

State Assembly session adjourned sine die

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

Third Session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly session which begins yesterday adjourned sine die today. In the 2nd day of the session Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who is also in charge of Finance tabled the Manipur Lokayukta (Salaries, Allowances and Conditions of Service of the Secretary and Other Officers and Staff) Regulations, 2022; Annual Report 2021-2022 of the Manipur Public Service Commission. Which was later passed by the house. The house also discussed the Governor's address after Dr. Sapam

Ranjan Singh moved the Motion of thanks on Governor's Address. The motion was seconded by Awangbou Newmai saying that the Members of the Manipur Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House on 2nd February, 2023.

Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Minister Y. Khemchand Singh moved to consider and passed that the Manipur Panchayati Raj (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023 as reported by the Select Committee on the Manipur Panchayati Raj (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2022 be taken into consideration. The Bill was later passed in

the state assembly Power Minister Th. Biswajit Singh also tabled the following tabled the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Manipur and Mizoram (Electricity Supply Code) (Fourteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2021. The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Manipur and Mizoram (Electricity Supply Code) (Seventeenth Amendment) Regulation, 2022. The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Manipur and Mizoram (Recruitment, Control and Service Conditions of Officers and Staff) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2021. The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Manipur and Mizoram (Electricity Supply Code) (Fifteenth Amendment)

Regulations, 2021. The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Manipur and Mizoram (Fees, Fines and Charges) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2020. The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the States of Manipur and Mizoram (Intra-State Essential Reliability Services Operations) Regulations, 2020. The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Manipur and Mizoram (Electricity Supply Code) (Sixteenth Amendment) Regulation, 2022. The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Manipur and Mizoram (Renewable Purchase Obligation and its Compliance) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2022.

Talks between Myanmar and Indian authorities ends without any amicable solution

'Namphalong market will continue to remain close'

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

The souring relationships between Myanmar and India in the aftermath of Covid-19 Pandemic and later Military Coup in Myanmar fails to bridge even after the authority of the two countries make efforts by organising a Regional Border Co-operation meeting that begins from Jan 30 and ended yesterday at IGAR (South) Mantripukhri complex here in Imphal.

The 20 member Myanmar delegates who were here in India at IGAR (South) complex in Mantripukhri, left for

Myanmar today after attending the meeting.

A source said that during the Regional Border Co-operation meeting issues of narcotic drug smuggling from Myanmar to India along the Indo-Myanmar borders was discussed. The Indian side also reportedly put up issues about the problem faced by India due to influx of large number of Myanmar to Indian territories in the aftermath of the conflict arisen between the Tatmadaw (Myanmar army) and the pro democrats.

The meeting also urged the Myanmar authority to re-

open the border trade by opening the Namphalong Market, which the Myanmar government reportedly gave no green signal.

Technically the Regional Border Co-operation meeting bears no fruits with none of the major issues coming to any settlement.

After the meeting the 20 members Myanmar delegates were drop till Moreh by 2 (two) Indian Air Force Helicopter MI-17 from IGAR (South) Mantripukhri, Imphal.

Later a team of 5 Assam Rifles guarded the Myanmar delegates till Indo-Myanmar Friendship Bridge.

Centre elevates Judicial Officer Aribam Guneshwar Sharma as Judge of Manipur High Court

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

The Ministry of Law and Justice on Friday notified the elevation of a Judicial Officer Aribam Guneshwar Sharma as Judge of the Manipur High Court.

The Supreme Court Collegium recently in its meeting held on January 10, 2023, approved the proposal for the elevation of Aribam Guneshwar Sharma as judge of the High Court of Manipur.

Before being elevated as the judge of Manipur High Court, Aribam Guneshwar Sharma was the District & Sessions Judge, Imphal West having jurisdiction over revenue districts of Imphal West, Tamenglong, Noney, Chandel & Tengnoupal and was also the Senior most District Judge in Manipur.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju also tweeted in this regard stated, "as per the provisions under the Constitution of India, Judicial Officer Aribam Guneshwar Sharma has been



appointed as Judge of Manipur High Court."

On Thursday, Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday while responding to the queries made by Member of Parliament Dr John Brittas, in Parliament stated that as on January 30, 2023, against the sanctioned strength of 1108 judges in various High Courts, 775 judges are working and 333 posts of Judges are vacant in the High Courts.

142 proposals recommended by the High Court Collegiums are at various stages of processing. Out of these 142, 4 proposals are pending with the Supreme Court Collegium and 138 are under various stages of processing in the

Government, he added.

As on January 30, 2023, recommendations in respect of 236 vacancies (191 existing and 45 anticipated vacancies during the next 6 months) are yet to be received from High Court Collegiums, which are in breach of six months advance timeline for making recommendations for anticipated vacancies, said the Law and Justice Minister.

The Supreme Court Collegium on Tuesday recommended Allahabad High Court Chief Justice, Justice Rajesh Bindal, and Gujarat High Court Chief Justice, Justice Aravind Kumar for elevation as Judges of the top court.

The SC Collegium comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud along with justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, K.M. Joseph, M.R. Shah, Ajay Rastogi and Sanjiv Khanna made the recommendation.

The Collegium said that they have found both of the judges to be more deserving and suitable in all respects for

being appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court of India after carefully evaluating the merit, integrity and competence of eligible Chief Justices and senior puisne Judges of the High Courts and also accommodating a plurality of considerations.

While recommending the above names the Collegium has taken into consideration the various aspects including the seniority of Chief Justices and senior puisne Judges in their respective parent High Courts as well as the overall seniority of the High Court Judges among others. Other aspects that were considered were the merit, performance and integrity of the judges, the need to ensure diversity and inclusion in the Supreme Court by the representation of High Courts which are not represented or are inadequately represented, in the Supreme Court, appointing persons from marginalized and backward segments of society, gender diversity and representation of minorities.

One Day Legal Awareness Program on Social Welfare Schemes & Tele Law Legal Services



IT News
Chandel, Feb 3:

Today a One Day Awareness Program on the Government Social Welfare Schemes cum Sensitisation on Tele Law legal Service was held at multipurpose hall, Mini secretariat complex, Chandel. Today's program was organised by the District Legal Services Authority, Chandel in collaboration with District Administration Chandel. The program was organised as a part of the Integrated Delivery of Legal Services (IDLS-DISHA Scheme) which is jointly implemented by DoJ, Government of India & NALSA.

Speaking on the occasion,

SDO, Chakpikarong, Chirom Somorendro Singh, sighting the examples of the Chakpikarong Sub division, said that many people who are in real need of these government welfare schemes are not getting the benefits due to lack of awareness. He asked the Village Heads and the village authorities to help in creating awareness amongst the villagers and also appealed to the SDOs of other district for the same.

Member Secretary, CWC, Tengnoupal, Smt. Darnang Khaling spoke in length on the special welfare schemes of women and children. She also interacted with village Heads present in the function.

Retainer Lawyer, DLSA,

Chandel, Jacky Lucy introduced the concept of Tele Law Legal Services. She explained in details about Tele Legal services and its benefits. Explaining the details of these services, she said that though these services had been in practice since some years in other part of the country it has been reintroduced in our state recently and urged the people to create awareness about these services so that people in need can take advantage of these services.

Today's program was attended by the Village Heads of the district, DLOs and other stake holders.

The program ended by proposing a vote of thanks by the SDC Chandel Mothel Saka.

Assam Police arrests 1,800 people in massive crackdown on child marriage

Agency
Guwahati, Feb 3:

The Assam Police has arrested over 1,800 people so far on Friday in a massive crackdown on child marriage. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The crackdown began early in the morning across the state and it will continue over the next three to four days, Sarma told reporters on the sidelines of a programme here.

The police had registered 4,004 cases of child marriage in less than a fortnight since the state cabinet decided on January 23 to take action, with the arrest of offenders and a simultaneous launch of an extensive awareness campaign.

The chief minister said the

crackdown was continuing and a clear picture will emerge by evening on the number of arrests and the districts from where those were made.

The highest number of 136 arrests so far has been made in Dhubri where 370 cases have been registered, followed by 110 in Barpeta and 100 in Nagaon.

Those having married girls below 14 years of age will be booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and cases under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 will be registered against those who have married girls in the 14-18 years age group.

They will be arrested and the marriages will be declared illegal.

If the boy is also below 14 years of age, he will be sent to a reform house as minors cannot be tried in the court.

The priests, kasis and family members involved in the conduct of such marriages will also be booked, Sarma had said earlier.

"Assam Govt is firm in its resolve to end the menace of child marriage in the state. So far @assampolice has registered 4,004 cases (of child marriage) across the state and more police action is likely in days ahead. Action on the cases will begin starting February 3. I request all to cooperate," the CM tweeted on Thursday.

Sarma chaired a virtual meeting with the superintendents of police in the presence of Director General of Police G P Singh on the state-wide po-

lice action.

He appealed to the people to extend support and cooperation to "rid the state of the evil practice".

Assam has a high rate of maternal and infant mortality, with child marriage being the primary cause as an average of 31 per cent of marriages registered in the state are in the prohibited age, according to reports of the National Family Health Survey.

Of the 4,004 cases of child marriage registered recently, the highest was reported in Dhubri (370), followed by Hojai (255), Udalguri (235), Morigaon (224) and Kokrajhar (204).

Hailakandi district reported only one case, while 24 were reported in Dima Hasao and 35 in Cachar.

Tousem Headquarters Students' Union (THSU) condemn Joint Survey

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

The Tousem Headquarters Students' Union (THSU) expressed strong condemnation to the notice Vide No. DC (TML) F&E/2018 dated 23.01.2023 of the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Tamenglong regarding joint Survey of Kaiphundai Reserve Forest extension headed by Divisional Forest Officer, Jiribam and the Sub Divisional office Staffs of Tousem.

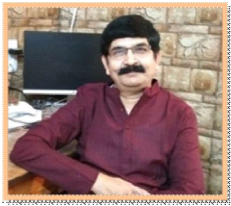
A statement by the student Union said that Kaiphundai village is right under the jurisdiction of the Tousem Sub Division, Tamenglong District. Hence any survey should be done with the consent of the indigenous inhabitants, it added.

Tousem Headquarters Students' Union (THSU) stated that the union stands vehemently against the joint survey by Divisional forest Officer, Jiribam and the Forest Department, Manipur.

It said that the union will not tolerate any infringement on the rights of the native dwellers and encroachment into their land and warned violence saying that the union will not hold responsible for that.

The union urged the Manipur govt and the concern department to revoke the cited order and used their wisdom in tackling such sensitive issues that infringe the rights of the indigenous inhabitants which may even lead to loss of lives.

Words of kindness are more healing



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

The world we live in today has been through a lot of things from world wars to epidemics, but one thing which remained constant throughout was resilience and kindness. Kindness is basically being polite, compassionate and thoughtful. Every religion and faith teaches its followers to be kind. Even nature has its own way of showing kindness. For instance, the trees grow fruits for us and provide us with shade. One must not see kindness as a core value but as a fundamental behavioural element. There is no doubt that kindness always wins and it has been proven time and again by people. Kindness has a lot of benefits which includes increased happiness and a healthy heart. It slows down the ageing process and also enhances relationships and connections, which will indirectly boost your health. Kindness is spreading happiness to make other's day better and by making them smile.

People who do not know you will begin to like you right away. Kindness is the most valuable characteristic that comes at no cost. Even someone who has no money and wears only a rag on his body might be generous to others. Everyone should be kind to others. Kindness encompasses a wide range of behaviours. Integrity, empathy, respect, and decency are all essential components. Being modest shows your humility and lays the groundwork for kindness. Generally, kind people are described as those who respect their elderly and younger people, who are soft spoken and when they make big mistakes, they forgive people very easily. If a person finds a kind person, then he should respect him as if he respects his parents or other loved ones. Kindness gives us lot of benefits in life. Kindness can bring good health for you because doctors have approved that showing kindness towards everyone can help someone survive for many years without any disease. It can reduce the problem of stress, depression or any other anxiety which you may have, because kindness will make people happy and they will be happy, you will be automatically happy that your stress and many others will reduce problems. Kindness can also bring us a good amount from customers. It is very clear that when an investor wants, he should be kind and this is what the investor gets affected and provides his money to your business. There are many reasons why kindness is important. First, it creates a positive ripple effect. When we are kind to others, they are more likely to be kind to us. Second, it builds strong relationships. When we show kindness to others, they feel appreciated and valued. This can lead to deeper and more meaningful relationships.

It is often called the golden rule because it asks us to treat others the way we want to be treated. Kindness is about helping others, even if there is nothing in it for us. It can make someone's day, and it doesn't cost a thing. Playing amongst themselves.

Kindness is defined as the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. It is a basic good moral that we should all live by. Unfortunately, in today's society, kindness seems to be in short supply. With all the violence, greed, and selfishness that we see on the news, it can be easy to forget that there are still good people in the world. It is essential for all of us to understand the value of kindness. Kindness affects our mentality and gives us internal peace. It reduces all stresses of life and brings smiles to our faces. Showing kindness and respect to others for a minute can keep you in the hearts of everyone for the rest of your life. Always remember, it does not cost anything to be kind. We must treat others with kindness without expecting reciprocity. It is important to be kind because it makes one feel good about oneself. When you do things for other people and help them with anything, it makes you feel warm and that you have accomplished something.

Need for a Structured Approach to career Guidance among students



By: Vijay GarG

If we were to draw a parallel between the youth of today vis-a-vis the previous generations, today's youngsters seem to be better equipped with knowledge and skills. This can be attributed to the fact that they are more exposed to technology and have additional years of education than their predecessors before they enter the workforce.

Despite this tremendous advantage, a huge percentage of young people struggle to find suitable employment. Recent studies have revealed that as much as 90% of students opt for a wrong career path due to a lack of career guidance and the persisting gap between skills and aptitudes.

Career Confusion

Despite acquiring higher education, a majority of students aren't sure about what career is best for them. This demonstrates that academic scores aren't the only thing important for securing good placements and having a great career. There are several factors that affect a student's career journey.

Lack of Self-Awareness

Self-awareness is essential at every stage of life, but while choosing a career, it takes on a new significance. Lack of self-awareness is one of the main reasons why students are constantly torn when it comes to choosing career routes.

Although they might be aware of their hobbies, they are unable to connect their aptitudes to career choices. Additionally, there appears to be a significant gap between academic achievement and career-relevant abilities, including communication, time management, and problem-solving.

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Prayer - A Weapon To Ward Off Impurities



By: M.R. Lahu

Does prayer work as a weapon? This question has many queer elements to it as it is a totally different perspective on prayer. With millions of people across the globe resorting to pray in different ways and fashions, prayer has become an indivisible part of human existence. There are many who don't believe in prayer or praying for them is detrimental. But to see prayer as a weapon that fights all the odds and adversities of life should be an intrinsic approach. Enmeshed in life's complexities and perplexities and chaos, prayer brings little solace to the soul and a compassionate approach with a prayerful vocabulary on vitriolic elements gives us inner peace. I personally believe that prayer should not be seen as a religious affair. Every religion does have a systematised manner in which it initiates prayer. But to me prayer is a relentless surrender to an entity that holds control over everything, which you may call almighty. Starting from the Vedic period of Yajnas to the inner spiritual splendour of the yogis, prayer and its outcomes existed in various forms.

Does prayer come from a disillusioned and insecure mind or does it always come from the boundlessness of the inner realms of happiness? Mostly, before the advent of organised religions, prayer was an act, a personal business in which a person delved into the possibilities of establishing a connection with the omnipotent and omniscient which he thought would drive his passions into its total expression. When we try to passionately pursue the truth in its all potential forms while understanding the essential base as one, prayer takes us for a silent pursuit to live in tandem with the ultimate reality with its flourishingly expressive variety. Prayer is an inner journey, the journey that helps the traveller to go through the wonderful realms of a spiritual thirst and an outcome slowly but gradually solidifying in the horizon of our inner consciousness as an incandescence or an unadulterated joy in abundance.

A prayerful mind makes an impact on a positive churn in itself and around. It disseminates abundant positivity and makes tranquillity a habit. Religions have often invented various ways to pray as part of their survival. Imagine if religions evolved without prayer practices. They would indeed cease to exist gradually with no powerful way to console, cajole and bring about solace to the seekers who have taken spiritual asylum under the broadened shadow of its philosophy. Prayer at a personal level fulfils the spiritual demands of a person but at a community level under the garb of a religious sophistication it takes the role of a catalyst that keeps the larger audience of the religious establishment connected. There it remains a fabricated and intentional occupation that does not bless the person with an intuitive nudge that it is actually capable of. Of course a community prayer system does bring about spiritual renaissance in a person but the depth of accuracy with which a silent meditative mind can capture the real essence of divinity does not come through this practice.

Prayer systems existing in different religions are effervescent about their ultimate ideal or goal. But prayer as such is a roadmap for the prayerful while following a religious tradition because the roadmap shows the highway to the goal. Sri Ramakrishna the teacher of Swami Vivekananda had a strange way of saying his prayer. The idol of the Goddess he used to consecrate on a daily basis had taken him to the magical realms of spiritual reality that many people in his times found to be unrealistic and mysterious. But the wisdom he had gained through the temple ceremonies and prayer seemed to have had the power to transform the ordinary man in him to an extraordinary being, which science with its logic and inventions failed to define. So prayer is not a mere vocal exercise by someone in a well structured manner. When a person goes beyond the chanting regime of his prayer, he is not only crossing the boundaries of materialistic inclinations but the spiritual discovery that he naturally gets into, keeps transforming him as an effulgent personality radiating spiritual purity.

For Mahatma Gandhi, prayer was a weapon that he frequently used to ward off anomalies. And the power he galvanised by being prayerful had been so persuasive that the person who came into the influential radiance of his persona got metamorphosed and became purely cognizant of the reality of the cosmic order. The Bhakti movement throughout Indian history reveals the power of prayer and its various methods. A personal transformation through prayer by spiritual luminaries exemplifies the immensity of the spiritual splendour that different ways of praying could catapult. From Adi Shankara to the Sankardev of Assam to the Nayanars of the Southern part of India to the Eknath of Maharashtra

every spiritual personality had gone through this prayerful life that in a later period did transform them to the context for which we remember them today. To quote from the epic, the Ramayana gives a well-qualified narration on the transformation of Ratnakara into a renowned poet Valmiki. The journey from a cruel forest dweller that made a living by plundering to that of a great poet Valmiki is known to have happened through the way he executed his spiritual practice, the prayer.

The mental faculty of being in communion with a supreme power is what the religious intent behind prayer is. But at a personal level prayer is silence at its glorious form manifesting in its purest realm. So to remain prayerful can be a method to unleash our hidden power to dispel stress in every given moment and it needs deliberate practice. An attentive mind that delves into the possibilities of prayer excavates diamonds of satisfaction which indeed brings solace to not only the practitioner but also the people who come under this surveillance of stress. Being stressful cannot be a choice, but to remain prayerful with complete attention passed on to the emotions that drag our life to severe stress can be a choice. Silence can be a track on which the flights of prayer can take off to further heights. And it is obvious that prayer with deep attention can illuminate the chasm that the stress of our daily life throws us in. It cannot be conflicting and disagreeable, for it is your business to conduct; an exercise to discover the soothing power in you, where neither internal nor external conflicts pull your nerves anymore because prayer is perfectly an inner discovery of the purest.

(Freelance Journalist/Author of "India @ 75- A Contemporary Approach")

MGNREGA outlay cut in 2023-24 Budget brings bad days for rural poor

The inequality syndrome is further strengthened under Modi regime

By Sushil Kutty

The day after, and Budget 23-24 stands out in stark relief, warts and all. February 1, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the picture of animated tranquillity when she read out Budget 2023-24 dressed in red, both the minister as well as the country's 'bahi-khata'. She did not miss a trick in the book to make Budget 2023-24 sound like it was up every citizen's alley.

With all its implications to the middle class, the tribal, and the women, even if many women were by evening sticking pins in the budget. "How could she, a woman?" was the common refrain.

Apparently, there was very little for women in Sitharaman's "workhorse budget". Other sobriquets Budget 2023-24 garnered included "amazing budget" and "wondrous budget". The sheikhs of Dubai, the nation-state addicted to superlatives, would have approved.

That said, the free rations and other 'labarthi' schemes will continue. There's also the new one-time saving scheme for women called the 'Mahila Samman Saving Certificate'. Another women-centred provision in the budget is the proposal for setting up 157 new nursing colleges attached to 157 medical colleges.

The government is also dead serious in empowering women's self-help groups. Food security is another commitment. A free food-grain supply scheme started January 1 under the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana. Sitharaman said the government had ensured nobody went to bed hungry during the COVID pandemic.

The question is, did the Antodaya scheme, and food security, sound the death-knell of the MGNREGA/NREGS. Has the government succeeded in lifting people out of poverty? Like the Chinese did in the three decades after 1980?

On February 1, Minister Sitharaman, without any telltale emotion writ large, cut drastically allocation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The revised estimate of Rs 89400 crore for MGNREGA in the previous budget was brought down to Rs 60,000 crore in this year's budget, drawing seething reactions. The budget was pilloried and taken to the cleaners by the critics of the Modi government.

The MGNREGA allocation of Rs 60,000 crore for this year is the lowest in four budgets. The question being asked: Was the Modi government in its senses when it cut to size the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act or MGNREGA? It's a job guarantee scheme and has stood the test of time for nearly two decades.

While not lifting people out of poverty, it kept the rural poor employed for at least 100 days of the year. It was the Dr. Manmohan Singh government doing yeoman service to millions of Indians.

Now, in one fell swoop, the Modi government after nine years playing tinker-tailor has come to the conclusion that mercy-killing MGNREGA would be the best for a rising India, a 'New India'. What does it mean; is India out of the poverty index? Has India gotten free of Oxfam, which in its 2023 report painted a depressing picture of India's poverty scenario?

The manner in Budget 2023-24 has dealt with MGNREGA, it's like, after the start of the Covid pandemic and now, demand for MGNREGA has dried up, and MGNREGA is demand-driven! So, the reply to "Why was MGNREGA cut to size?" is that demand for MGNREGA has plummeted. People do not want MGNREGA daily work anymore.

Does that mean they are otherwise gainfully employed? If so where...in the towns, in the cities, or in the villages? Is India well on its way recovering from the ravages of the Covid pandemic? Is the economy recovering faster than somebody showing symptoms of Long Covid? Are MSMEs and the organised industries generating jobs in the thousands, and in the lakhs? Are governments filling up 'sarkari' vacancies like their lives depended on guaranteeing full-employment?

For the last nine years the Op-

position has been crying itself hoarse on unemployment and underemployment and nothing seemed to move the regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his 'suit-boot ki sarkar' which was glued to 'pakoronomics', Mudra loans, and buoyed by start-ups.

This budget is showing the thumbs down to MGNREGA, and is high on start-ups and youth power, India's demographic dividend. The only problem is taking the Modi government on its word. Trusting the Modi dispensation is like looking the snake in the eye! All you will see will be the forked tongue flicking.

It's hard to believe that regular jobs are back in currency in India after the long Covid layoff. Have the lakhs of migrant workers who had trekked home in distress returned to the factory floor, and the commercial establishments?

Or, is it the government's sleight of hand? Is the government using MGNREGA numbers to give the impression that employment has shot up, and jobs are there for the taking; therefore there's no demand for MGNREGA man-days, man-hours. Perhaps, free rations frees people from employment. The government's claim that Budget 2023-24 is a 'revdi-free' budget must be another false-flag operation!

(IPA Service)

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Opposition protests in Parliament for second day, seeks probe into Adani Group's business practices

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 3:

Opposition parties on Friday held protests for the second day in a row in Parliament, seeking an investigation into allegations of large-scale corporate fraud by the Adani Group.

Due to the uproar, the Lok Sabha was adjourned till 2 pm while the Rajya Sabha was adjourned till 2.30 pm.

Earlier in the day, leaders of 16 Opposition parties held a meeting in the chambers of Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

The Congress said that ordinary citizens were losing money on account of investments made by the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation and State Bank of India. "The united Opposition is seeking an investigation into this entire matter," the party said on Twitter.

The Opposition has sought an investigation by a Joint Parliamentary Committee or a Supreme Court-appointed panel into allegations by



United States-based company Hindenburg Research that the Adani Group had engaged in decades of stock manipulation and accounting fraud.

Soon after Lok Sabha proceedings began on Friday, members of Opposition parties shouted slogans and called for an inquiry into the business practices of the Gautam Adani-led conglomerate.

Speaker Om Birla urged the MPs to take part in discus-

sions during Question Hour, PTI reported. He said that he was willing to give the Opposition enough time to discuss the matter if they gave a proper notice about it.

However, the Opposition continued to engage in sloganeering, due to which Birla adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm.

In the Rajya Sabha, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected 15 adjournment notices

filed by Opposition MPs who demanded a discussion on the crisis in the Adani Group. "I am unable to accede to them as these are not fulfilling the requirements of Rule 267," he said, according to PTI.

The Rajya Sabha's Rule 267 states that any MP can move a motion to suspend business in the Upper House with the consent of the chairperson.

Dhankhar urged MPs to

maintain order, and permit the listed business of the House to be taken up. However, the protests continued, due to which the House was adjourned till 2.30 pm.

Congress to protest outside LIC, SBI offices on February 6

Congress General Secretary in-charge of organisation KC Venugopal said on Thursday that the party will hold countrywide protests outside the offices of the Life Insurance Corporation and State Bank of India on February 6.

"LIC has invested over Rs 36k crores in the Adani Group and Indian banks have invested nearly Rs 80k crores in Adani," he said. "This is ongoing, despite glaring evidence of fraud and stock manipulation. The govt can't jeopardise our hard earned savings to profit the PM's cronies."

Venugopal said that there should be a thorough discussion in Parliament on the exposure of LIC, SBI, and other Indian banks to the Adani Group.

India reports 99 new covid cases in a day

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 3:

India has reported 99 new covid-19 cases and zero deaths in the last 24 hours, the union health ministry data showed on Friday. Active cases have increased to 1,764 while total number of covid cases have reached 4.47 crore. The country reported 530,741 covid related deaths since the onset of the pandemic.

Karnataka reported 133 active cases, while Kerala has 1198 active cases. Maharashtra has 73 active cases, Odisha 85 cases, Rajasthan 16 cases, Tamil Nadu 32 active cases; Uttar Pradesh 15 and West Bengal has 45 active cases.

With the decline in the trajectory of covid cases, scientists believe that Omicron and its sub lineages will not affect India as large number of populations is already exposed to the virus and vaccinated. Scientists say that people in India have developed hybrid immunity (due to vaccination and natural infection). However, they suggest people to wear masks in crowded places and complete their vaccination doses if not done yet.

At present, large number of cases is being reported in China and other countries as a result of which the central government has tightened covid control measures. The government has directed the INSACOG, under the supervision of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), to keep a close watch on covid situation in the country and continue to do constant genome sequencing to track any new variant.

The government is conducting RT-PCR testing for people returning from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and South Korea and mandated the filling up of 'Air Suvidha' forms for travelers from six countries under which 72-hour prior RT-PCR testing is compulsory.

Besides, surveillance at the hospital level is also going on to monitor Influenza-like illness (ILI) & SARI cases.

Under the covid vaccination drive, more than 220.54 crore vaccine doses have been administered to the people across the country so far. In the last 24 hours, around 1,60,387 vaccine doses were administered.

BBC documentary: Supreme Court tells Centre to produce original records of blocking order

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 3:

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to produce original records relating to the order which blocked a BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's alleged role in the 2002 Gujarat riots, *Live Law* reported.

A bench comprising Justices Sanjay Khanna and MM Sundresh asked the Centre to file its response in the case by the next hearing, which will be in April.

The court is hearing two petitions filed by Advocate

ML Sharma and journalist N Ram, lawyer Prashant Bhushan and Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra.

The first episode of the BBC's two-part documentary, titled *India: The Modi Question*, was released on January 17. It alleges that a team sent by the British government had found that Modi, who was the chief minister of Gujarat when the riots took place, was "directly responsible for a climate of impunity" that led to the violence against Muslims.

The documentary also reveals a United Kingdom gov-

ernment report on the violence for the first time, stating that the riots had "all the hallmarks of an ethnic cleansing".

The second part, which focussed on Modi's record as prime minister, was released on January 24.

On January 20, the government had used emergency powers available under the Information Technology Rules, 2021, to issue directions to YouTube and Twitter to block clips of the documentary from being shared. The foreign ministry had described the documentary as "a propaganda piece de-

signed to push a particular discredited narrative".

In his plea, Sharma argued that the Centre's blocking order is "malafide, arbitrary and unconstitutional" and that the court should examine the documentary and act against persons who were, directly and indirectly, responsible for the 2002 Gujarat riots, according to *The Indian Express*.

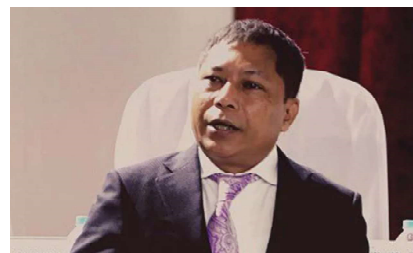
Ram and Bhushan told the court that tweets about the documentary were taken down by the Centre and added that the Centre has not put the blocking order on public domain.

Meghalaya Deputy CM accuses Mukul Sangma of planning to join BJP after polls

Agency
Guwahati, Feb 3:

Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong has reportedly alleged that former Chief Minister Mukul Sangma and his team are planning to leave the Trinamool Congress and join the Bharatiya Janata Party after the upcoming elections.

Tynsong stated that arrangements have already been made between Mukul and the BJP and that Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma had also



hinted at this during a public meeting.

He urged the "public not to trust Mukul's leadership", claiming that he is likely to jump to the BJP since he won't win many seats in the election.

The Deputy CM also denied Mukul Sangma's allegations that the NPP is a subsidiary of

the BJP but stated that he (Mukul Sangma) will surely join the BJP after the election.

Earlier Conrad K Sangma "warned" TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee about leaders within the party planning to leave after the election and said this was a widely known fact in the political circles.

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Need for a Structured Approach to career Guidance.....

Limited Understanding of Future Professions

Students are often left puzzled about what to do after completing their education. A study estimates that 93% of learners are aware of only eight or fewer professional alternatives, such as engineering, medical, law, finance, and information technology. In contrast, there are over 800 different career paths available for them to explore.

Furthermore, students are overwhelmed by the vast array of courses offered by universities and institutions while choosing a professional route. Clearly, they are in dire need of professional guidance to gain knowledge of careers and best-fit courses.

Peer Influence and Social Pressure

From an early age, a child's peers play an influential role in the formation of their identity, attitude, beliefs, and outlook. While making career decisions, students may feel coerced and compelled to choose a career based on what peers are doing. Not only do friends influence them, but they may also be under pressure from parents, relatives, and teachers.

However, these influencers are not equipped with the right knowledge to guide the student in the right direction. This may lead to wrong decisions and dissatisfaction at work.

Too Much Emphasis on Leading Colleges

To keep up with the competitive world, a lot of students chase top universities and colleges without giving much consideration to the course they want to pursue. In a bid to be a part of a prestigious university, they tend to choose courses that may not align with their career goals.

This is one of many reasons why, after course completion, students feel under-confident about their skills and are not able to flourish in their career journey.

Fear of Failure

Failure is an overlooked phenomenon in our country. If a student is unable to lead a successful life as per societal standards, he is generally looked down upon. When success is determined by how well one has achieved social objectives, the thought of failing in any way can be horrifying.

Additionally, parental expectations can lead to choos-

ing socially acceptable careers rather than what learners really like to do. This is why many students do not follow their natural talent and instincts while choosing a career and settle for something less challenging and unsuitable.

Both students and guardians need guidance to align career choices with interests and aptitudes to be able to help students lead confident lives.

Skill Gap and Unemployment

A recent study has affirmed that approximately 75% of all organizations acknowledged a fundamental skill gap in the industry, which is a major reason behind the existing unemployment rate in India. There is a pressing need for a braided pathway between education and employment.

A mismatch in skills and industry requirements may lead to discontent among job seekers. Students need to build the right skill set not only for seeking employment but for a sustainable career.

What is the Solution?

A career misstep isn't the easiest thing to face. It has far-reaching effects on an individual's well-being, besides

manifesting long-term dissatisfaction, lack of motivation, poor performance, and social disregard. Scientific research reveals that a wrong career choice can lead to serious health issues like depression, denial, and fear, which may take years to heal.

According to a study conducted in the UK, for every 100,000 workers, 1500 reported work-related stress and depression.

Thus, it is imperative that career choices are made based on the intersection of personality, skills, interests, and workstyle orientation. The role of career advisors and counselors is paramount in guiding students toward a comprehensive career journey.

Sadly, India still needs 1.4 million career counsellors for 315 million students to maintain a globally acceptable student-to-counsellor ratio of 3:1. The need of the hour is a sustainable and structured approach to career guidance among students at the school and university levels.

This necessitates the implementation of counselling programs in the school ecosystem with the aim of guiding students in their academic, per-

sonal, and career development. These three aspects are the hallmarks of a successful school program which, in turn, prepares students to navigate their career journey in a comprehensive manner.

Structured career counselling from a young age enables students to make informed decisions about subject and stream selection, leading to better career choices.

Schools need to invest in trained career counsellors and get equipped with tools that will enable them to create a career curriculum that empowers learners with self-awareness aligned with personality and career interests.

With NEP making it mandatory for schools to have career counselling departments, educational institutions must encourage profile-building activities like internships, job shadowing, webinars, and alumni interactions. Just as education and learning are a continuous and long-term processes, so is career planning.

Age-appropriate career guidance is an absolute necessity today to enable students to chart successful career pathways and lead successful lives.

Govt has asked SC to finalise MoP for appointment of judges: Rijiju

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 3:

The government on Thursday said it has suggested to the Supreme Court that the search-cum-evaluation committee for the appointment of judges in the apex court and chief justices of high courts should consist of a representative nominated by the Centre.

In a written reply to two separate questions in the Rajya Sabha, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju also said the Centre has not asked the Supreme Court to include a government nominee in the collegium for appointments to the higher judiciary.

Rijiju said in a communication to the apex court January 6, the government has also emphasised the need to finalise the memorandum of procedure (MoP) in view of various judicial pronouncements.

The MoP is a set of documents that guide the elevation, appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and high court judges.

The minister said for the appointment of judges in the high courts, the committee should consist of a representative each nominated by the Centre and the respective state governments.

The search-cum-evaluation committees will be entrusted with preparing a panel of eligible candidates from which the respective collegiums will make the recommendations.

"This, along with other measures suggested, will pave the way for a more transparent, accountable and expeditious mechanism for appointment of judges to the constitutional courts (the Supreme Court and the 25 high courts)," Rijiju said.

Department of Youth Affairs to organize Youth 20 Summit inception meeting from 6th to 8th February at Guwahati

PIB
New Delhi, Feb 3:

Under the framework of G20 Presidency, Department of Youth Affairs has been entrusted with the responsibility to organize Youth 20 Summit-2023. In the light of this, Department of Youth Affairs is organising the Youth 20 Inception meeting from the 6th to 8th February, 2023 at Guwahati, Assam. On 08th February, 2023, the closing ceremony will be held with the launch of white papers by the Union Cabinet Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports.

India has assumed the Presidency of G20 on 1st December, 2022 for a period of 1 year i.e. up to 30th November, 2023. India's theme for its presidency is enshrined in its civilizational value system of 'Vasudevakutumbakam'.

Hence our theme - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

Youth20 is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20. The Youth20 (Y20) Engagement Group will organize discussions pan-India, to consult the youth of the nation on ideas for a better tomorrow and draft an agenda for action. Y20 will provide a platform for youth to express their perspectives and ideas on G20 priorities.

Briefing mediapersons in New Delhi today, Secretary Youth Affairs, Ms Meeta Rajivlochan said that discussions would be organized across India to consult the youth of the nation on ideas for a better tomorrow. She also said that the Y 20 hopes to provide a platform to youth across the nation to express their perspectives and their ideas on the priorities for the G20 group

of countries. She further said that India has one of the youngest populations in the world and the youth of the nation is full of energy and innovation and it is he attempt of the Department of Youth Affairs to provide a forum, to express that energy in constructive ideas.

Under the Youth 20 Summit-2023, for the coming 8 months, there will be consultations on the five Y20 themes along with various discussions at schools, colleges, universities, urban local bodies and professional associations, across States in the run up to the final Youth-20 Summit. The focus of the activities will be on building a shared vision of youth for good governance and democracy and in using technology to improve skills across the board.

The five Y20 themes are:

1. Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation, & 21st Century Skills
 2. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life
 3. Peace building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War
 4. Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance
 5. Health, Well-being & Sports: Agenda for Youth
- IIT Guwahati is a major research center for frontier technologies like production of green hydrogen; some of these technologies are in the process of transfer to industry. Key panel discussions on the future of work, twenty first century skills, climate change, making sustainability a way of life and also on peacebuilding and reconciliation, will be held at IIT Guwahati on the 7th February.

30th AMUCO Foundation Day: A Charity Mission



IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

The All Manipur United Clubs' Organization (AMUCO) has begun its charity

mission with distribution of essential items at several old age homes and orphan homes across the state in connection with its 30th Foundation Day which falls on 12

February 2023. The said day shall be adorned with multi-ethnic Cultural Programmes and blood donation camp at JNIMS Hospital and RIMS Hospital.

Fee structure in Sainik Schools

IT News
Kohima, Feb 3:

Two Sainik Schools functioning under the erstwhile pattern of Sainik Schools, have reported that representations have been received relating to fee structure prevailing in Sainik Schools. In order to reduce the burden and motivate the cadets of the Sainik Schools, the Government has made budgetary provisions for providing National Defence Academy (NDA) incentive to all the cadets joining NDA/Technical Entry Scheme/Naval Academy in the form of reimbursement of entire tuition fee paid by these cadets for classes XI & XII.

The remaining students are also given some assistance to the extent of availability of funds.

The Government awards Defence Scholarship to wards of Defence personnel including ex-servicemen, and Central assistance to those cadets who are awarded State Government scholarships which further reduces the burden on the parents of these cadets. Further, in response to the representations received from parents of cadets, the Sainik Schools Society instructed the Sainik Schools not to hike the tuition fee for the academic session 2020-21, during the Covid Pandemic.

In so far as New Sainik

Schools approved under partnership mode are concerned, these New Schools are required to have transparent process of charging fees in accordance with prevailing provisions for fee regulations by the respective State/UTs. Under this new initiative, the Ministry will provide annual fee assistance of 50% of the fee (subject to an upper limit of Rs. 40,000/- per annum) for 50% of the class strength (subject to an upper limit of 50 students) per annum to class 6th to 12th students on merit-cum-means basis.

This information was given by Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt in a written reply to Gnanathiraviam S in Lok Sabha today.

Cleanliness Drive

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

Loktak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised 'Cleanliness Drive' at Komlakhong village, Bishnupur (Manipur) today.

The drive was aimed to create awareness about the cleanliness and hygiene. During the event, all ranks of the Company Operating Base, Komlakhong and local inhabitants of Komlakhong village carried out cleanliness drive and cleared plastic and litter from the village. A total of 24 individuals of Loktak Battalion and 29 locals participated in the said drive.

Cleanliness Drive was a testimony to Assam Rifles endeavour to ensure maximal and wholesome growth of the people of Northeast.

IBSD organized outreach programme at Science Museum, Chandel

IT News
Imphal, Feb 3:

Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) organized an outreach programme on "Promoting Scientific Thinking" at Maha Union Govt. Higher Secondary School, Chandel, and an Aspirational district of Manipur. The programme was organized for higher secondary students of Chandel district by IBSD, Imphal for communication and popularization of science under ongoing outreach activities of Science Museum programme at Chandel, the Aspirational

district of Manipur..

During the programme, Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Director, IBSD highlighted about several initiatives to inculcate the scientific temperament and to stimulate scientific and technological capacity for the student community through dissemination of scientific knowledge. He also briefed on unique bioresources of Manipur which can be explored for value addition through scientific interventions. He also mentioned about the various research activities of IBSD for the development of bioresources of this region. He encouraged the students

to share their innovative ideas and inspired them to develop their ideas in to different aspects with new thoughts.

During the programme, Mr. Surendro Singh, Principal, Maha Union Govt. Higher Secondary School, Chandel, appreciated the efforts of IBSD for establishing Science Museum at Chandel which will help for dissemination of scientific knowledge. The programme was attended by many scientists, staffs of IBSD, Imphal, teachers and students of Maha Union Govt. Higher Secondary School and other Schools of Chandel District.

Sports

Lionel Messi has doubts about playing 2026 World Cup at age 39

Agency
Buenos Aires, Feb 3:

Lionel Messi may be in doubt as to whether he'll be still playing for Argentina at the 2026 World Cup but he's sure about one thing: he wants Lionel Scaloni to stay on as head coach until then, regardless.

The 35-year-old Messi led Argentina to the title in Qatar last December and wasn't entirely sure if his fifth trip to the World Cup would be his last. The next edition will take place in Mexico, Canada and the United States when Messi is 39.

Messi told newspaper Olé in an interview published Thursday that he'd regularly said his age would make it difficult to play another World Cup..

"I love playing soccer, I love what I do and while I am feeling well and feel I am fit and continue to enjoy it, I will do it. But it seems to be too much until the next



World Cup," he told the newspaper. "I have to see where my career goes, what I will do. It depends on many things."

In the near future, he suggested he wants to play in next year's Copa America in the U.S. to help Argentina

defend its title.

"I will stay a little longer, I have to enjoy this," he said.

Scaloni is negotiating an extension of his contract with the Argentinian soccer federation and Messi thinks the coach should remain on the job.

"He is very important for the national team," Messi said. "To continue with this process would be spectacular."

Asked what it was like returning to his club Paris Saint Germain after Argentina beat France on penalties to win the World Cup, Messi said he didn't have deep discussions about it with his teammate Kylian Mbappé, the French striker.

"One doesn't want to speak and bring the topic of the final," Messi said, recalling his own experience after losing the 2014 World Cup final to Germany in Brazil. "I was also on the other side, I lost a World Cup final and I didn't want to talk about it."

"Truth is there is no problem with Kylian, quite on the contrary," Messi said.

Messi is set to play for Argentina in friendlies to be scheduled in Buenos Aires in March to celebrate the team's third World Cup title with their fans.

Shafali Verma to Richa Ghosh after leading India to U-19 Women's T20 WC title

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 3:

The Shafali Verma-led India U-19 Women's Cricket Team beat England by seven wickets in the final of the inaugural edition of the ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup on Sunday (January 29), which was played at the Senwes Park in Potchefstroom. The Indian team first dismissed the English side for just 68 runs in the summit clash and then chased down the target in just 14 overs for the loss of three wickets. It was the first time that a women's U-19 event was organised by the ICC, and in the first attempt itself, led by Shafali, who has been a regular member of the senior Indian women's cricket team for more than three years now, India bagged the title.

The Indian team dominated the entire tournament and, except for losing against Australia in a Super Six match, won all the remaining games. It was a

historic moment for Indian women's cricket, as it was the first global event that they have won in their history. India could win two World Cups within a month if they manage to secure the top prize in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, which is scheduled to start in exactly one week's time.

This year's women's T20 World Cup will take place in South Africa and be played from February 10 to 26. The Indian team, under the leadership of Harmanpreet Kaur, reached the final in the last edition, which took place in Australia in February and March 2020, and this time they would want to go one step ahead and win the first ever senior world title.

In the upcoming megaevent, two Indian players, Shafali and wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh, who were part of the U-19 squad, will play for the senior team. And after winning the U-19 title, these two young girls are now eyeing the T20 World

Cup title with the senior team.

After attending a felicitation programme organised by the BCCI in Ahmedabad on February 1, the duo left for South Africa, and before leaving, the 19-year-old Shafali put her arm around Richa's shoulders and said, "Ab senior World Cup title jeetna hai, Richa (Now it's time to win senior World Cup title, Richa)."

In the T20 World Cup, India will open its campaign on February 12 against arch-rivals Pakistan, who shockingly defeated them in the Asia Cup T20 match last year.

Speaking to TimesofIndia.com about India's campaign in the U-19 event before boarding the flight for South Africa, 19-year-old Richa said, "Shafali led from the front. She injected confidence in the team. She always said, 'chinta mat karo, hum jeetenge' (Don't worry, we will win). She said this before every match. Her words encouraged us to do well."