

Set back of Manipur Lokayukta

Supreme Court declines to interfere Manipur High Court order in favour of MD MSPCL

IT News
Imphal, Feb 8:

At what could be term as a setback of the Manipur Lokayukta, the Supreme Court of India has declined to interfere the Manipur High Court judgement and order dated 19th December, 2022.

In the Judgment order dated 19.12.2022 passed in the court of Justice M.V. Muralidharan, in respect of MC (WP(C)) No. 346 of 2022, the Manipur High Court has dismissed a case filed by Manipur Lokayukta bearing No. MC (WP(C)) No. 346 of 2022 against N. Sarat Singh, Managing Director, MSPCL and Th. Bimol Singh as Principal Respondents to vacate, set aside, modify and not to extend any further an interim order dated 29.09.2022 passed in W.P.(C) No. 833 of 2022.

The High Court order was challenged by the Manipur Lokayukta by filing a Special Leave Petition to the Supreme Court double bench comprising of Justice K. M. Joseph and Justice J. B. Pardiwala. On February 3, 2023, the double bench after listening to the counsel of Lokayukta and the N. Sarat Singh, the Managing

Director of the Manipur State Power Company Limited, the court in its order decline to interfere the impugned order of the Manipur High Court.

Further the Supreme Court also directed the Manipur High Court to dispose the writ petition pending in the Manipur High Court within a period of three months.

Mention may be made that in the Judgment order dated 19.12.2022 passed in respect of MC (WP(C)) No. 346 of 2022, the Manipur High Court made critical observations on the conduct of the Manipur Lokayukta, that irrespective of the actual state of affairs which may not be disputed about the completion of the project in the month of August, 2015 the Manipur Lokayukta was not appreciating the stand of the Government and have been insisting on making inquiry which otherwise is outside its jurisdiction thereby making it clear that Manipur Lokayukta has become an instrument at the hand of few persons who indulge in making complaints on surmises and information provided against the official documents and records. The

Manipur High Court denounced such actions which indicate personal interest on part of Manipur Lokayukta which is the inquiring authority. The Judgment further remarked that such partisan attitude of the Manipur Lokayukta has necessitated intervention of this Court to prevent systematic harassment in the name of investigation and inquiry at the behest of vested interested individuals, thereby restoring the faith of the general public including officials working in Government establishment manning the essential service. It was also observed that no productive work was executed in the Company/Department while attending to such inquiry and investigation filed by the vested interested persons.

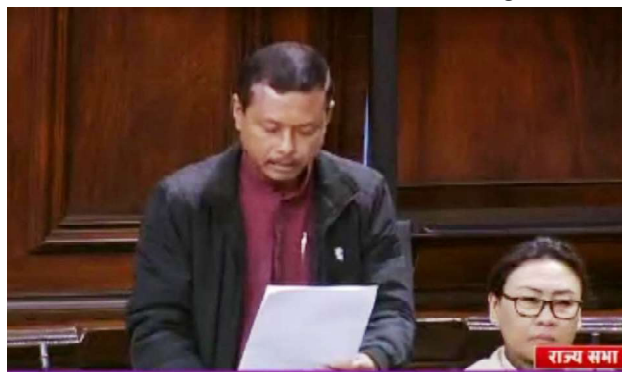
The judgment further observed that the Manipur High Court, as rightly argued by Mr. HS Paonam, the learned senior counsel for the principal respondents and as could be seen from the available records produced by both the parties, viewed that Manipur Lokayukta without appreciating the stand of the Government, insisted on personal appearance of the

officers concerned under the guise of inquiry which prima facie is outside its jurisdiction. Therefore, the Court, upon appreciating the submissions put forth by the learned counsels of both the sides granted interim stay of the order dated 23/9/2022 passed by Manipur Lokayukta.

Further, the court observed that on perusal of the file produced by Manipur Lokayukta in respect of Complaint Case No. 5 of 2022, it was found that Ngangom Ibotombi Singh filed the Complaint before the Manipur Lokayukta on 31/8/2022 which is beyond the period of seven years as per Section 53 of the Manipur Lokayukta Act, 2014 and hence barred by limitation.

Therefore, the Manipur High Court observed that there is no valid ground to vacate and/or modify the interim order dated 29/9/2022. As such, the court found no merit in MC (WP(C)) No. 346 of 2022 and accordingly dismissed it. The court further made absolute the interim order date 29/9/2022 passed in W.P.(C) No. 833 of 2022 till the disposal of the writ petition.

11,423 people undergone Kidney transplantation in 2022 – MoS Pravin to MP Sanjaoba



IT News
Imphal, Feb 8:

In 2022 the number of patients undergone kidney transplantation recorded in India is 11,423. This was replied by Minister of state for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar while replying to a question by Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanjaoba in the ongoing parliament session at Rajya Sabha today.

Showing serious concern to the rising issues of kidney related diseases in country particularly to the youths from the North East states of India, MP Sanjaoba also asked the Minister concern through the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha regarding studies conducted

in connection with the chronic kidney diseases. Replying to the Rajya MP from Manipur, MoS Health and Family Welfare Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar said that there is no information in connection with the youths under 25 who have been affected by chronic kidney related diseases as per record available from the National Health System Resource Centre (NHSRC).

The Minister further said that around 61.8% of the people affected by Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) died in India as per a survey conducted under the India State Level Disease burden.

The Minister further said that under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme

(PMNDP) the Health and Family Welfare Ministry has been establishing Haemodialysis centres at every peritoneal dialysis service and district hospitals in all the states and Union territories across the nation. He said that for those hospitals without proper facilities the MOHFW is making all effort to accommodate the facilities to all the states and Union Territories under one nation one dialysis scheme. The Ministry had also launched the IT Dashboard (PMNDP portal) in May 5, 2022 and have provided facilities for registration with Kidney problem by using ABHA ID separately. The Minister said that the portal is commission across the country.

Coordination between public and private sectors required for a better health care system: Health Minister



IT News
Imphal, Feb 8:

Health & IPR Minister, Dr. S. Ranjan Singh has said that coordination between public and private sector is required for a better health care system. Minister was speaking as Chief Guest at the foundation day celebration of Jivan Hospital, Kakching, today.

Speaking at the occasion, Shri Ranjan maintained that the government is relentlessly working to improve health care system in the state. Many welfare health schemes have been launched

at the central and state level. Schemes like PMJAY, CMHT, Chief Minister's Health for All etc. may be mentioned. Grassroot health care system needs to be focussed as priority. Without improving primary health care system tertiary health care will be hardly improved, he added.

Minister suggested that health staffs should work with a commitment for the welfare of the public. The importance of health care is understood by all. Nursing care to the patients is a unique thing which is highly necessary as health professionals. There has been

a turning point in the health care system during the past few years. Information Technology, (IT) enabled service to the private and public sectors have become a new trend, he informed.

He said that the role played by the health staffs during the Covid pandemic is commendable. The government is now prepared for any pandemic. The support of the private hospitals is necessary for bringing a more better health care system in the state. The endeavour of the private hospitals also needs to be encouraged; minister added.

Director, Health Services Manipur, Dr. Kh. Sasheekumar Mangang, Dr. Nepram Sanjib Singh, Medical Superintendent, RIMS, also shared the dais as president and guest of honour respectively. Managing Director, Jivan Hospital Yengkhom Ashokumar Singh was also present at the occasion. Certificates and mementos were also distributed to the outstanding performers of the hospital as a part of the celebration.

CM inspects Sangai Ethnic Park

IT News
Imphal, Feb 8:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh visited the Sangai Ethnic Park at Moirang Khunou, Bishnupur District and inspected the on-going work, prior to the G20 events to be held in the State from 17th to 19th of this month. Later, he also inspected the Loktak Inland Water Transport Complex at Sendra.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Education Minister Thounaojam Basanta Kumar, Chairman, Manipur State Power Distribution Company Ltd. Tongbram Robindro, MLA of



Moirang AC Thongam Shanti, Chairman, Loktak Development Authority M. Asnikumar, Chief Secretary

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Managing Director, Manipur Police Housing Corporation Limited (MPHC Ltd.) C. Doungel,

Additional Chief Secretary V. Vumlunmang and Senior Government Officials among others.

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation RIMS to host prestigious 51st IAPMRCON 2023

IT News
Imphal, Feb 8:

Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, is privileged to host the prestigious 51st IAPMRCON 2023, the national conference of the Indian Association of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (IAPMR). The biggest event of the year will run from February 9 to 11, 2023, at RIMS

Imphal with the theme "Future directions of PMR". For the third time, PMR Department RIMS Imphal is organising such a large-scale national conference on a Clinical Subject. The first conference was held in 2002 on the theme "Reaching the Un-reached" and the second in 2016 with the theme "Competency-Based Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Education".

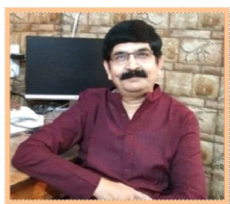
The Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, was established in 1984 as a Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centre. It became a full-fledged Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation in RIMS Imphal in 1994. MD course in PMR was started in 2005. The PMR Department in RIMS Imphal is one of the country's three best PMR Departments, with its students achieving various awards and recognition at the national level.

This conference is even more significant because this is the first national conference of IAPMR in physical mode in 3 years. The 2020 national conference in Kerala was the last conference in physical mode before the COVID 19 pandemic. It is being organized by the PMR team led by Dr. Akoijam Joy Singh, HOD (PMR RIMS) and Dr. Nilachandra Longiam as Organizing Chairman and Secretary respectively.

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Begging menace in Jammu & Kashmir



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Jammu is the most populous district of the state and begging, one of the social evils, is prevalent at public places, especially places of worship, streets, roadsides, thereby causing inconvenience to the public. The act of begging is instrumental in not only enlightening the individual but also the society as a whole. A beggar enlightens the individual that there still exists a section of the society which is deprived of the basic necessities of life. When a beggar communicates his plight, he may cause the observer to introspect with respect to the responsibility he owes to other needy members of the society.

Begging being an offence under the Act (Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Beggary Act 1960), it is imperative that strict necessary action under law be initiated against the offenders.

No doubt, the Jammu and Kashmir government has banned begging at public and religious places in Srinagar and directed police to arrest the offenders but it is not strictly implemented. Beggars have created a mess on the city streets. It is almost impossible to keep the windows down near a traffic signal. These beggars move fearlessly catching many pedestrians off guard and are often seen pestering people to succumb to their demands even as policemen watch them. While men usually prefer to remain away from the city and beg in small towns, women along with their children beg in the city. They jump in front of the vehicles and harass people demanding money. Many beggars are so young and healthy that they do not deserve charity at all. The deserving cases are very few; those who are crippled, lame, deaf, dumb, blind or handicapped and cannot earn their living. Beggars also rent babies from their mothers each day, to give them a beggary more credibility. They carry these babies who are sedated and hang limply in their arms and claim they have no money to feed them. In the worst of cases, they make that child cry so that you can melt.

It is observed that women beggars, who are mostly from the Rohingya community carrying little children on their laps, are on the rise. People feel pity on them because they look poorer than our own poor which motivates a person to give money to them. They are becoming potential threat to various bank customers in the area, some of whom alleged to have been pick pocketed. The child beggars follow the passengers' vehicles when they reach at crossing points and stop them and demand money. Beggary has become an organized crime with the worst affected victims being kids. They are forced into beggary and live under the constant duress of their supervisors.

In the absence of strong laws and government-run juvenile homes, begging, the most common urban problem in India, has taken alarming dimensions in the city, with children as young as six-year-olds in shabby conditions roaming the market places and seeking alms. It is contingent upon the administration to take all measures necessary to make the district more citizen friendly and to prevent public nuisance at all costs.

The alarming thing is that the small children who should have been in school as it was the age of their schooling are being used for begging either by their parents or by any agency which has made the begging as a means of earning money. Stringent law is the need of the hour to deal with the menace. The children need rehabilitation and efforts should be made to take action against people involved in pushing kids in such trade.

Why a skill-based curriculum in higher education is important



By: Vijay GarG

Challenges such as graduates' unemployment and unemployability can be met with a practical and skill-based education.

Globally, companies globally are focusing on skill building and are looking for a multi-skilled workforce.

Skill-based learning has become a necessity today as we live in an era of unprecedented transformation. The advent of new technology has led us into a growth-driven era full of opportunities but are we ready to capitalise on this? Of late, there has been much talk about transforming the traditional higher education system into a skill-based

one. The National Education Policy 2020 emphasises practical, hands-on skilling rather than classroom-based learning. India has been grappling with challenges like unemployment and graduates who are unemployable and lack soft skills. Despite having a wide pool of talent, many youngsters are unable to find jobs due to a lack of the required skill sets.

What we need is to understand the difference between skill-based and knowledge-based education. The latter involves understanding concepts whereas the former aims to channelise education into a practical form to find solutions. It is the second that many companies want. They are looking for talented people who can innovate, are open to learning and re-learning, can apply their knowledge practically and will also upskill themselves.

According to consulting firm McKinsey, around 69% of companies globally are focussing on skill-building and more than 50% believe that the pandemic and the challenges it threw up have increased the demand for a multi-skilled workforce. According to an Accenture report titled Fueling India's skill (R)evolution, the country could lose 2.3% of its annual growth by 2028 if skill-building is not on par with modern technological interventions.

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Chat-GPT - A Large Language Model

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Open-AI introduced a long-form question-answering AI called Chat-GPT that answers complex questions conversationally. It's a revolutionary technology because it's trained to learn what humans mean when they ask a question. Many users are awed at its ability to provide human-quality responses, inspiring the feeling that it may eventually have the power to disrupt how humans interact with computers and change how information is retrieved. Chat-GPT is a large language model chat-bot developed by Open-AI based on GPT-3.5. It has a remarkable ability to interact in conversational dialogue form and provide responses that can appear surprisingly human. Large language models perform the task of predicting the next word in a series of words. Reinforcement Learning with Human Feedback (RLHF) is an additional layer of training that uses human feedback to help Chat-GPT learn the ability to follow directions and generate responses that are satisfactory to humans. Chat-GPT was created by San Francisco-based artificial intelligence company Open-AI. Open-AI Inc. is the non-profit parent company of the for-profit Open-AI LP. Open-AI is famous for its well-known DALL-E, a deep-learning model that generates images from text instructions called prompts. The CEO is Sam Altman, who previously was president of Y Combinator. Microsoft is a partner and investor in the amount of \$1 billion dollars. They jointly developed the Azure AI Platform. Chat-GPT is a large language model (LLM). Large Language Models (LLMs) are trained with massive amounts of data to accurately predict what word comes next in a sentence. It was discovered that increasing the amount of data increased the ability of the language models to do more.

According to Stanford University "GPT-3 has 175 billion parameters" and was trained on 570 gigabytes of text. For comparison, its predecessor, GPT-2, was over 100 times smaller at 1.5 billion parameters. This increase in scale

drastically changes the behavior of the model — GPT-3 is able to perform tasks it was not explicitly trained on, like translating sentences from English to French, with few to no training examples. This behavior was mostly absent in GPT-2. Furthermore, for some tasks, GPT-3 outperforms models that were explicitly trained to solve those tasks, although in other tasks it falls short." LLMs predict the next word in a series of words in a sentence and the next sentences — kind of like auto complete, but at a mind-bending scale. This ability allows them to write paragraphs and entire pages of content. But LLMs are limited in that they don't always understand exactly what a human wants. And that's where Chat-GPT improves on state of the art, with the aforementioned Reinforcement Learning with Human Feedback (RLHF) training. GPT-3.5 was trained on massive amounts of data about code and information from the internet, including sources like Reddit discussions, to help Chat-GPT learn dialogue and attain a human style of responding. Chat-GPT was also trained using human feedback (a technique called Reinforcement Learning with Human Feedback) so that the AI learned what humans expected when they asked a question. Training the LLM this way is revolutionary because it goes beyond simply training the LLM to predict the next word.

A March 2022 research paper titled **Training Language Models to Follow Instructions with Human Feedback** explains why this is a breakthrough approach: "This work is motivated by our aim to increase the positive impact of large language models by training them to do what a given set of humans want them to do. By default, language models optimize the next word prediction objective, which is only a proxy for what we want these models to do. Our results indicate that our techniques hold promise for making language models more helpful, truthful, and harmless. Making language models pager does not inherently make them

better at following a user's intent. For example, large language models can generate outputs that are untruthful, toxic, or simply not helpful to the user. In other words, these models are not aligned with their users." The engineers who built Chat-GPT hired contractors (called labelers) to rate the outputs of the two systems, GPT-3 and the new Instruct GPT (a "sibling model" of Chat-GPT). Based on the ratings, the researchers came to the following conclusions: "Labelers significantly prefer Instruct GPT outputs over outputs from GPT-3. Instruct GPT models show improvements in truthfulness over GPT-3. Instruct GPT shows small improvements in toxicity over GPT-3, but not bias." The research paper concludes that the results for Instruct GPT were positive. Still, it also noted that there was room for improvement. Overall, our results indicate that fine-tuning large language models using human preferences significantly improves their behavior on a wide range of tasks, though much work remains to be done to improve their safety and reliability. "What sets Chat-GPT apart from a simple chat-bot is that it was specifically trained to understand the human intent in a question and provide helpful, truthful, and harmless answers."

Because of that training, Chat-GPT may challenge certain questions and discard parts of the question that don't make sense. Another research paper related to Chat-GPT shows how they trained the AI to predict what humans preferred. The researchers noticed that the metrics used to rate the outputs of natural language processing AI resulted in machines that scored well on the metrics, but didn't align with what humans expected. The following is how the researchers explained the problem: "Many machine learning applications optimize simple metrics which are only rough proxies for what the designer intends. This can lead to problems, such as YouTube recommendations promoting click-bait." So the solution

they designed was to create an AI that could output answers optimized to what humans preferred. To do that, they trained the AI using datasets of human comparisons between different answers so that the machine became better at predicting what humans judged to be satisfactory answers. The paper shares that training was done by summarizing Reddit posts and also tested on summarizing news. The research paper from February 2022 is called **Learning to Summarize from Human Feedback**.

The researchers write: "In this work, we show that it is possible to significantly improve summary quality by training a model to optimize for human preferences. We collect a large, high-quality dataset of human comparisons between summaries, train a model to predict the human-preferred summary, and use that model as a reward function to fine-tune a summarization policy using reinforcement learning." Chat-GPT is specifically programmed not to provide toxic or harmful responses. So it will avoid answering those kinds of questions. An important limitation of Chat-GPT is that the quality of the output depends on the quality of the input. In other words, expert directions (prompts) generate better answers. Another limitation is that because it is trained to provide answers that feel right to humans, the answers can trick humans that the output is correct. Many users discovered that Chat-GPT can provide incorrect answers, including some that are wildly incorrect. The moderators at the coding Q&A website Stack Overflow may have discovered an unintended consequence of answers that feel right to humans. Stack Overflow was flooded with user responses generated from Chat-GPT that appeared to be correct, but a great many were wrong answers. The thousands of answers overwhelmed the volunteer moderator team, prompting the administrators to enact a ban against any users who post answers generated from Chat-GPT.

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Aging - Can We Skip?



By: Rojita Shandham

As time passes by, we won't be able to escape from aging, eventually it leads to death. Death is inevitable. We have not heard of anyone who has escaped from aging. It is a natural process so no one can escape from it but we can delay it by doing regular exercise and eating a balanced diet. Our youths these days don't care about their health. As our country is developing, most of us eat oil foods instead of a balanced diet.

At the biological level, aging is the deterioration of cells over time. It is a progressive phenomenon, gradual loss of physiological integrity and leading to impaired function as well as complex processes. Single-cell zygote to full-fledged organism is a unidirectional progression of embryonic development. During embryonic stages, the cell undergoes differentiation and gives rise to different cell types that are made

up of organisms. According to Medawar, aging is referred to as an 'unsolved problem in biology.' This process still remains a mystery for many research scholars. However many factors could fasten aging including diseases like cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders and neurodegenerative diseases.

TELOMERE ATTRITION; both in humans and mice, shortening of telomeres is noticed during normal aging. Shelterin, a six-protein complex and telomeric DNA are made of Telomere. Shelterin complex is made up of six family members that bind along the length of the telomere. It protects telomeres in many eukaryotic cells from DNA repair mechanisms, as well as to regulate telomerase activity. Enzyme called telomerase is responsible for replication of chromosomal DNA, the telomeric region. The activity of this enzyme telomerase is present in tumor cells, stem cells, germ cells, thymus, intestinal mucous cells, even in lymphocytes cells. Telomerase activity is mostly drained of in somatic cells and this leads to the gradually increased loss of telomere protective sequences from chromosome ends. However, the absence of shelterin causes telomere uncapping and thereby activates damage signaling pathways that may lead to non-homologous end joining, homologous recombination, end to end fusions, genomic instability, senescence or apoptosis. Deficiency of telomerase could develop many dis-

eases such as pulmonary fibrosis, dyskeratosis congenital and aplastic anemia. By activation of telomerase aging can be reversed.

INFLAMMATION; aging is related with the term inflammation means that a trashy pro-inflammatory phenotype that accompanies aging in mammals. Multiple causes may result from inflammation i.e. deposition of pro-inflammatory tissue damage, defective host cell, the liability of senescent cells induced to secrete pro-inflammatory cytokines. Increase in the production of IL-1B, tumor necrosis factor and interferons by the activation of the NLRP3 inflammasome (nucleotide-binding domain-like receptor protein 3) and other pro-inflammatory pathways. Dysfunctional inflammation plays a key role in Atherosclerosis. It increases the progression of atherosclerotic lesions to dangerous plaque and even causes death. NF-κB (nuclear factor kappa B) is a transcription factor which regulates multiple aspects of innate and adaptive immune function as well as inflammation. Most recently, it was revealed that hypothalamic inflammation acts to cause a neurodegenerative disease, obesity and type-2 diabetes mediated through inflammatory disruption on the hypothalamic neural stem cells and their neurogenesis. The GnRH treatment can partially reverse aging.

FREE RADICALS; we human beings have many free radicals. Free radicals are very reactive oxygen

species which are produced by our body when exposed to certain physicochemical conditions. As our body ages we lose the ability to fight with free radicals. If we consume too much red meat, processed meat, cooking oil, etc. are likely to produce free radicals. It leads to accelerated signs of aging and risk for developing chronic disease. Too many free radicals in our body cause cellular damage and oxidative stress. We need to take food rich in antioxidants from time to time to neutralize free radicals and stop causing damage to our body. Consuming vitamin E and C and α-carotene is good for health. Vitamin E is a fat soluble vitamin mostly found in nuts, vegetables, grains, cereals and apricots. Vitamin C is a water soluble vitamin found in citrus fruits, capsicum, cabbage, spinach, broccoli, strawberries, etc. α-carotene are found in yolk, milk, carrots, tomato, broccoli, grains, etc.

In 2012, Shimaya Yamanaka, MD, PhD, a senior investigator at the Gladstone Institutes — won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of how to transform ordinary adult skin cells that like embryonic cells.

Yamanaka factor has 4 transcription i.e. Oct3/4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc. They are a group of proteins which are highly expressed in embryonic stem cells.

(The writer did her Masters in Biochemistry from Manipur University and she will be off for her PhD in Canada soon)

Opposition seeks JPC probe, asks why SEBI silent on Adani

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 8:

Even as the government countered Congress MP Rahul Gandhi over his Lok Sabha speech on alleged links between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and industrialist Gautam Adani, several Opposition MPs sought to put the Centre on the mat over the issue.

Participating in the discussion on motion of thanks on the President's Address in Lok Sabha, DMK member Kanimozhi said the House witnessed how the ruling party was busy "shielding" the conglomerate when the matter was flagged by Rahul in his speech.

In Rajya Sabha, Congress MP Divyijaya Singh demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Hindenburg report, and also on how Adani companies' shares went up to Rs 4,000 apiece from Rs 130 during the pandemic.

While CPI(M) member John Brittas wondered why the government was shying away from ordering a JPC probe into the matter, Singh asked, "Why are SEBI, the regulatory authorities, not coming out with a statement?"



Their silence casts aspersions on the interest, crony capitalism of BJP."

US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research has alleged that the Adani Group indulged in manipulation of stocks and accounting fraud. In response, the business house called it "a calculated attack on India, [and] the independence, integrity and quality of Indian institutions..."

Referring to the response, Kanimozhi said, "If talking against Adani is talking against India, I really want a clarification."

Trinamool Congress's Mahua Moitra said, "I will only say that we have been fooled... I don't want to get into (a) Wall Street short-seller's allegations; that's not my job. It is a shame for us that these allegations against A-Company were listened to only when global entities asked these questions."

Samajwadi Party's Dimple Yadav flagged the issue of price-rise and questioned MoUs worth thousands of crores signed by governments with corporate groups which "do not materialise".

In the Upper House,

TMC's Derek O'Brien raised the issue of the "boycott" call given by some Hindutva groups against the film "Pathaan" and praised the film for its "beautiful message" and called those associated with it as India's biggest global ambassadors.

On the Adani issue, he said money of the poor and the middle class is at risk.

Digvijaya also asked when did the defence acquisition council certify the acceptance of necessity for 36 Rafale fighter jets — he said this is a question of the nation's security and there are allegations of corruption.

Turkey, Syria quakes: Death toll passes 9,500; deadliest in decade

Agency
Antakya (Turkey):

Heartrending scenes of a newborn plucked alive from the rubble and a broken father clutching his dead daughter's hand have laid bare the human cost of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey that by Wednesday had claimed over 9,500 lives.

For two days and nights since the 7.8 magnitude quake, an impromptu army of rescuers have worked in freezing temperatures to find those still entombed among ruins in several cities on either side of the border.

Officially, the death toll from the disaster now stands at 6,957 people dead in Turkey and 2,547 in Syria, bringing the total to 9,504 — But that could yet double if the worst fears of experts are realised.

The World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that time is running out for the thousands injured and those still feared trapped.

For Mesut Hancer, a resident of the Turkish city Kahramanmaraş, near the epicentre, it is already too late.

He sat on the freezing rubble, too grief-stricken to speak, refusing to let go of his 15-year-old daughter Irmak's hand as her body lay lifeless

among the slabs of concrete and strands of twisted rebar.

Turkey is home to millions of refugees from the war. The affected area in Syria is divided between government-controlled territory and the country's last opposition-held enclave, where millions rely on humanitarian aid.

As many as 23 million people could be affected in the quake-hit region, according to Adelheid Marschang, a senior emergencies officer with the World Health Organization, who called it a "crisis on top of multiple crises."

Children are freezing
Even for survivors, the future seems bleak.

Many have taken refuge from relentless aftershocks, cold rain and snow in mosques, schools and even bus shelters — burning debris to try to stay warm.

Frustration is growing that help has been slow to arrive.

"I can't get my brother back from the ruins. I can't get my nephew back. Look around here. There is no state official here, for God's sake," said Ali Sagioglu in Kahramanmaraş.

"For two days we haven't seen the state around here... Children are freezing from the cold," he said.

In nearby Gaziantep, shops were closed, there was no heat because gas lines have

been cut to avoid explosions, and finding petrol was tough.

Sixty-one-year-old resident Celal Deniz said the police had to intervene when impatient crowds waiting for rescue teams "revolted".

About 100 others wrapped in blankets slept in the lounge of an airport terminal normally used to welcome Turkish politicians and celebrities.

"We saw the buildings collapse so we know we are lucky to be alive," said Zahide Sutcu, who went to the airport with her two small children.

"But now our lives have so much uncertainty. How will I look after these children?"

Across the border in northern Syria, a decade of civil war and Syrian-Russian aerial bombardment had already destroyed hospitals, collapsed the economy and prompted electricity, fuel and water shortages.

In the rebel-controlled town of Jindayris, even the joy of rescuing a newborn baby was tainted with sadness.

She was still tethered to her mother who was killed in the disaster.

"We heard a voice while we were digging," Khalil al-Suwaidi, a relative, told AFP.

"We cleared the dust and found the baby with the umbilical cord (intact) so we cut it and my cousin took her to hospital."

A man arrested for making a threatening call to blow up Mumbai Airport

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 8:

A 25 year old man was arrested by the Sahar Police on charges of making a threat call in the name of "Indian Mujahideen" to blow up the Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Tuesday.

The accused identified as Irfan Ahmed Sheikh had made a call to the airport call centre at about 10 pm on Monday claiming to be a member of the terror outfit "Indian Mujahideen". He spoke using some code words. He was arrested from Govandi area in North East Mumbai and was remanded to police custody.

The Mumbai Police is conducting inquiry on terror angle and has also been probing whether any person got the

call done through the accused. They suspect that he is mentally unwell since he has been constantly changing his statements. The Police are also investigating whether he made the call after being inspired by social media or web series.

On Monday night the Mumbai airport authorities received a threatening call and alerted the security agencies to keep a close watch on every suspicious movement. In turn the Sahar Police registered a case against the unknown person under section 505(1) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The Nagpur police control room had also received a call threatening to blow up two hospitals located in Nagpur on Monday. The accused is yet to be traced out.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Police and other security agencies

have been placed on high alert ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mumbai on Friday, during which he likely to attend a couple of functions.

PM Modi will flag off two Vande Bharat Express trains - CSTM-Solapur and CSMT-Shirdi from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in South Mumbai and is likely to visit the Indian naval base INS Shikra at Colaba in South Mumbai.

Besides, he will visit Marol, Andheri East in North West Mumbai, for an opening of the Dawoodi Bohra community's Arabic Academy, the Dawoodi Bohras official twitter handle said. The PM is expected to share the dais with His Holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin during the opening ceremony.

The police have banned

drone, para-gliders, remote control micro-light aircraft ahead of Modi's visit. In the preventive order, the police said, "Due to the situation prevailing in the areas under control of the Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, it is apprehended that during the Prime Minister of India Mumbai visit on Friday, terrorist, anti-social elements may attack using drone, para-gliders, remote control micro-light aircraft."

This will be PM Modi's second visit to Mumbai in recent weeks. Earlier, On January 19, he was in Mumbai to lay foundation stones for a slew of projects and also inaugurate the metro 2A and 7 lines. He had addressed a public meeting at MMRTA grounds in Bandra-Kurla Complex and had also taken a ride in the metro train.

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

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 8:

India on Wednesday recorded 96 fresh COVID-19 cases, while the number of active cases increased to 1,785, according to Union health ministry data.

With the new cases, the total tally stands at 4.46 crore (4,46,83,639). The death toll increased to 5,30,746 with one death reported from Uttar Pradesh, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.07 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 0.08 per cent.

The active cases comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.81 per cent, according to the

health ministry website.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,51,108, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.60 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on

August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of 2 crore on May 4, 2021, three crore on June 23 and four crore on January 25 last year.

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Gurnoor Kaur, residence of Seikh Village, Ukhrul District, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Gurnoor Kaur Setia**, as I have assumed my new name **Gurnoor Kaur**.

Sd/-
Gurnoor Kaur
Baani Sales and Services,
Thangal Bazar, Imphal

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Honpamla Leisan, residence of Seikh Village, Ukhrul District, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Honpam Leisan**, as I have assumed my new name **Honpamla Leisan**.

Sd/-
Honpamla Leisan
Seikh Village, Ukhrul District,
Manipur

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Khundongbam Daisy Devi, Residence of Wangkhei Ningthem Pukhri Mapal, P.O. - Imphal, District - Imphal East, Pin - 795001, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Ningthoujam Daisy Devi**, as I have assumed my new name **Khundongbam Daisy Devi**.

Sd/-
Khundongbam Daisy Devi
Wangkhei Ningthem Pukhri Mapal
P.O. - Imphal, District - Imphal East
Pin - 795001, Manipur

Contd. from Page 2

Chat-GPT - A Large Language...

The flood of Chat-GPT answers resulted in a post entitled **Temporary policy Chat-GPT** is banned "This is a temporary policy intended to slow down the influx of answers and other content created with Chat-GPT. The primary problem is that while the answers which Chat-GPT produces have a high rate of being incorrect, they typically 'look like' they 'might' be good..." The experience of Stack Overflow moderators with wrong Chat-GPT answers that look right is something that OpenAI, the makers of Chat-GPT, are aware of and warned about in their announcement of the new technology. The use of Chat-GPT is currently free during the "research preview" time. The chat-bot is currently open for

users to try out and provide feedback on the responses so that the AI can become better at answering questions and to learn from its mistakes.

The Official announcement states that OpenAI is eager to receive feedback about the mistakes: "While we've made efforts to make the model refuse inappropriate requests, it will sometimes respond to harmful instructions or exhibit biased behavior. We're using the Moderation API to warn or block certain types of unsafe content, but we expect it to have some false negatives and positives for now. We're eager to collect user feedback to aid our ongoing work to improve this system." There is currently a contest with a prize of \$500 in Chat-GPT credits to encour-

age the public to rate the responses. "Users are encouraged to provide feedback on problematic model outputs through the UI, as well as on false positives/negatives from the external content filter which is also part of the interface. We are particularly interested in feedback regarding harmful outputs that could occur in real-world, non-adversarial conditions, as well as feedback that help us uncover and understand novel risks and possible mitigations. You can choose to enter the Chat-GPT Feedback Contest3 for a chance to win up to \$500 in API credits. Entries can be submitted via the feedback form that is linked in the Chat-GPT interface."

(Writer can be reached at: jugeshwor7@gmail.com)

Why a skill-based...

Bridging the gap

While our higher Education System is currently undergoing several changes, the growing need for seamless coordination of a classroom-based curriculum and practical skills-based learning demands that our institutions and academicians begin designing a different kind of curriculum that focuses on research, development, and training. This can be achieved through the following means:

Industry-Academia partnership: A strong collaboration with the industry to impart skilled courses to students will be essential. Higher education institutions (HEIs) must bring in experts from the industry to their laboratories so that students are aware of the developments on the

ground. Regular seminars and classes and internships and on-the-job training/ live projects are also excellent ways to learn the industry's inner workings. Over time, this will allow academia to update existing learnings with newer methodology and ensure an advanced pedagogy.

Government-academia partnership: The government can help institutions by providing the appropriate infrastructure required for advanced labs and research and development wings. A collaboration between the government and HEIs with regard to apprenticeships and incentives will help students get sufficient experience before they make their debut in the real world.

RBI raises rates and growth outlook; inflation seems set to fall

Agency
Hyderabad, Feb 8:

As widely expected, the RBI raised the key benchmark policy rate by 25 bps in a 4-2 split vote on Wednesday. The overnight repo rate now stands at a nice round number of 6.5%.

After a 10-month miserable period, headline inflation seems ready to bend, so the central bank lowered both its Q4, FY23 projection and the full fiscal FY23 estimate at 5.6% and 6.5% respectively. Last December, it pegged them at 5.9% and 6.7%, respectively.

As Governor Shaktikanta Das noted, adjusted for inflation, the repo rate at 6.5% trails at the pre-pandemic levels.

More than policy rates or the inflation outlook, what stood out on Wednesday was RBI's take on India's economic growth.

Citing improved economic activity, Das revised upwards FY23 real GDP growth rate to 7% as against his previous prediction of 6.8%. And unlike the conservative projections of Minis-

try of Finance for next fiscal, Das appeared optimistic pegging growth at 6.4% for FY24. Q1, FY24 growth is estimated at 7.8% followed by Q2 at 6.2%, Q3 at 6%, and Q4 at 5.8% with risks evenly balanced.

The MPC missed its December quarter CPI estimates with Q3 headline inflation printing at 6.1% compared to the central bank's estimate of 6.6%. Perhaps, this prompted the monetary mandarins to call in for a correction. However, as indicated last year, retail inflation will remain above the RBI's 4% target band throughout the next fiscal to settle at 5.3%. In all likelihood, real rates will be 100 bps higher than FY24's inflation forecast. So Das promised to remain 'agile and alert to the moving parts of the inflation.'

The stickiness in core inflation remains a 'matter of concern' for RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), and Das stressed the need to 'see a decisive moderation' in core prices. Until then, the MPC will remain unwavering. He also justified the moderation in the

size of the rate hike at 25 bps as appropriate, allowing them space to assess the lagged impact of the past rate hikes and also provide elbow room to weigh incoming data and determine its next course of action.

Even though the MPC raised repo rate by 250 bps, the weighted average of lending rates on both fresh loans and outstanding loans rose by 137 bps and 80 bps respectively. Likewise, the term deposit rates shot up 213 bps and 75 bps. In other words, the rate hikes delivered so far are still mid-air and need to land tip first. Das wasn't specific, but markets believe we are at the end of the tightening cycle and as inflation eases with each clock tick, it's only a matter of time before policymakers begin gunning for growth.

Unlike the December policy when Das was explicit that when inflation battle wasn't yet over, on Wednesday he reaffirmed from giving any update. He, however, stuck to the need for further calibrated monetary policy action to keep

inflation expectations anchored, break core inflation persistence and contain second-round effects. He also hammered home the point that the future course of action would be data dependent and based on the evolving outlook of global crude and commodity prices, geopolitical tensions, domestic economic activity and the impact of past rate hike actions.

Global central banks are at various stages. If the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England are data-dependent, the European Central Bank continues to be hawkish, while the Bank of Canada is ready to press the pause button. Lower imported inflation, slower demand amid monetary transmission, and base effects should directionally imply lower headline and core inflation next fiscal. With monetary conditions still accommodative compared to pre-Covid levels, RBI's tone remained cautious and contrary to expectations, the MPC maintained its 'withdrawal of accommodation stance,' in a 4-2 split vote.

Assam Rifles foils smuggling of contraband items

IT News
Imphal, Feb 8:

Sajik Tampak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of Headquarter Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) recovered contraband items from General area Aisi village, Chandel district, Manipur today.

AR organised lecture on Drug Abuse

IT News
Imphal, Feb 8:

Churachandpur Battalion, Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised a lecture on Drug Abuse for the students and youth of Tulumjang village of Churachandpur, Manipur today.

Based on specific input regarding move of contraband items, a Mobile Vehicle Check Post was established in General area Aisi Village, Chandel District. During search and frisking operation at the Mobile Vehicle Check Post, one individual was found with 275

soap cases containing approximately 3 Kilogram of Brown Sugar. The seized brown sugar is assessed to be worth 6 crore Indian currency.

The recovered items along with the Smuggler were handed over to Chakpikarong police Station for further investigation.

The aim of the event was to motivate the youth and educate them about the ill effects of drug abuse. The lecture also highlighted on the importance of yoga, sports to fight against drug abuse. Youth were motivated to indulge in sports and fitness activities to improve their lifestyle and were also

made aware about various Govt Rehabilitation schemes to assist in detoxification and Nasha Mukti.

A total of 50 students and youth of Tulumjang village attended the lecture and applauded the efforts of Assam Rifles for providing such fruitful events.

Assam Rifles conducts Medical Camp

IT News
Imphal, Feb 8:

Khuga Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted a Medical Camp at Songdoi village, Churachandpur district today.

In continuation of its efforts to improve mutual trust and to maintain peace and harmony in the region while simultaneously addressing the medical requirements in the underdeveloped villages, a Medical camp was organised for locals of Songdoi village. A total of 28 villagers were examined during the medical camp including distribution of Essential medi-

cines to all affected people. The villagers were also briefed about the importance of hygiene and sanitation in daily routine to avoid unwarranted diseases. Special focus was given on educating the villagers on contagious diseases during winter season and ways to prevent them.

Tripura Assembly Elections 2023: JP Nadda to release BJP's poll manifesto ahead of PM Modi's visit

Agency
Agartala, Feb 8:

BJP national president JP Nadda will release the poll manifesto of the BJP for the Tripura assembly elections on Thursday (February 9).

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Tripura for election campaigning on Saturday (February 11).

Polling for the elections to the 60-member Tripura legislative assembly in slated to be held in a single phase on February 16.

Counting of votes will be conducted on March 2.

BJP national president JP



Nadda will release the election manifesto of the saffron party for the Tripura assembly elections during his second phase of election campaigning in the state.

The BJP has been facing severe criticism from the opposition parties in Tripura for allegedly not implementing the poll promises that the party made before the 2018 assembly

elections in the state.

Nadda is scheduled to address two public rallies in Tripura after releasing the election manifesto to of the BJP.

According to reports, PM Modi will hold a mega rally at Udaipur covering 23 constituencies of three districts - South Tripura, Gomati and Sepahijala districts on February 11. On February 13, PM Narendra Modi will again visit Tripura to wind up the election campaigning of the BJP and hold a rally in Dharmanagar covering 17 constituencies in three districts - North Tripura, Unakoti and Dhalai districts.

Contd. from Page 1

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation...

At least 261 delegates from all over the country and abroad will attend this national conference. They will be speaking on various topics related to recent advances in Rehabilitation and Pain Medicine. The conference's theme, "Future Directions of PMR", is very relevant to the strategic development of the specialty. Dr U Singh, Ex-Professor & HOD AIMS, New Delhi, will deliver the theme talk. This national conference will be an eye-opener for many, including the medical fraternity, administration and the general public, in

understanding the fast-growing facets of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. It will be a bold step to improve the quality of life of persons with disability.

PMR is presently considered one of the fastest-growing medical sciences throughout the world. Mastering skills in PMR and enhancing competencies are vital for survival in this fast-changing medical practice. In the process, rehabilitation remains a victim worldwide, as most PMR specialists keep track of the advancements

only and cannot find time for rehabilitation. This conference will sincerely try to bring 'Rehabilitation' back on track.

The hands-on workshop to be held on 12th February 2023 by a renowned Pain Specialist, Dr Premnand B from Chennai, on using Gold in the management of arthritis of the knee, "Gold induced cytokines in the Management of Osteoarthritis of the knee", is going to be a game changer and it is one of the recent developments in the treatment of Osteoarthritis of joints.

Sports

ICC T20 rankings: Surya continues to lead batting chat, Gill achieves career-best position

Agency
Dubai, Feb 8:

India's **Suryakumar Yadav** remained static at the top spot, while compatriot **Shubman Gill** shot up to a career-best 30th position in the batting chart of the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings released on Wednesday.

Surya continues to lead the batting list with 906 rating points.

Gill achieved a career-best position after smashing a match-winning century against New Zealand in the third and final ODI in Ahmedabad recently.

Gill's 126 not out off 63 balls that contributed to India's huge 168-run victory and helped the home team seal the series 2-1, lifted him an incredible 168 slots.

The 23-year-old, who has now slammed centuries in all three formats of the game, is ranked sixth in ODIs and 62nd in Tests.

Besides, Virat Kohli has dropped a rung to the 15th position among batters, while KL Rahul slid two places (27th)



and skipper Rohit Sharma was further behind in the 29th spot.

Young left-handed wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan has also dropped three places to 48th.

No Indian bowler in top 10
No Indian bowler, however, featured in the top 10 T20

bowlers list.

But left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh moved eight slots to reach a career-best 13th position after finishing with two for 16 in Ahmedabad.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar dropped a place to 21st, while Ravichandran Ashwin and



Axar Patel are static at 29th and 30th spots respectively.

Captain Hardik progresses

All-rounder Hardik Pandya, who grabbed four for 16 and smashed a 17-ball 30, has progressed to all three lists.

He has moved up from 53rd

to 50th among batters, 66th to 46th among bowlers and is in second place among all-rounders, only a couple of rating points behind Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hassan.

Daryl Mitchell has gained four spots and is in joint-25th position in the latest weekly update that considers performance in the Ahmedabad match for T20Is and the final match of the South Africa-England series for the ODI rankings.

England captain Jos Buttler's match-winning 131 in Kimberley has helped him progress six places to 20th position while South Africa fast bowler Lungi Ngidi has advanced five places to reach 19th position after finishing with four for 62 in the high-scoring match.

David Malan (up 31 places to 58th among batters) and fast bowler Jofra Archer (up 13 places to 22nd among bowlers) are other England players to move up in the ODI rankings.

South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen is up 11 places to 42nd among batters.

FIH announces Continental quotas for Paris 2024 Olympic Qualifiers

Agency
Lausanne (Switzerland), Feb 8:

As approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Executive Board last year, the qualification pathway for the Paris 2024 Olympic hockey tournaments per gender was revealed on Tuesday.

As per the qualification procedure for Paris Olympics laid down by the FIH, 12 teams each in men and women will participate in the competition.

The host nation France will get a direct berth in both sections and five continental champions from African Hockey Road to Paris 2023, Pan American Games 2023, Asian Games 2023, Euro Hockey Championship 2023 and Oceania Cup 2023 will also qualify directly.

For the remaining six places, the FIH will conduct two Olympic Qualification Tournaments, consisting of eight teams each (16 teams in total), to be held in early 2024.

There will be 2 FIH Hockey Olympic Qualification tournaments, consisting of 8 teams each (16 teams in total), held in early 2024. The number of teams from each Continent participating in these tournaments will be based on Continental quotas, which will be determined according to the FIH World Rankings on 31 January 2023.

The teams filling each quota, and therefore invited to participate, will be based on performance at the Continental Championships. The top 3 teams in each of the Olympic Qualification Tournaments will qualify for Paris 2024.

Continental quotas for Women's Olympic Qualifiers-

Africa: 0
Asia: 4
Europe: 8
Oceania: 1
Pan America: 3

Continental quotas Men's Olympic Qualifiers-

Africa: 1
Asia: 5
Europe: 7
Oceania: 1
Pan America: 2