

MPCC joins AICC's protest against investment of money from LIC and SBI to Adani group

'We will continue this protest across the nation until the investment to Adani issue is probed by either a Joint Parliamentary Committee or a Supreme Court-monitored committee' – O. Ibobi



IT News
Imphal, Feb 6:

Leaders of the Manipur Pradesh Committee along with the Congress workers today joined the nationwide protest organised by the AICC demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe or a Supreme Court-monitored investigation into the investment by LIC and SBI to Gautam Adani group.

State congress leaders including CLP leader Okram Ibobi, CWC member Gaikhangam, MPCC President K. Meghachandra, other Congress MLAs and workers today marched from Congress Bhavan, BT Road to LIC Office at Khuyathong and staged a protest demonstration in front of the LIC office today afternoon.

CLP leader Okram Ibobi said

that a huge amount of money has been deposited to the LIC, which is over Rs. 75,000/- crore, and another huge amount of money from the State Bank of India (SBI) have been found invested in the Adani group of company. He said that US-based activist Hindenburg Research have alleged fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation at the Gautam Adani-led group.

Okram Ibobi further said that the meltdown in Adani Group shares is a scam that involves common people's money as public sector LIC and SBI have invested in them. He said that the AICC and the opposition party demand probe into the Adani issues either by a committee headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or by a Joint Parliamentary Committee which may include members of the ruling BJP MPs.

MPCC President K. Meghachandra said that over 29 crore people from across the nation have deposited money to the Life Insurance Company (LIC) and a sum of Rs.33000 crore has been lost after the LIC invested this money to the Adani group without the consent of the LIC account holder. Similarly, there are around 45 crore bank account holders in SBI, and around Rs. 80,000 crores has been lost after the SBI invested the money to the Adani group without the consent of the account holders.

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VDF Premanda's sacrifice in fighting the war on drugs should be seriously taken by all – MLA Joykishan

IT News
Imphal, Feb 6:



Shocked over the death of Village Defence Force (VDF) personnel, Ningombam Premananda Singh, who lost his life fighting against the drug menace in the state, MLA Khumukcham Joykishan today said that Premananda's death should not be taken lightly by the people of the state. He said that he was expecting public mourning as he had given his life for the future of the people of this state by joining the Chief Minister's aspirant mission "War on Drugs".

"I got shocked to see no organisations or CSOs or individuals who have been supporting the Chief Minister's aspirant mission 'War on Drug' expressing no words of condolence to the death of Premananda", MLA Khumukcham Joykishan said while extending his pains and sorrow over the demise at the deceased residence at Thoubal

Okram Leikai today afternoon.

"Where is the seriousness in fighting the war on drugs when people of all sections remain quiet after our brothers died fighting the war", Joykishan said disappointingly to the silence of the people over the death of Premananda.

MLA Joykishan also handed over a sum of Rs. 1 lakh to the kin of the deceased VDF personnel.

"It will be wrong to consider the sacrifice of Premananda very lightly, he had died for the cause of the CM's 'war on mission' to save the future of the state, we the

people should have a place for his sacrifice", Joykishan said and added that in support to the "CM's War on Drugs" mission any security personnel or anybody who sacrifice for the cause will be honoured and will help at his own capacity.

VDF personnel Ningombam Premananda Singh, was found dead in an area near Levant village in Chandel district on February 3. He went missing while on an overnight duty to destroy poppy plantations in Phaisi Village under Chakpikarong Police Station of Chandel district on January 16.

Manipur to host first International matches in March, India to play against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan

IT News
Imphal, Feb 6:

The tiny but football powerhouse state of Manipur will host its first official international matches next month in a tri-nation friendly tournament involving Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan, besides the Indian team, at the Khuman Lampak Stadium here.

The matches will be played on March 22, 24 and 26, which fall during the FIFA international window.

Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh announced that the state capital will host the international tournament at a press conference here in the presence of All India Football Federation President Kalyan Chaubey and Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran.

"It is a great initiative by the AIFF leadership that we are getting to host international friendly matches in Manipur for the first time in history," Biren said.

"From our end, I can assure everyone that the Government of Manipur will do everything to provide the best facilities and facilitate in the successful organisation of the tournament."

"Manipur has provided many international players for the national team. It is indeed an honour to host the tournament and further encourage our players and sports enthusiasts." Biren mentioned the names of the likes of Renedy



Singh, Gouramangi Singh, Udanta Singh, Amarjit Kiyam, Suresh Wangiam and Jeakson Singh who have donned the country's jersey in international matches.

"Manipur has been a great contributor to women's football as well. Players like Bala Devi, who is one of the best strikers of this generation, captain Ashalata Devi, Dangmei Grace, Elangbam Panthoi Chanu and many more have made the country proud time and again well." He also requested the AIFF's assistance in establishing a top-class academy in the state.

The 35,000 capacity Khuman Lampak Stadium where the matches will be held has been hosting I-League games. It hosted group stage matches of the prestigious Durand Cup in August last year.

"We all are aware of football's popularity in Manipur. The state has produced a huge number of footballers, both men and women, but never before has a national team's match been organised in the state," Chaubey said.

"Having launched Vision 2047 recently, our aim is to take quality football to the furthest corners of the country. Manipur's vibrant football culture makes them deserving hosts, and so they have been given charge of hosting the Senior National Team's matches." The tri-nation friendly tournament is part of a series of matches that India will play in the FIFA international window to prepare for next year's Asian Cup.

"It will be great to play a few friendly matches at home

again. We now have enough time to check our opponents' form and formulate our plans accordingly," head coach Igor Stimac said.

"These games should serve us well as we prepare for the Asian Cup. Hopefully we can start the year with a few good results. I hope all our boys will maintain good form and stay injury free in the next few weeks until we get together." The Blue Tigers last played on home soil in June 2022, when they topped their group to secure qualification for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, defeating the likes of Cambodia, Afghanistan and Hong Kong.

AIFF, Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran, YAS Director T. Phulen, officials of All Manipur Football Association attended the press briefing.

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 6:

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Monday administered the oath of office to five new judges of the Supreme Court.

Justices Pankaj Mithal, Sanjay Karol, PV Sanjay Kumar, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Manoj Misra were administered the oath during a swearing-in ceremony held in the Supreme Court premises.

With the appointment of the five judges, the total number of judges in the apex court has risen to 32, two short of the full strength.

Their names were recommended for elevation as apex court judges by the Supreme Court Collegium on December 13, 2022.



(Right) PV Sanjay Kumar, Chief Justice of Manipur High Court

On February 4, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had announced the appointment of Justices Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court, Justice Karol, Chief Justice of Patna High Court,

Justice Kumar, Chief Justice of Manipur High Court, Justice Amanullah of Patna High Court and Justice Misra of Allahabad High Court as apex court judges.

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At least 641 persons killed in Turkey, Syria as strong 7.8 magnitude quake brings down dozens of buildings

Agency
Ankara (Turkey), Feb 6:

At least 641 persons were killed in Turkey and neighbouring Syria after a major earthquake of 7.8-magnitude hit close to the Turkish city of Gaziantep on Monday, the Associated Press reported.

Damage has been reported in several provinces of both countries following which rescue teams were deployed.

The quake struck at 4.17 am local time and the epicentre has been located at 17.9 kilometres below the ground surface, about 33 kilometres away from Gaziantep. Tremors were felt in the neighbouring countries of Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus.

Turkish authorities said that at least 20 aftershocks were reported, with the strongest measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale.

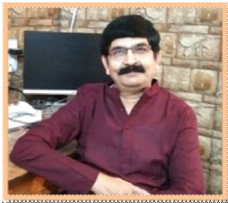
Visuals shared on social

media showed several buildings collapsing and people running towards the streets in fear in Turkey and Syria. Hulusi Sahin, the governor of Turkey's Malatya said that at least 130 buildings tumbled down in his province alone.

"Authorities there have retrieved three bodies and around a hundred people have been hospitalised," Sahin said, according to the Associated Press.

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Wearing a mask is about personal responsibility



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Perhaps one of the most striking lifestyle changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic is the mandatory use of face masks in grocery stores, restaurants and other public places. Wearing a mask, especially when in close proximity to others, is imperative to slowing the spread of COVID-19. There is still so much to learn about COVID-19 but, as we all venture back out to restaurants, stores, get-to-gathers and re-join our families for birthdays and anniversaries, it is important to make wear-

ing a mask giving a top priority.

Wearing a mask can make all the difference for the people you love, your friends, neighbors, and our community. Wearing a mask can reduce threats to our community's essential workers, including medical personnel, who've shown their commitment to our safety, health, and well-being. Wearing a mask sends a visual signal that you understand the importance of physical distancing and following healthy behaviors. There are many who argue that wearing a mask does not serve purpose but while we can't quantify how effective it is to wear a mask, we do know it offers some protection while not wearing one offers none. In short, we are all at the lowest risk when everyone wears a mask.

By wearing a mask and helping reduce the numbers of individuals who contract the disease, we can ensure fewer people will suffer serious, long-term effects that continue after recovery from the virus. However, if we wear the mask in a floppy manner that doesn't cover your mouth and nose properly, your risk of catching the virus will increase. Face masks can help protect against many respiratory infections that are spread through the droplet route, and that includes coronavirus and the flu. Wearing a mask is recommended when we are indoors with others and can't reliably maintain the six-foot social distancing rules.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped life as we know it. Many of us are staying home, avoiding people on the street and changing daily habits, like going to school or work, in ways we never imagined.

Masks and face coverings can prevent the wearer from transmitting the COVID-19 virus to others and may provide some protection to the wearer. It is estimated that 40% of persons with COVID-19 are a symptomatic but potentially able to transmit the virus to others. Wearing masks is an extremely important habit to form now that every one of us should be applying since this simple step could significantly reduce the risk of transmission. Universal mask use can significantly reduce virus transmission in the community by preventing anyone, including those who are unwittingly carrying the virus, from transmitting it to others.

Masks can also reduce the inequitable impact of the pandemic, particularly for those who live in crowded environments where physical distancing is difficult, and for those who work in frontline roles where there is a greater risk of exposure to the virus.

Wearing a mask is about personal responsibility. It's about being a good and decent human being, uniting and sacrificing together for the common good. Wearing a mask protects me from you and you from me. Wearing a mask is a way to show support for everyone else in our community. Together, we can slow the spread of the virus. For yourself, for those you love and all the people who are important in your life.

Considerable jump in foreign students in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)



By: Vijay GarG

The year 2022 saw a considerable jump in foreign national students in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), as per the latest Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced report.

A total of 66 foreign nationals were offered seats in the IITs in 2022. The number in this category had not crossed 10 in the past five years. Experts explained that this can be attributed to the change in definition of foreign nationals applying for professional courses in India. Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO), who were earlier treated on

par with Indians for seats in government institutions, are now considered foreign nationals and are included in the category, as per a government order from March, 2021. Such students are allotted supernumerary seats with higher fees.

A professor from IIT Bombay said, "This increase in number is because of the change in definition of foreign nationals. These may be regular Indian students having passports of other countries due to various reasons. Earlier they were considered as Indians and would be offered seats from the regular pool of seats. But now they too are considered foreign nationals and are offered supernumerary seats created in IITs for foreign nationals."

BTech in Canada under Rs 20 lakh

In the past five years, the previous foreign national category in the IITs had crossed 10 students. Combined with the OCI and PIO candidates, however, the number is in line with this year. In 2021, eight seats were offered to foreign nationals, whereas there were 62 OCI and 5 PIO candidates. In 2020, there were two foreign nationals and 62 OCI and 2 PIO candidates. There were zero foreign nationals, but 36 OCI and 4 PIO candidates in 2019.

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Evolution of Public Relation



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

Public relation is the management function which evaluates public attitude, identifies the policies and procedures of an individual or an organisation with the public interest and executes a programme of action to learn public understanding and acceptance. According to Edward Barney's, "Public relation counsellor directs, advises upon and supervises activities of his clients which affect the interest of the public. He interprets his clients to the public and public to the clients." Engineering of concept is the attempt by information, persuasion and by adjustment to public support for an activity, cause, movement or institutions. Sam Black defines PR as "The fundamental purpose of public relations practice is to establish a two-way flow of mutual understanding based on truth, knowledge and full information." According to John E. Marston, "Public relations is planned, persuasive communications designed to influence significant publics."

The evolution of public relation took place in United States of America, when a mass agitation was done between 1860-65 to 1900 for the removal of a railway track. The slogan raised there was 'Public be informed', which later became the principle of Public Relation.

Discussing the history of public

relation some scholars recall the events of pre-historic days, such as 'The Sermon of Mounts' and other such historic happenings to prove that the tradition of public relation is very old. Inevitably, the manner in which public relation is defined today will not be appropriate to keep it in the category PR. It is true that earlier some ruling persons, Rajas, Samrats, Dharamgurus, poets & other scholars were anxious about the people verdict, but it will be appropriate to keep their effort in the category of public recreation. The system of PR evolved in the middle of 19th century when industrial revolution took place in the western countries. Before this during French revolution, the message of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity was spread over which created favourable environment for revolutionists. But this message was just the product of prevailing situation and not of the scientific thinking or of any system. On the contrary, in 20th century, the campaign work by Bolshevik revolutionists was done in more organised ways. People attention were drawn upon their posters, pamphlets, and other printouts, but that to don't fall under the current definition of PR the committee for propaganda of the faith' of Roman Catholics or 'Institute of propaganda' (founded to train the priest for Dharam-prachar), which were constituted between 15th to 17th century, also not fall under the present day PR.

Actually the profession or activity of PR which we talk today has been originated in America in the middle of 19th century and was rapidly developed by the end of the century. On the statement 'public be damned' of the industrialist William Henry Vanderbilt, people like Mark Twain reacted sharply as 'Public be informed'. As much the industrialist talks on Laissez Faire, so much the people reacted and went away from them. Now

a day, not only in western countries, but also in Bharat, there are Public Relation units in most of the institutions, which are lashed with dedicated workers. In central government offices, the importance of PR had already been accepted during British Raj. During Second World War 'War Propaganda Departments' were opened at the centre as well as in states. After independence, its necessity was felt. In the country, a lot of works like economic development and social consciousness were done which could not have succeeded without the people co-operation. As a result, the work of PR was done in a systematic way. In various states a cadre of PR experts was constituted and they were engaged in press relations, publication and other like activities. Some government information agencies are playing important role as PR agents. At one hand development of electronic medias like Akashwani, Doordarshan, & a large number of private channels took place rapidly, on the other hand audio-visual mediums like video-films are being used frequently. Not only on national but on international level UNESCO chapter has been accepted which deals the need of independent, expanded and balanced propaganda of information to remove distinction and create harmonious environment all over the world. For fulfillment of these needs, the mass communication experts and PR worker have to play vital role. The seed, developed due to debarring of people from the right of information has now grown up in a large tree, which provides shadow of truth and discipline by removing suspicion and fear of the people. The Indians, too, are not bereft of this shadow which is appraisable for PR activities.

The objectives of PR are to inform the people with the main activities of the institutions, to highlight the spe-

cial services available in the institutions, discussion of activities received by the nation and society, role of organisation in the field of research and development and to promote and propagate the human values in life.

There are four activities similar to public relation.

(1) **Publicity:** Publicity is often taken as synonymous with public relations. Publicity is just reporting day-to-day activity but that is not public relation. It is one-way process. For example- The government may talk of law and order today and next day the problem may concern the relief measures being provided to flood victims. On other occasion, the government may be reporting about the steps taken to improve agricultural yield. So all this is day to day reporting. But public relation stands for complete and comprehensive range of activities for projecting the organisation as a whole and not in parts.

(2) **Advertising:** Advertising is paid form of non-personal presentation and promotion of ideas, goods or services by an identified sponsor. It is resorted too for selling and buying both. It is not total public relation, but a tool of public relation.

Advertisement is a means by which information is disseminated through the media print or electronic. It is used by all in general and by the business classes in particular to propagate and give information about their products in the pipeline. The government uses advertisement for giving information to the people regarding its decisions, policies, employment in the government services etc. Earlier the print media played a great role in advertisement as the voice media (Akashwani) owned by the government had not opened much for advertisement till the launching of Vividh Bharati channel and the FM band.

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Deceptions in plenty in the Union Budget 2023-24

By: Dr. Gyan Pathak

Union Budget 2023-24 is deceptive. The very presumptions of revenue and growth are overestimated, promises made are too high to be realized, allocations made are inequitable for different sectors as well as social groups, and the higher allocations made for certain sectors are being energetically overplayed.

If the Indian Economy is set to have a lower growth rate in 2023-24 as per all the national and international authoritative estimates, all the big talks about the budget provisions are only efforts to deceive the people in the backdrop of the alarming ground reality and inefficiency and insufficiency of the last full budget of the Modi government before General Election 2024. Vulnerable sections of the society would find themselves even more vulnerable with less allocations in real term adjusted with high prices and inflation.

The deception begins with a presumption of the Nominal GDP for BE 2023-2024 that has been projected at Rs 3,01,75,065 crore assuming 10.5% growth over the estimated Nominal GDP of Rs 2,73,07,751 crore as per the First Advance Estimates of FY 2022-23.

The presumption of growth rate of 10.5 per cent of the GDP for 2023-24 on which all the revenues and expenditure would rest is quite misleading. OECD has projected the growth rate to decline to 5.7 per cent in 2023, and all other international agencies have cut their earlier growth estimates and put it in the range of 6.5-7 per cent.

Even the Economic Survey 2022-23 has projected a baseline GDP growth of 6.5 per cent for 2023-24 in real terms, which it claimed broadly comparable to the estimates provided by multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the ADB, and by RBI. The actual outcome for real GDP growth, it says, will probably lie in the range of 6 to 6.8 per

cent, depending on the trajectory of economic and political developments globally.

It clearly indicates that India's growth rate for the year 2023-24 has been over estimated to bring bigger figures only to impress the people of India, and to show that bigger allocations have been made that would push the growth momentum further when it has been projected to actually decline much below than the assumed 10.5 per cent to around 6 per cent or even less with downside risks.

It should be noted that annual nominal growth potential of India has been estimated to be around 10 to 12 per cent on average in the coming years, with the condition that fiscal parameters will continue to improve. It was one of the assertions of the Economic Survey 2023-23.

It seemed that the Budget 2023-24 has taken into consideration this potential rather than the actual ground reality. Government had done the same thing in assuming GDP for BE 2022-2023 and projected it at Rs 25800000 crore assuming 11.1% growth over the estimated GDP of Rs 23214703 crore for 2021-2022 (RE).

Economic Survey 2022-23 has now estimated economic growth of the country for the current fiscal at 7 per cent of the GDP, as against the budget presumption of 11.1 per cent of growth. It shows the deception of giving big picture and realising much less.

Digging deep into the data, is even more puzzling. The first advanced estimate for the year 2022-23 shows the estimated GDP at Rs 2,73,07,751 crore, as against the budget estimate of Rs 25800000 crore. It shows an increase of GDP at 15.4 per cent. How it come that the Economic Survey 2022-23 put the GDP growth rate for the current fiscal at only 7 per cent? There are obviously much more concealed in the deceptive and unex-

plained data. Even the 7 per cent GDP growth for the current fiscal is highly doubtful when it is sliding quarter after quarter.

This makes not only the GDP data dubious but also unachievably higher assumption of growth pushes the revenue projection unrealistically high on the basis of which higher allocations are shown.

Reduction in social sector allocation in real terms adjusted to the price rise and inflation especially in health, education, and employment shows the general intention of the government in very bad light, since the sufferings of the common people has been just ignored.

Budget 2023-24 focussed providing big money to a select few through privatisation, investment, disinvestment, financial incentives, and even through capex or big investment in infrastructure. It would be clear if one compares social sector allocations and provisions with other sectors that create big profit for the government, their favourites, and officials, either legal or illegal in the form of cut and commissions. Inequitable allocation of funds is seen everywhere, and we already know how inequality has been rising sharp under the policies adopted by Modi government since 2014.

The total expenditure in BE 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 45,03,097 crore of which total capital expenditure is Rs 10,00,961 crore. Budget 2023-24 has claimed that it reflects continuing strong commitment of the Union Government to boost economic growth by investing in infrastructure development leading to an increase in capital expenditure by 37.4 per cent over RE 2022-23. Effective Capital Expenditure, at Rs 13,70,949 crore in BE 2023-24, shows an increase of 30.1 per cent over RE 2022-23.

Even this big capex conceals several things, and has been made to

swell by including several other things among which is the money given to support oil companies under "capital expenditure to fund the green transition".

Government says that it would boost growth and employment, but it does not explain how the lives and livelihoods of the people would be secured without complete social security coverage at a time when even this so called 'big boost' would not be able to stop the decline in GDP growth.

There have been massive cuts in allocation for MGNREGA, labour welfare schemes, food subsidy, and several health schemes including PM Swasthya Suraksha Yojna. Allocation for education is not enough to recover even the learning loss that our students suffered during the pandemic.

The market intervention scheme supposed to provide price support to farmers may shock all that has fallen from Rs 1,500 crore to only Rs 1 lakh. There is another surprise, that PM-Kisan allotment is Rs 60,000 crore, same at the current year, but payments have been increased from Rs 6000 to Rs 8000. There must be something wrong with calculation and intention.

As for the state transfers are concerned, the Budget 2023-24 has made a provision for Rs 3,59,470 crore. However, it must be noted that only Rs 3,07,204 crore are to be transferred to states in the current fiscal as against BE of Rs 3,67,204 crore. Therefore, this provision is not even reliable. Comparing the current transfer to states shows a sharp decline from a transfer of Rs 4,60,575 crore in 2021-22. Share of tax revenue to states has been brought down to only 30.4 per cent as against 33.2 per cent in 2021-22 while the 14th Finance Commission has promised a share of 42 per cent. (IPA Service)

Opposition MPs protest in Parliament premises on Adani issue

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 6:

Opposition MPs on Monday held a protest in front of Gandhi statue in Parliament complex demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe or a Supreme Court-monitored investigation into the Adani issue.

Both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned till 2 PM after opposition members held protest in Parliament seeking a discussion on the issue.

Adani group stocks have taken a beating on the bourses after US-based activist short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation at the Gautam Adani-led group.

The opposition parties have alleged that the meltdown in Adani Group shares is a scam that involves common people's money as public sector LIC and SBI have invested in them.

The Adani group has maintained it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.

The protest by various opposition parties followed a meeting on Monday morning to coordinate their joint strategy in the House on the Adani issue.

Among the parties that participated in the meeting held in the chamber of Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge were the Congress, DMK, NCP, BRS, JDU, SP, CPM, CPI, JMM, RLD, RSP, AAP, IUMIL, RJD and Shiv Sena.



Trinamool Congress members skipped the meeting of opposition leaders but joined the protest by opposition leaders in front of Gandhi statue in Parliament complex.

Raising slogans, opposition MPs held a banner that read "we demand JPC or SC monitored probe on Adani scandal". They also held posters and placards demanding JPC and saving public money of LIC, SBI invested in the Adani group.

"We demand a discussion on our notices, we are ready for a detailed discussion. We want the Adani issue to be taken up first," Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge told reporters, asserting that the opposition is ready to speak on the President's Address.

The first demand of the opposition is that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives a reply on the issue, he said.

Kharge claimed that the

government does not want this matter to be raised and discussed in Parliament.

"They want to avoid it somehow and do not want to bring it to record," he said.

Congress MP and Whip in Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore has given a notice for adjournment of the house for raising the Adani issue.

"The House should come forward to discuss the matter keeping aside other routine business, and should constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate further in this matter. The House should also direct the prime minister to disclose the actual loss of public money to the nation through this House," Tagore said in his adjournment notice.

Congress MP and Whip in Rajya Sabha Syed Naseer Hussain has also given a notice under Rule 267 for suspension of business to discuss the Adani issue.

"That this House do suspend Zero Hour and relevant rules relating to Question Hour and other businesses of the day to discuss the issue of frauds in investment by LIC, SBI, public sector banks and other financial institutions losing market value, endangering the hard-earned savings of crores of Indians," he said in the notice.

Congress MPs in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari and Ameer Yajnik have also given adjournment notices under Rule 267 to discuss the Adani issue and investments by LIC and SBI into the group.

BRS MPs in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have also given adjournment notices on the Adani issue.

While BRS leader in Rajya Sabha K. Keshava Rao has moved a notice under Rule 267 in the upper house, party MP Nama Nageswara Rao has moved a notice in the Lok Sabha to discuss the issue.

Campaigning gains momentum for Assembly Election in Tripura; Filing of nominations for Meghalaya and Nagaland picks up

Agency
Guwahati, Feb 6:

In poll bound Tripura, campaigning has got momentum with the arrival of star campaigners of various political parties. Union Home minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah will address two election rallies in the state today while TMC Chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee among other leaders are reaching Tripura to woo the voters. The political parties are also making all out efforts to attract the voters through manifesto and declarations.

In the 60 members assembly polls, most of the seats are likely to see triangular or multi cornered contests. The ruling BJP is contesting in 55 seats while the remaining seats have been left to Indigenous People's Front of Tripura, IPFT. On the other hand, the Congress and Left parties have come together through seat sharing arrangement. The TIPRA Motha Party is contesting in 42 seats while the TMC has given candidates in 28 seats.

Election campaigning has taken a musical upswing in Meghalaya with political parties trying their best to connect with the voters by hitting the right notes. Only 2 days are left for filing nominations for 60 assembly seats of the state which will go to polls on 27th February. Rock band performances are regular feature on the streets of Shillong which is called as the rock capital of India. But as the elections are approaching even the remote villages and towns are witnessing a live soiree with people dancing and singing to some of the liveliest campaign songs of candidates contesting elections. The rallies of candidates and political parties in the state are never complete without good music. The office of the Chief Electoral Officer is also using music concerts to not only promote voting rights among young voters but to make them aware on no votes for cash.

In Nagaland, besides independent candidates, 12 political parties are in fray for the forthcoming assembly elections to be held on 27th February. Many political parties which have not been in the forefront in state politics are making an entry in this election. Rising People's Party, North East Democratic Front, RPI(A) and LJP (Ram Vilas) will be entering the arena for the first time.

The Republican Party of India (A) and the Janata Dal (United) have released the list of candidates yesterday for the upcoming assembly elections. Naga People's Front (NPF) has announced names of six more candidates, taking the total to 21 candidates. All Indian Congress Committee also released the four more names adding the candidates list to 25. Aam Aadmi Party will also be fielding candidates for the ensuing state election. The party said, it will announce the intending candidates on February 7, which is also the last date for filing of nominations.

India 91 new Covid infections in 24 hours, under 2,000 active cases

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 6:

India reported 91 new coronavirus infections in the last 24 hours, while the country's active caseload remained unchanged at 1,817, according to an update by the health ministry on Monday. Total reported cases climbed to 4.46 crore (4,46,83,454), while death toll stands at 5,30,745.

The daily positivity rate stands at 0.14%, and active cases comprise 0.01% of total infections. Recovery rate has risen to 98.81%, according to the health ministry website.

Cases have been consistently declining across the country. As of now, Karnataka has 154 active cases, Kerala has 1,211 active cases, Maharashtra has 86, Odisha 82 cases, Rajasthan has 15 cases, Tamil Nadu 30 active cases, Uttar Pradesh 14, and West Bengal has 50 active cases.

With a decline in covid cases, scientists believe that there are less chances of another wave given that a large number of India's population has been exposed to the virus and vaccinated and have thus developed hybrid immunity. But they have urged people to continue wearing masks in crowded places and

complete their vaccination doses if not done yet.

The government has also tightened covid preparedness measures following reports of fresh surge in infections in China and some other countries last month. The government has directed INSACOG under the supervision of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) to keep a close watch on the situation in the country and continue with constant genome sequencing to track any new variant.

The government has been conducting RT-PCR testing for people returning from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and South Korea and has asked travellers from these six countries to fill Air Suvidha forms while making RT-PCR tests compulsory 72 hours prior to departure.

India has conducted over 62,790 tests in the last 24 hours, pushing up total tests to 91.63 crore so far.

Under the covid vaccination drive, more than 220.57 crore vaccine doses have been administered, and in the last 24 hours, around 37,193 doses were administered.

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

Contd. from Page 2

Evolution of Public.....

(3) **Propaganda:** According to the dictionary, 'Propaganda means a committee of cardinals or an association for propagation of a doctrine.' It is on record that Pope Gregory, in 14th century, set up an institution for spreading the message of the Bible. Again in the 17th century, a college of propaganda was set up by the Roman Catholic Church for countering the activities of the Protestants and this organisation was called 'Institute of Propaganda'. So, propaganda initially was not considered a bad word. In fact, it was during the Second World War, only when the word 'Propaganda' assumed a bad connotation. Gobbles used to say that to change an environment to absorb whatever was said and one was free to distort facts or even falsify to achieve ends. So propaganda has come to mean publicity not necessarily related to realities. There is no place for such an activity in PR.

(4) **Lobbying:** Lobbying involves 'educating' selected groups of public more intensely to get their support. A lobbyist is more like an advocate holding brief for the organisation in states. In USA, lobbying is a legal activity which has been brought under the purview of a federal law. In the Senate and Congress of USA lobbyist have to register themselves under the federal law. In Russia (erstwhile USSR) lobbying is not resorted to for getting support of government functionaries. But, in different organisation, cells are created

which are managed by an individual, who is designated as an 'agitator'. His job is to lobby among the people who work with forgetting their support to policies and programmes to parties and governments.

In simple terms PR means a deliberate, planned and sustained effort to establish and maintain mutual understanding between an organisation and its publics. The emphasis on words 'deliberate, planned and sustained' implies that to be successful PR activities should be planned in detail and implemented on a continuing basis rather than by a hit and miss method. It also envisages two way communications to resolve conflicts of interests for promoting correct understanding and appreciation of the work of particular organisation. This understanding, for a lasting effect, has to be based on truth, knowledge and full information.

Sometimes PR is bracketed with propaganda and liaison work meaning thereby that a public relation officer is meant for gaining some out of the way advantage of favour for the organisation. The function of propaganda is not to convert or make people accept an idea after evaluating it properly and being confirmed by its logical presentation. Propaganda seeks to create followers and keep them in line. Propaganda does not call for ethical conduct. A man indulging in propaganda, to suit his purpose, can destroy the facts or even falsify them. Publicity is also a

one-way affair. Sometimes it is taken to be synonymous with a 'gimmick' or a 'shunt'. In any case, it is a one-way affair in which the reaction of the recipients' audience is not always considered important. In fact, there is a saying that 'publicity kills public relations'.

In a new social order, a PR functionary is not only responsible for informing or communicating but also make himself, and the organisation for which he works, accountable to be concerned publics for what he says. The word publicity is being used here advisedly. It has to be clearly understood that there is not one public but 'publics' to be dealt with common interest groups of people like opinion leaders of society employees of an industrial organisation and consumers using its products or the shareholders. In many cases, the number of persons constituting the 'concerned public' in respect to an organisation becomes so large that they can be described as masses. A PR functionary, therefore, has to take recourse to the mass media for reaching out to people. That apart, in the contemporary world generally, and in democratic set-up especially media by itself is a potent force-an important public in its own right being the opinion leaders of the society. So, far a PR man the mass media is both a tool as well as target.

The target audience for a PR man can be put in to three categories: -

(1) Those who know you

and like you,
(2) Those who know you and do not like you,
and (3) Those who neither know you nor care.

The idea is to reach a position whether those who know you and don't like you change their opinion; and those who neither know you nor care wish they could meet you and do business with you. In which case you are enjoying good public relations? That is the ideal of every public relations person and is achieved through effective communications.

Summing up, PR can be defined as a managerial function which evaluates public attitudes, identifies the policies and procedures of an organisation with the public interest, and executes a programme of action and communication to earn public understanding and acceptance. "The correct PR strategy is to (1) Inform, (2) Educate, and (3) Persuade, through effective communication, and create understanding and obtain the willing co-operation of the various such publics.

To be welcomed in, understood and remembered, a message must be designed for-(i) The mental needs, (ii) desires, and (iii) limitations of the audience.

Media psychology is the study of how people run and remember mass media information. It is a new area built on a century old foundation of learning research. Certain principles have emerged from this research which suggests an effective approach to information

design. Six guidelines in a media psychology are a basic part of that design system. They are useful, everyday tools PR profession kit. Past results show these guidelines offer three major benefits to the communicators. The audience remembers more of the message. The message often has simpler design, resulting in a shorter, more interesting product. The cost effectiveness of effective mass communication is improved as the audience remembers more of the message.

It is necessary to always measure the cost in terms of money per idea remembered. A message which does not accomplish its goal of planting information in the minds of the audience is a financial disaster, no matter how beautiful the packaging is. Here are the six guidelines: - (1) Design your message for its audience, (2) Tell the audience what is important and why, (3) Use mental imagery to promote memory, (4) Don't overload the message with information, (5) Relate new facts and its ideas with familiar ones, (6) Summarise the major points in a closing review.

The central tenet of all guidelines in information design is: (1) provide for the mental needs, (2) desires, and (3) limitations of your audience. The easier you make it for them to learn, the more they will remember.

(Author is a technocrat and educationist. He studied Journalism and Mass Communication at Patna University)

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Md. Abdul Jalil do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Zalim** as I have assumed my new name **Md. Abdul Jalil**.

Sd/-

Md. Abdul Jalil

Khelakhong Mayai Leikai,
Khelakhong Khongjil, Thoubal
Manipur - 795132

Over 300 trucks stranded at Lalpani

IT News
Imphal, Feb 6:

Over 300 goods-laden trucks are getting stranded at Lalpani along the national highway connecting Silchar-Imphal via Jiribam district headquarters, Manipur on Sunday.

Drivers under the aegis of the Jiribam Road Transport Union, Manipur (JRTUM) and Silchar Truck Drivers' Association, Assam launched a "steering wheel-down strike" to protest against the beating of a truck driver and collecting illegal taxes. Over 2000 vehicles including goods-laden trucks are plying daily on this road.

The General Secretary of the JRTUM L Maniton told the newsmen at his office on Sunday that a truck driver from Silchar, Assam, namely Abdul Haq, 40, was severely



beaten by the errant police personnel posted at Keimai Police station in Manipur's Noney district on Saturday at around 1.30 pm.

The driver was assaulted for his refusal to hand over Rs 300/- entry fee. When the

driver has given the normal entry fee of Rs 20/-, the irate police personnel had beaten him black and blue, the General Secretary said. The driver getting serious injuries is giving treatment at a local health centre, he said.

L Maniton also condemned the acts of the errant police and threatened that the agitation would be intensified unless the government takes stern and befitting punishments for the errant police personnel.

10 suspected Myanmarese arrested in Churachandpur

IT News
Imphal, Feb 6:

Around 10 suspected Myanmarese nationals, including 5 females and a minor, were arrested on Sunday by the Churachandpur Police for illegally entering India via the porous border in

Churachandpur district.

The police said that it had received reliable information about the presence of illegal Myanmar nationals in the Vaal Veng area of New Lamka in the Churachandpur district.

A team of police officers, led by OC/CCP-PS and OC-WPS Churachandpur rushed

to the hideouts and rounded up the Myanmarese after a hot chase on the barren fields.

On preliminary verification, the arrested nationals admitted that they had come to Churachandpur on different dates and were secretly taking shelter at Vaal Veng village.

They are reportedly from the Sagaing region of Myanmar bordering Manipur and Mizoram on the Indian side.

The police have registered a case under FIR NO.16(2)2023 CCP-PS u/s 14 Foreigners Act and investigations are currently underway.

Keithelmanbi Battalion organised meet with various CSOs

IT News
Imphal, Feb 6:

Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised a meet with various CSOs of Manipur on February 5 at Keithelmanbi garrison.

A total of 16 representatives of various civil society organizations (UCM, ALADA, AMSU,

AMESCO, AMUCO & IPSA) participated in the meet & took active part in the discussion that covered a range of important issues like security, peace & progress apart from issues of concern for the local populace of Manipur. The passion and commitment of the activists and the valuable insights they shared for progress and bright future of Manipur was commendable.

The Commandant Keithelmanbi Battalion post the discussion touched upon the importance of joint efforts of Assam Rifles & CSOs in maintaining law and order and commitment of Assam Rifles in ensuring peace and security in Manipur & extending all out support for peace & prosperity in the region.

The representatives ex-

tended their heartfelt gratitude to the Keithelmanbi Battalion for organising the important meet, which acted as a platform for them to share their perspectives and views. The representatives lauded the contributions of Assam Rifles towards Manipur and looked forward for such opportunities in the future for aligning efforts for cause of lasting peace & prosperity in Manipur.

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MPCC joins AICC's protest against...

"After undue pressure by prime Minister Modi, the SBI and the LIC authority invested the money to the Adani group and a huge amount of public money has been lost", Meghachandra said.

He added that the MPCC under the supervision of the AICC has been demanding a probe on how a huge amount of people's money

has been invested to the Adani group.

"We want a probe by a committee led by the Chief Justice of India or by a parliamentary committee as the money lost after being invested to Adani group are public money and not government or Modi's money" Meghachandra said.

The protest is being organised in all the districts

of the state in front of SBI offices, Meghachandra added.

It may be mentioned that the ongoing budget session is in a ruckus over the investment of money from LIC and SBI to Adani group. Today too, both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned till 2 PM after opposition members held protests in Parliament seeking a discussion on the issue.

CJI Chandrachud administers oath of office to five new SC....

This came amid a tiff between the government and the judiciary over the process of appointing judges to the Supreme Court and the 25 high courts.

The apex court and the government have openly expressed their differences over the Collegium system of appointment of judges in the higher judiciary.

Rijiju had recently described the Collegium as being "alien" to the Indian Constitution, while Vice President and Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar questioned the Supreme Court

striking down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act and a related constitution amendment Act in 2015.

Through the NJAC law, the government had sought to replace the Collegium system of appointing Supreme Court and High Court judges with a new method.

The Centre had assured the top court that the Collegium's recommendation for the appointment of five judges in the apex court will be cleared soon.

On January 31, the Supreme Court collegium had

recommended two more names for elevation as top court judges — Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Gujarat High Court Chief Justice Aravind Kumar.

Once they are appointed and take oath, the top court will have its full strength of 34.

While recommending the two names, the Collegium had said that the names sent by it on 13 December 2022 "shall have precedence over the two names recommended presently for appointment to the Supreme Court."

At least 641 persons killed in Turkey...

In Syrian regions bordering Turkey, the tremors hit places densely populated by nearly 40 lakh citizens who have fled the country's civil war-hit areas. These areas have inadequate healthcare facilities, according to AP.

The Syrian Civil Defence has declared an emergency, according to *Al Jazeera*. The country's Opposition group, known as White Helmets,

has also urged the international community to "support the rescue of civilians in Syria and to put pressure on the Assad regime and its Russian ally to ensure that there is no bombing in the

affected areas".

Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said search and rescue teams were immediately dispatched to the areas affected by the earthquake.

"We hope that we will get through this disaster together as soon as possible and with the least damage," Erdogan said.

World leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, offered assistance to those affected by the earthquake.

"Anguished by the loss of lives and damage of property due to the Earthquake in

Turkey. Condolences to the bereaved families," Modi said in a tweet. "May the injured recover soon. India stands in solidarity with the people of Turkey."

United States National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said that President Joe Biden has directed federal government partners to assess response options to Turkey and Syria.

"The United States is profoundly concerned by the reports of today's destructive earthquake in Turkey and Syria," Sullivan said. "We stand ready to provide any and all needed assistance."

Sports

India held to a draw by Bangladesh in SAFF U-20 Women's Championship

Agency
Dhaka, Feb 6:

After a fabulous start to their SAFF U-20 Women's Championship campaign, India were held to a goalless draw at the Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Sunday, February 5, 2023.

It was a close contest from the opening exchanges, with India creating more chances despite a deluge of midfield traffic. Sumati Kumari had the chance to get the lead early on in the 7th minutes, when she was played through by Nitu Linda, but Bangladesh keeper Rupna Chakma pulled off a great save.

Chakma was again called into action around the quarter hour mark, when Sunita Munda flicked a Shubhangi Singh cross with her head. Shubhangi was accurate with her set-pieces, and thought she had helped India take the lead on the half-hour mark, when Kajol tapped her delivery in, but the referee had deemed the delivery to have gone out of play before curl-



ing in.

Bangladesh had a rare attempt when Shaheda let one fly from long range with minutes left for the half time whistle, but it landed on the roof of the net.

India Head Coach Maymol Rocky played her hand at half time itself, bringing on Neha in place of Sumati Kumari. The midfield scrum thickened in the

second half, but Kajol managed to get a shot on target from a long range free-kick, which was duly saved by Chakma. The Bangladesh custodian was at it again a few minutes later when Neha surged into the box from the left flank and looked to fizz in a dangerous cross to Apurna Narzary, but Chakma plucked it out of the air. That was the

last piece of action for Narzary, who was soon replaced by Lynda Kom Serto.

Neha had the golden opportunity of the second half, when Munda picked her out from the right, but the ball took an awkward bounce off the artificial turf and went out of play. Anita Kumari, Tania Kanti, and Babina Lisham were soon introduced into the fray

with the clock ticking down, but the two sides remained locked till the end.

Baniba had one final chance in added time as Anita cut it back for her from a dangerous position, but the former's shot was blocked, as the referee soon brought an end to the game.

Reflecting on the match after the final whistle, India Head Coach Rocky said, "The result definitely matters, but the girls played well. We actually missed a few very good chances which we were sure could have led to goals. They were either spectacularly saved by their keeper, or maybe hit outside the frame. Game-wise though, the girls were up to the task today, and played well. We are looking forward to the next one." The Young Tigresses now have four points from two matches, and will next play Nepal at the same venue on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, with the match slated for a 2.30 pm IST kick-off; the game will be streamed live on the Sportzworkz YouTube channel.

PSG in talks with Messi over renewing contract

Agency
Paris, Feb 6:

Paris Saint-Germain's football advisor Luis Campos says he will be "delighted" if Argentinian superstar Lionel Messi agrees to extend his contract with the French champions.

The 35-year-old seven-time Ballon D'Or winner achieved his lifetime ambition of winning the World Cup in December but has maintained a decent run of form on his return to France.

He scored a key goal in the 3-1 win over Montpellier and then notched his 10th Ligue 1 goal of the season on Saturday as PSG, missing Kylian Mbappe and Neymar through injury, came from behind to beat Toulouse 2-1.

Messi joined PSG in 2021 on a two-year contract, with the option of renewing it for another, after an emotional farewell to Barcelona where he had spent his whole professional career.

"We are in discussions. I cannot hide that, I would love to have him involved in this

project, that he can continue with us," Campos told French broadcaster *TF1*.

"I would be delighted if he does so, but we are talking at the moment trying to achieve that goal, that Leo Messi remains with us."

Campos lauded Messi's recent contributions to the team, especially in the win over Montpellier.

"At half-time I said to him 'Leo it is imperative you drag the others with you'. He replied: 'keep calm' and he produced an exceptional second-half."

Messi's form is just the boost PSG require with Mbappe's injury due to see him miss their Champions League Last 16 first leg clash with Bayern Munich on February 14.

"Losing Kylian of course is tough, I saw he was very sad about the injury," said Campos.

"However, then I saw him working out in the morning so as to recuperate as fast as possible."

"That is the personality of a winner, of someone very special. He is already the best striker in the world."