would announce complete abrogation of the AFSPA (the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act). But it has not happened.

The state has also been facing demands from seven tribes for the creation of a separate "Frontier Nagaland" by carving out 16 districts. Recently, the central government held meetings with the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) to find a way out of this problem.

As in Meghalaya, in Nagaland too, BJP is a secondary player. The National Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio depends upon help from the BJP to frustrate the efforts of Naga People's Front (NPF). (IPA Service)



# G20 meeting in India ends without consensus on Russia-Ukraine war

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 26:

A meeting of finance chiefs of the Group of 20 economies ended on Saturday without a joint statement after China and Russia opposed the inclusion of text criticising the war in Ukraine.

India, which hosted the meeting in Bengaluru, issued a "chair's summary" stating that there were "different assessments of the situation" in Ukraine and on sanctions imposed on Russia.

Russia refers to its actions in Ukraine as a "special military operation" that is necessary to prevent Kyiv from being used as a platform for Western aggression. It avoids describing the conflict as an invasion or war.

India had also urged delegates at Saturday's meeting to avoid using the word "war" in any official statement, unidentified G20 officials told Reuters. The development came a day after India abstained from voting on a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly that called for the unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine.

New Delhi has maintained a neutral stance in the conflict and not explicitly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



India has also sharply increased its imports of Russian oil since the war started, with the country's foreign minister S Jaishankar repeatedly defending the move.

Delegates told Reuters that China and Russia did not want the G20 meeting in Bengaluru to be used for political issues.

A footnote in India's summary on Saturday said that two paragraphs were adapted from the G20 Bali declaration in November. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters that China and Russia had reservations about this.

The declaration said that "most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed that it is causing im-

mense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy — constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity, and elevating financial stability risks".

It added, "There were other views and different assessments of the situation and sanctions. G-20 is not the forum to resolve security issues, we acknowledge that security issues can have significant consequences for the global economy."

The second paragraph of the declaration, opposed by both the countries, stated: "It is essential to uphold interna-

tional law and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability...The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible. The peaceful resolution of conflicts, efforts to address crises, as well as diplomacy and dialogue, are vital. Today's era must not be of war."

German Finance Minister Christian Lindner said the failure to reach an agreement on the joint communique was regrettable.

"This is a war," she had said on Friday. "And this war has a cause, has one cause, and that is Russia and Vladimir Putin. That must be expressed clearly at this G20 finance meeting."

# Nagpur man held for making Hoax Bomb Call to Mumbai Police

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Feb 26:

The Mumbai Police arrested one Ashwin Mhaikar (29) a Nagpur resident, from Palghar, on charges of making hoax bomb call and passing on false information that huge quantity of explosives have landed in the city, on Saturday.

The accused called up the south region control room of the Mumbai Police at about 1.35 pm on Friday. Soon the police swung into action. They carried out searches at multiple locations, including the landing points, sensitive and crowded areas and beefed up the security. After thorough searches the call was turned out to be a hoax. This was the

eighth hoax terror call received by the Mumbai Police this year.

The accused without identifying himself, told the police that there would be a blast in parts of south Mumbai including a government hospital and crowded places in the city. He informed the police that, 90 kg explosives have already landed on February 23 at a coastal area and it would be used to carry out bomb blasts in different parts of south Mumbai. He told the police that the blasts would take place at Bhandi Bazar, JJ hospital area, Null Bazar, etc.

After working on the technical clues, the officials of the JJ Marg Police located the caller to Dahanu in Palghar area. He was traced and arrested in the matter within 9 hours of the crime, the police

said.

After the call was termed as a hoax, the JJ Marg Police registered a case (No 74/2023) against the caller and booked him under sections 506 (2) (criminal intimidation), 504 (1) (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 179 (refuse to answer the public servant), 182 (false Information) of the Indian Penal Code and began to look for the caller. Subsequently they traced out the accused.

Senior Police Inspector Subhash Borate, Police Inspector Anup Dange, PSIs Rupali Kadam and Rajendra Murdare and others carried out the operation under the supervision of Additional Police Commissioner (south region). accused).

# Delhi Excise policy case: Sisodia appears before CBI for questioning

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 26:

Amidst fresh apprehensions that he might get arrested, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia reached the headquarters of the Central Bureau of Investigation in New Delhi around 11.15 am, to answer questions of the federal agency

which is probing the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 scam in which an allegedly erroneous policy was enforced by the AAP Government that caused losses to the Delhi Government and benefitted liquor traders through a planned conspiracy.

Sisodia who is accused number 1 along with 14 others in the FIR registered pertaining to the scam last year, told reporters on Sunday before heading to CBI headquarters that he doesn't care if he has to stay in jail for a few months. In his tweet, the Delhi Deputy CM said "Going to the CBI today again. Will cooperate fully in the entire investigation. The love of lakhs of children and the blessings of crores of countrymen are with us. I don't care if I have to stay in jail for a few months."

On February 19, he skipped CBI summons for questioning apprehending arrest and had sought more time from the agency, citing that he was in the midst of finalising the budget for Delhi and the draft is at a very crucial stage. The CBI has summoned Sisodia for the second time in connection with the ongoing investigations of corruption in the Delhi Excise Policy, which was allegedly "tweaked" to benefit liquor traders that resulted in losses to the tune of Rs

2873 crores to the Delhi Government.

Sisodia seeking time on February 19 told reporters that if he gets arrested, the public of Delhi and the government employees will suffer as he is the finance minister of Delhi and needs to finalise the Budget. Sisodia tweeted last Sunday before taking a decision to skip questioning wake of the Delhi Budget plan. He said "They have developed the full forces of the CBI and the ED (Enforcement Directorate) against me; raided my house, searched my bank locker, yet they found nothing. I have made arrangements to ensure good education for the children of Delhi. They want to stop it. I have always cooperated with the investigation and will continue to do so."

This is the second occasion that the CBI has asked Sisodia to make himself available at the agency's headquarters in New Delhi to answer queries related to the Delhi excise scam. He was summoned last year (2022) on October 17. During this, he was questioned for almost 9 hours. The CBI sleuth also paid a recent visit to Sisodia's office at Delhi Secretariat on January 14, "to gather certain information".

# The first day of Youth20 consultation event at IIM Raipur sees enthusiastic participation by the youth

PIB  
New Delhi, Feb 26:

IIM, Raipur successfully organized the two day Y20 consultation event at its campus with much enthusiasm and fanfare. The first day deliberations yesterday on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 S were marked by the important 'Youth Dialogue' with Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India which began with a lot of excitement among the students. Earlier, in the morning yesterday, the event was inaugurated by Renuka Singh, MoS, Tribal Affairs, GoI, in the presence of Dr. Ram Kumar Kakani, the Director of IIM Raipur, along with other esteemed guests.

During his address, Anurag Thakur highlighted the importance of technology in bridging gaps, providing opportunities to showcase talent, and solve global problems. The Minister expressed pride that India is now the 3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world with 107 unicorns. He praised the youth of Chattisgarh for leveraging disruptive technologies and possessing unmatched vigor, vitality, and vibrancy. He further quoted, "Your network is your net worth." Anurag Thakur motivated young individuals to expand their network and establish more connections with people to expand the horizons of their life and work. Moreover, he suggested that the youth should travel as much as possible to gain extensive exposure and experiences. He concluded by quoting "You are the present, you are the hope of the world."

During the dialogue with the Minister, the youth raised several questions regarding



the involvement of young people in politics, enhancing GDP, self empowerment, the contribution of international students to their home country etc. The main lesson learned from this session is that continuous learning and acquiring new skills can empower young people to participate in their nation's progress and promote peace. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur was impressed by the use of traditional art in the logo of IIM Raipur.

Renuka Singh Saruta, emphasized the importance of the Y20 Consultation event as an opportune moment to pay tribute to all the freedom fighters who secured India's independence and contributed to its progress. She stated that the Prime Minister also shared this vision and recognized the importance of Indian youth on the global stage. To tackle issues effectively, it is necessary to engage in multilateral dialogues and forums, she said. Despite the difficulties that India has faced, the country has played a crucial role in promoting world peace since gaining independence. She cited

examples of how conflict had been curbed in Jammu and Kashmir and Northeastern states, where the youth are now thriving. She expressed optimism that the discussions during this Y20 consultation would aid in peacebuilding and enable us to achieve the goal of "Vasudev Kutumbakam."

Dr. Ram Kumar Kakani, the Director of IIM Raipur, delivered the welcome address, expressing his belief that the Y20 Consultation event is a powerful driver of global transformation. He highlighted the importance of coming together to address the challenges posed by terrorism, socialist groups, and societal feudalism. Governments have a critical role to play in striking a balance between upholding human rights and maintaining law and order. Inter-community dialogue is crucial to ensuring that peace and harmony prevail. He encouraged the participants to engage in active discussions and brainstorming sessions throughout the event, so that they could generate innovative solutions to the world's pressing issues.

Prior to the start of the event, the guests were given a tour of the IIM, Raipur campus. They were treated with millet-based breakfast, as a contribution to India's observance of the International Year of Millets 2023.

A panel discussion on the subject of "Channelizing youth in conflict resolution," was conducted. According to Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Ex-CS, Assam, Bodoland peace negotiator, the young generation should follow the establishment of peace, uphold and preserve that. Dr. Mohit Garg, IPS, SP, Balrampur, frontline LWE experience, said that gradual erosion of faith in the system and in the government can be observed in naxal conflicted areas. The trust can be earned through getting in touch with the younger generation belonging to these areas, having conversations with them, and planning activities for them to participate in, including educational, cultural, and athletic pursuits. Shri Mohd. Aijaz Asad, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar emphasized that acts of terrorism and violence stifle the aspirations of

the youth. Shri Reinhard Baumgarten, Reputed journalist, international conflict zones, German, brought up the conflict in Sudan and suggested that love could serve as a foundation for lasting peace. Sushree Priyanka Bissa, Youth icon, Nehru Yuva Kendra, said that the discussion of wars also brings up the issues related to food, water, and resources, national security.

The second panel discussion on Experience Sharing Peace-making, Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping was moderated by Rajat Bansal, IAS (DC, Balodabazar). The panelists of this session were Brig. Basant K Ponwar (Retd.), AVSM, VSM (Ex-Director, Counter-Terrorism and Jungle Warfare College), Shri Ratan Lal Dangi, IPS (Director, CG State Police Academy), Shri Rob York (Director, Regional Affairs, Pacific Forum, USA) and Dr Aditi Narayani (Track chair Y20). The key takeaway from this session was that resolving problems through the use of weapons is not effective, and that the way of thinking is more important than the tools available.

The third panel talk, overseen by Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, IAS (DC Raipur), was focused on Building consensus among communities. The panel included Shri Nitesh Kumar Sahu, a young leader from Mungeli, Chhattisgarh; Dr. Philippe Eyebé Awono, an assistant professor at Jean Moulin University; and Sushree Shwetha Karambelkar, a 2nd year PGP student from IIM Raipur. One of the significant speakers in this session was Shri B Markam, an ex-naxalite, who later surrendered and brought peace and transformation in the communities.

## Name Change

I, the undersigned, Harimaya Poudyal do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Harimaya Sigdyal Poudyal** as I have assumed my new name **Harimaya Poudyal**.

Sd/-  
**Harimaya Poudyal**  
Kalapahar Bazar

## Name Change

I, the undersigned, Kedarnath Pouyal do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Kedarnath Sigdyal Poudyal** as I have assumed my new name **Kedarnath Poudyal**.

Sd/-  
**Kedarnath Poudyal**  
Kalapahar Bazar

## Name Change

I, the undersigned, Dinesh Poudyal do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Dinesh Sigdyal Poudyal** as I have assumed my new name **Dinesh Poudyal**.

Sd/-  
**Dinesh Poudyal**  
Kalapahar Bazar



# All arrangements put in place for assembly elections in Nagaland and Meghalaya tomorrow

Agency  
Kohima/Shillong, Feb 26:

Elaborate arrangements have been made for assembly elections in Nagaland and Meghalaya tomorrow. In Nagaland, stage has been set to conduct peaceful polling tomorrow in the state. Polling personnel along with poll materials have been dispatched to their voting booths.

A total of 183 candidates are in the fray. Polling will be held for 59 seats as the BJP already bagged one seat uncontested.

AIR Correspondent reports that additional paramilitary forces have been deployed across the state and vigil has also been intensified along the Indo-Myanmar border. Inter-state borders with Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh have been sealed to avoid any un-

toward incidents.

The DGP along with the Chief Electoral Officer and other senior officials visited Wokha and Mokakchung districts in the last 48 hours to review the law and order situation. Additional paramilitary forces have been deployed across the state and vigil has also been intensified along the Indo-Myanmar border.

In Meghalaya, one polling official passed away in an accident, when a vehicle in which the poll party was traveling, overturned. The incident occurred last night at Potamati village when the poll party was going to the Jangrapara polling station under the Tikrikilla constituency in the West Garo Hills district.

Two seriously injured officials have been shifted to the hospital while others were given treatment for mi-

nor injuries. Chesham Ch Marak deputised as 2nd Polling officer succumbed to injuries.

The CEO said Chesham Marak was a keen and dedicated official and a flag bearer of democracy. The election department has announced an ex gratia of 15 lakh rupees for the family of the deceased.

Polling parties have left for difficult polling stations. A total of 369 candidates, including 36 women, are in the fray for 59 Assembly constituencies in the state.

The election in Sohiong constituency was adjourned due to the demise of a UDP candidate.

The Chief Electoral Officer, F.R. Kharkongnor informed AIR News that webcasting of polling will be held in about 1000 polling stations to ensure fair and free polling in Meghalaya.

## Interaction with Meria Paibis

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 26:

Loktak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) interacted with Meria Paibis Members at Company Operating Base, Kumbi, District-Bishnupur (Manipur) today.

The interaction was aimed at promoting good relations and bonhomie amongst the Assam Rifles and local populace espe-

cially existing women organization. The event was attended by 40 Meria Paibis members and 10 locals of Bishnupur District. The meeting was chaired by Company Commander, Kumbi Company Operating Base.

The meeting enabled a free and willing interaction between Assam Rifles and Meria Paibis Members allowing various issues ranging from improving the educa-

tion system, medical facilities and cordial relationship for improvement of the society in general. The Company Commander highlighted the importance of Meria Paibis in empowerment of women and urged them to cooperate in overall benefit and betterment of the society. The gathering appreciated the efforts and cordial assistance of Assam Rifles in maintaining peace and tranquility in the area.

Contd. from Page 1

## PM Modi calls upon people to contribute....

Prime Minister termed this as special because this practice was revived after 700 years. He said that although this tradition is thousands of years old, unfortunately, this festival was stopped 700 years ago.

The festival was started again by the local people two years ago. Mr Modi congratulated all the people associated with the festival's organization. He said they are not only keeping a tradition alive but are also protecting the cultural heritage of India.

Prime Minister said that Tribeni in West Bengal has been known as a holy place for centuries. It finds mention in various Mangalakavya, Vaishnava literature, Shakti literature and other Bangla literary works. He said various historical documents suggest that this region was once a centre of Sanskrit, education and Indian culture. Many saints consider it a holy place for Kumbh Snan on Magh Sankranti.

In Tribeni, there are many Ganga Ghats, Shiva temples and ancient buildings decorated with terracotta architecture. Kumbh Mela was organized in this place last year to restore the cultural heritage of Tribeni and revive the glory of Kumbh tradition.

Mr Modi emphasised that seven centuries later, the three-

day Kumbh Mahasnan and the fair have infused a new energy into the region. A large number of people participated in the Ganga Aarti, Rudrabhishek and Yajna that took place every day for three days.

Mr Modi applauded the effort to connect the youth with the golden past of the country. He said there are many other such practices in India, which need to be revived. He hoped that the discussion about them will definitely inspire people in this direction.

In the 98th episode of Mann Ki Baat today, Prime Minister looked back at the programme's journey so far. He expressed delight that it has become a wonderful platform for public participation. He said the might of the country increases with the strength of the society. He recalled the day when he talked about encouraging traditional sports of India in 'Mann Ki Baat'. He said that immediately, a wave arose in the country to join Indian Sports, to enjoy them, and to learn about them.

In 'Mann Ki Baat', when the Prime Minister referred to Indian toys, the people of the country readily promoted them. Mr Modi noted that nowadays, Indian toys have become such a craze that their demand has increased even in

foreign countries.

When he spoke about Indian ways of story-telling in 'Mann Ki Baat', their fame also reached far and wide. People started getting attracted towards the Indian forms of story-telling.

On Sardar Patel's birth anniversary- 'Unity Day'- Prime Minister had mentioned three competitions in 'Mann Ki Baat'. These competitions were 'Geet' - Patriotic Songs, 'Lullabies' and 'Rangoli'. Mr Modi said more than five lakh people from more than 700 districts across the country participated in this enthusiastically.

Entries were sent in more than 20 languages. Mr Modi congratulated the participants of these competitions. Prime Minister urged the citizens to visit the website of the Ministry of Culture, watch and listen to the entries with their families - and be inspired. Mr Modi also remembered legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, who had urged the countrymen to join in the competitions.

Mr Modi announced that in the lullaby writing competition, the first prize has been won by B.M. Manjunath of Chamrajnagar district in Karnataka. He received this award for his lullaby 'Malagu Kanda' written in Kannada. He got the inspiration to write this

from the lullabies sung by his mother and grandmother.

Dinesh Gowla, a resident of Kamrup district in Assam, has won the second prize in this competition. His lullaby reflects the popular craft of the artisans who make clay and pot vessels locally.

Prime Minister said that in the Rangoli competition, the winning entry was from Kamal Kumar from Punjab. He made a Rangoli of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.

The winner of the patriotic song competition, T. Vijay Durga is from Andhra Pradesh. She had sent her entry in Telugu. She has been greatly inspired by Narasimha Reddy, the famous freedom fighter of her region.

Prime Minister also spoke about the 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar' which were conferred recently. These awards were given away to emerging, talented artists in the field of music and performing arts.

Prime Minister said the awardees also include artists who have breathed new life into instruments whose popularity was decreasing with time. He cited one such awardee, Joydeep Mukherjee, who is persevering towards making the Sursingar popular once again.

## Promote climate-resilient and adopt....

A state-level painting competition was also held in two categories. In category-I, N. Korounganba, Heritage Convent, Uripok, S. Pural Mangang, St. George High

School, Wangkhei and Laishram Bidyananda, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Lamphel got 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively.

In category-II, Sunaina

Saikhom, Kendra Vidyalaya, Lamphel, Thiyam Jesina Devi, RK Sanatombi Devi Vidyalaya and Ningombam Bolero, Shishu Nishtha Niketan got 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively.

The Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital, Prof. N. Sanjib Singh distributed the prizes to the winners of the State Level Painting Competition.

# 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