

I went to Kakching SP office to appreciate his team for seizure of drugs from a Police team - Meghachandra

FIR against MLA for visiting police station is breach of privilege – O. Joy



IT News
Imphal, Jan 22:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh strong warning for taking up case against MPCC President Keisham Meghachandra, who is also an MLA from Wangkhem Assembly constituency, for visiting the Kakching Police Station in connection with the arrest of a police team carrying huge quantity of illicit drugs, received big blow from the Congress party stating that such words from a Chief Minister is unfounded and is a breach of

privilege of a people's representative in a democratic country like India.

"Not only in Manipur but in all the Common Wealth countries in the world, all member of a legislative assembly or parliament are enjoying the power, privilege and immunities under their respective provision of their respective constitutions", former Minister Okram Joy said while talking to media persons at Congress Bhavan today. He said that under the provision of the Indian constitution, the entry to any government or public

offices by elected members of state assembly or parliament is well discussed in a specific chapter under the heading relations between the representatives and civil servant.

"Entering to a government office by an elected member is not a crime or sin, but it is widely governed by principle and convention and is permissible by law and practice", the veteran politician told media persons reacting to the Chief Minister's order to file FIR against MLA Meghachandra for visiting the SP office of Kakching district. Okram Joy

further said that lodging FIR against an MLA for rendering his service amount to breach of privilege.

MPCC President K. Meghachandra while speaking in the press conference told media persons that he had met the SP Kakching district to appreciate him for his achievement in the seizure of huge quantity of drugs transported by a team of police commando personnel.

"On January 16, the day the Kakching police team arrested a team of another Kakching police along with huge quantity of drugs from Pallel area, I was visiting some places near Khongjom. As I notice news regarding the arrest of drug smuggler police team by a team of Kakching Police. I feel excited and wanted to appreciate the District Superintendent of Kakching Police. So I along with our congress members visited Kakching police station to extend support and appreciate for the successful operation", Meghachandra told media persons.

contd. on page 4

Mass Destruction of Poppy Cultivation intensifies



IT News
Imphal, Jan 22:

Mass destruction of Poppy Plants has been intensified at various hill districts by state government machineries as a part of the 'War on Drug' campaign launched by the State Government.

After mass poppy cultivation is being destroyed by concern state machineries at Kangpokpi and Chandel district a team of Forest Department officials conducted special operations against illegal poppy cultivation in forest areas on Friday and Saturday.

On Friday January 20, 2023, about 25 ha of illegal poppy cultivated in Churachandpur district's Teising, Thangjing hill, Churachandpur Khoupum Pro-

ected Forests (24°24'8087"N 93°38'9502"E) has been destroyed by joint teams of 141 personnels led by RO/Henglep & RO/Sagang Churachandpur Forest Division, Inspector/Churachandpur Police, ASI NAB, Subedar 1st IRB, AC and JCO 2nd IRB, ASI NAB and a FIR case has been registered accordingly.

Similarly, Kangpokpi Forest Division, Senapati Forest Division and Kangpokpi Police, destroyed 16 ha illegal poppy cultivation at T Khonmaphi Village 25°6'07.1"N 93°49'05.0"E, Champhai SubDivision, Kangchup Leimakhong Irang PF, and Kangpokpi Forest Division, Central Forest Division and District Police destroyed 3 ha at Aigejang Village, Khameklok Gwaltabi RF under

Kangpokpi Forest Division and a FIR case has been registered. Jamthang Haokip (54) S/o (L) Jamkhotong Haokip of Lhangsom Village under Saikhul PS, Kangpokpi was arrested for poppy cultivation based on FIR filed in connection to the poppy plantation destruction conducted on January 17 & 18, 2023. Further, under Noney Forest Division, 1 acre of poppy cultivation has been destroyed at Longpi village. Unclassed Forest by a joint team of Noney Forest Division, District Police, 39 Assam Rifles and Rongmei Naga Students Organisation; a FIR case has been registered; Thangnetzar Gangte has been arrested from Longpi village in this connection.

contd. on page 4

Lamjingba Chairman Jacky arrested by ED

IT News
Imphal, Jan 22:

Sanasam Jacky, the Chairman of Lamjingba Group of Companies, who is on the run after collecting huge amount of money by making false promises from the people of Manipur has been reported arrested by Enforcement Directorate from Kolkata, an unconfirmed report said.

The unconfirmed source said that the ED team seized more than 34



lakhs in cash with 150 crore worth of property attached. Report appeared in a news portal "The Frontier Manipur" also stated that incriminating documents were also

seized by the ED team from his Gurgaon residence. It added that residence of five Lamjingba board members also raided.

Lamjingba group of companies, mastermind by Jacky, has been alleged of collecting a huge amount of money in terms of crores from money lenders under fraud scheme on the promise of returning 3 to 4 percent interest but the company has apparently failed to pay the interest promised.

IEDUCO observes 17th Foundation day

IT News
Imphal, Jan 22:

Imphal East District United Clubs' Organisation (IEDUCO) today celebrated 17th Foundation Day at Puribi Puraba Community Hall of Khurai Ningthoung Leikai.

President of All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation (AMUCO) Pheiojam Nando Luwang, President of Imphal East District United Clubs' Organisation (IEDUCO) Dwijoi Takhellambam, President of Poirei Leimariol Meira Paibee Apunba Manipur Longjam Memchoubi and President of All Manipur



Women's Voluntary Association (AMAWOVA), Yumkhaibam Kunjarani,

President of Peaceful Club, Khurai Ningthoung Leikai, Laishram Mangalsana Meitei

attended as dignitaries on the dais of the celebration function.

Although Naga Political Solution not in Sight Before the Nagaland Election, Significant Development in Naga Political Process is Evident

By: RK Bobichand
Imphal, Jan 22:

While the civil society organisations and bodies of Naga tribes of Nagaland have been pressing for Naga political solution before election, the Election Commission of India on January 18 in New Delhi has announced that the Nagaland State Legislative Assembly Election will be held on February 27, 2023 and vote will be counted on March 2, 2023.

Though the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had coined the slogan "Election for Solution" during campaigning for the 2018 Nagaland State Assembly Election, no solution to Naga political issue is in sight before another election

on February 27, 2023.

Civil society organisations and a section of political parties in Nagaland are disappointed with the announcement of the date for State Assembly election with no solution to the protracted Naga political issue in sight.

The Government of India has been holding separate peace talks with NSCN (IM) since August 1, 1997 and the Working Committee of Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs), comprising at least seven Naga insurgent groups, since 2017. The Government of India has signed the Framework Agreement with NSCN (IM) on August 3, 2015 and Agreed Position with NNPGs on November 17, 2017. While NNPGs have agreed to accept

a negotiated solution and continue negotiating further demands, the final settlement is yet to be attained with NSCN (IM) sticking to its gun on its demand for a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas, besides integration of all the Nagas under one umbrella.

According to reports, civil society organisations said the Government of India should prove its sincerity in solving the Naga political issue while the Congress and the Naga People's Party (NPP), though unhappy, will contest the election.

The NPP said the top priority of the party is an honourable solution to the Naga political issue. "We will contest the election with our manifesto on good and cor-

ruption-free governance, besides working for an honourable and acceptable solution to the Naga political problem," NPP Secretary General Achumbemo Kikon said.

Congress said the EC could have deferred the election in Nagaland but it went ahead in announcing the poll which "betrayed the aspiration of the people". "The party is not happy with the announcement of election," state Congress President K. Therie said. Meanwhile, the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) which has the largest number of MLAs in the all-party government in Nagaland and the BJP are silent over the issue.

It may be mentioned that in the 60-member assembly, the

NDPP has 41 members, BJP has 12, and NPP has four. There are two Independents while one seat is vacant.

Moreover, the civil society organisations have been urging the Government of India to take steps for finding a solution to the issue.

Reports said the Nagaland Peoples' Action Committee (NPAC) on Naga Political Issue Convener Theja Therieh expressed that despite the announcement of the election date, Government of India still has the power to take a decision on bringing about the Naga solution as the notification is not out yet.

Naga Mothers' Association advisor Rosemary Dzuvichu is quoted as saying that the Government of India will have to

prove its sincerity in bringing about an accord respecting Naga rights and history.

"The slogan, election for solution, has become a rhetorical statement. They have forgotten to listen to the voice of the people," said Naga Hoho (organisation) General Secretary K. Elu Ndag.

The Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation comprising seven tribes from six eastern districts earlier declared not to participate in the poll to put pressure on the government to fulfil its demand for a separate 'Frontier Nagaland' state.

Meanwhile, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said on January 17 that the solution to the protracted Naga Political Issue (NPI) depends on the negotiating par-

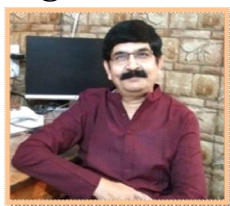
ties and the legislators and general people can only put pressure for an early outcome.

"Everybody wants a solution. But that will depend on the negotiating parties and not the general public... The general public can put pressure. The 60 legislators who are acting as facilitators are putting pressure too and are reasoning with everybody. But the outcome will depend on the negotiating parties."

On the state government's appeal to Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation to reconsider its decision to boycott the state election to press for its 'Frontier Nagaland' state demand, Rio hoped that they would respond in a "positive manner".

contd. on page 4

Agirl is a flower, not a thorn...



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

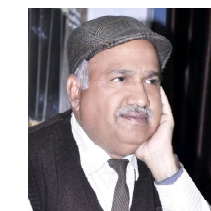
Children are God's most beautiful creations. 24th January is celebrated as National Girl Child Day to create awareness of the importance of girl children in our society. In 2008, the Ministry of Women and Child Development initiated National Girl Child Day to promote the eradication of the gender discrimination faced by girls in various phases of their lives. The existence of human life on the earth is impossible without the equal participation of both women and men. They are equally responsible for the survival of the human race on the earth.

In India the population of girls has been decreasing. It's a common practice in India where people abort or kill girl child on birth. But, they should be saved given equal opportunity, and respect and opportunity to go ahead in life. We need to understand that girls are our fortune. Socio-economic empowerment of women is essential for making informed decisions and for change of the mind sets. A healthy male-female ratio is a social need. While female foeticide is bad in itself, the fact that millions of girls are "missing" in India has profound human and social implications. A stronger law to deal with those resorting to sex-selective abortions needs to be enacted. The reasons for high number of incidence of female foeticide in India include a deep rooted traditional son preference, continued practice of dowry and concern for safety of the girl child and exploitation and abuse of women and girl children. In order to curb female foeticide and improve the sex ratio, a strong multi-pronged strategy that includes legislative measures, advocacy, awareness generation and programmes for socio-economic empowerment of women is needed. Female foeticide is a shocking practice that has grown in the last few decades. Although the media and the government have made attempts to highlight the negative impact of pre-natal sex identification and selective abortion, the practice continues as reflected in the declining sex ratio. For saving girl child the government has taken many initiatives and launched many campaigns to save them. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the girl child) is the most recent initiative started by the government to actively encourage people to save the girl.

There's a huge deficit of women because families fear the cost of raising a daughter. It is a commonly practiced tradition (despite being outlawed) that the bride's family pays a large sum of money to the groom's family at the wedding. Plus, women are generally not seen as bread-winners and or allowed to inherit wealth like men in some states. Sex-selection is now spreading to rural areas as the technology gets cheaper and enforcement of the law remains ineffectual. The imbalance in sex ratio may increase violence, including rape, against women. With many men remaining unmarried, prostitution will increase substantially. Media exposes of doctors providing sex-selection services and offering to abort girls are commonplace, but they have little overall impact because demand is too strong. Doctors and radiologists conducting, or soliciting parents for, sex determination tests can be imprisoned up to five years and fined up to Rs.50,000. Despite the PC & PNDT Act, the conviction rate is low and the selection of male child before conception and female foeticide continue to take place.



Despite rising levels of education, gender awareness and stringent pro-women laws, change has been slow and violence against women is increasing. Visionary leadership, stringent implementation of laws and a united effort to discourage dowry are the need of the hour. Educational programmes encouraging parents to view daughters as no less valuable than sons need to be mounted. Time has now come to formulate an action plan to launch a campaign to change the mindset of people and to promote female child birth rate. A girl child deserves a life where she is treated as equal to a boy. And she should be loved and respected like others.



By: Vijay GarG

There was a time when a teacher was looked upon as a role model by students. Apart from imbuing knowledge, students also copied their teacher's attitude and character in their private life. A teacher is consid-

ered at par with God; whatever they deliver is considered divine by the students and the parents. They were the sole provider of knowledge for students. Before the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009, corporal punishment by teachers was never considered a punishable act.

There are instances where parents supported the action of the teachers, for they knew that teachers punish students only for their betterment. Situations have changed recently, and parents consider even compelling a student to learn as a grave crime! If a student commits suicide, authorities make the teacher a culprit, and the media also goes against the teachers. A true teacher

Demand for Frontier Nagaland - The Dawn of Political Awakening of Eastern Nagas



By: Dr. Aniruddha Babar

Any human being has a fundamental right to fight for their rights, but that (own right) cannot include anything that is fundamentally trying to deny others what is their fundamental right.

Broken, suppressed, oppressed and depressed people of the Eastern Nagaland started rising gradually through depths of the political, economic ghetto that they were imprisoned in for decades; to claim and reclaim their lost constitutional rights to equality, human dignity, economic justice and political freedom.

How long the Eastern region and its representatives (MLAs) in legislative assembly can remain eclipsed by the 'dominance' and 'influence' of the 'state rulers' in the Kohima in the context of imbalanced/unjust 20/40 assembly seat sharing formula (further marked by questionable allocation of assembly constituencies like - Mokokchung 10, Mon-9, Tuensang-7) which severally and collectively contributed in keeping Eastern Nagaland like a 'Backyard' of the state of Nagaland?

The first sign of political awakening is a naked exhibition of political courage which undoubtedly ENPO and its great leadership has shown by standing strong with their demand for a separate state of Frontier Nagaland. Moreover, ENPO's determination to boycott internationally acclaimed 'Hornbill Festival' is a historic step which will be remembered by the people in the years to come, as it not only shows the genuineness of their political determination but also a core ability to withstand the pressure from Kohima. Also, ENPO has shown its inclination to boycott the Nagaland State Assembly Election, 2023 if its demand for a separate state is not fulfilled. These two stands taken by the ENPO gives a clear-cut message to the Kohima, New Delhi and also to the entire nation that the Eastern Nagas clearly know what they want, what they expect from the center and the extent to which they are fully capable to go to claim their Constitutional rights.

The narratives of Frontier Nagaland has already crossed the

boundary of the region and tribalism or narrow tribal aspirations. Modern generation of today's Nagaland who has means to access the truth of Eastern region have been coming forward to support the movement. There is a great machinery working to churn the wheels of the movement to take it to the final destination. The support that Eastern Nagaland Movement is getting from different corners of the state is amazing. Who says Nagas are not united? Who says Frontier Nagaland will shatter the great Naga dream? Who says Frontier Nagaland will divide Nagaland further? In fact, Frontier Nagaland Movement is strengthening the Naga unity more than ever. We are all witnessing as to how modern Professionals from different fields, Youtube/Instagram Influencers, Artists from different tribes are taking the message of 'Justice' forward. If we do not call it a 'Naga unity' then what is it? If keeping people suppressed under the oppressive development policies of Kohima is Naga Unity, then such unity better be denied in absolute. Politicians need not waste their time defining what constitutes Naga Unity, let the people of the land decide-let the modern, educated men and women decide-let the college going Naga students decide-let modern day Naga professionals decide-let domestic child laborers who are 'enslaved' in the rich houses in Dimapur, Kohima, Mokokchung decide. The time is different now. The new developments in Nagaland will likely to bring surprises to the advocates of 'Status Quo'. We are truly living in an amazing time where common Man from the 'Backward World' is seen to be standing strong and tall with courage, dignity and determination to build a new destiny- a new future. However, as the movement grows stronger, number of 'Doubting Thomas' also started mushrooming around.

'Doubting Thomas' phenomenon has seen to be a roadblock in any new endeavor. Such characters are habitually doubtful of everything. Being born with incredulous character they subconsciously attempt to plant seeds of doubt in the mind of every individual they meet. Most of their doubts are not constructive but rather destructive in nature based on hollow, illogical assumptions. Frontier Nagaland Movement is also not free from the presence of such 'entities'.

When the 'Constitutional mandate' is clear and in favour of the people, there should not be scope and space for any doubt in the mind of the stakeholders as to the constitutional validity of the 'Frontier Nagaland'. Frontier Nagaland could be born as a full-fledged state of the

union with protection under Art. 371 (A) or provisions similar to Article 371 (A) in letter and spirit, it could be born as Union Territory with protection under Art. 371 (A) or provisions similar to Article 371 (A) in letter and spirit. The question of Regional Councils/Autonomous Councils does not arise as it was failed experiment in Nagaland. Also let me draw attention to another constitutional experiment done in India in 'statehood affair' which some of us advocating for 'Frontier Nagaland' might tempted to look into. On 2 April 1970 an Autonomous State of Meghalaya was created within the State of Assam by the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act, 1969. In accordance with the Sixth schedule to the Constitution, a Legislature of the Autonomous State consisting of 37 members who were elected indirectly by the Autonomous District Councils was set up. The first sitting of the Assembly took place in Tura on 14 April, 1970. In 1971, the Parliament passed the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 which conferred full statehood on the Autonomous State of Meghalaya. It attained statehood on 21 January 1972, with a Legislative Assembly. Meghalaya has a unique administrative structure among all Indian states. The entire state — save a tiny area within the capital Shillong — is covered by the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India under Article 244 of the Constitution.

Needless to mention that the bifurcation of state as was done in the case of Meghalaya by creating a 'virtually' autonomous state within a state of the then Assam in itself did not bring solution to the core demands and requirements of region as it could not free itself completely from the 'legal shadows' of the Assam. Meghalaya kind of arrangement which has its roots in autonomous units by virtue of Art 244 (2) of the Constitution of India cannot be the correct 'precedent' for the case of Frontier Nagaland. Taking a look into provisions of THE ASSAM REORGANIZATION (MEGHALAYA) ACT, 1969 makes us clearly understand as to the illusion of 'statehood' that the idea of 'Autonomous State' creates.

The need of the moment is to choose the valid, correct and politically viable negotiation card rather than getting carried away in the jungles of illusory precedents.

The Frontier Nagaland movement is an 'awakened' people's movement, which will continue to go forward and grow unabated as time progresses.

New Delhi is now in the hands of some of the dynamic and powerful people (known to take quick policy decisions) the modern political his-

tory of India has ever witnessed. Central Government is fully aware about the 'uniqueness' of demand of the Frontier Nagaland in the context of its strategic location, country's strategic needs, ongoing peace building process in the region and India's growing political & economic influence in the 'East and South East Asia'.

Despite having some similarities in the issues involving in other/previous 'separate state demands' like uneven distribution of infrastructure, lack of opportunities and development etc. Central Government knows very well that complex and dynamic issues of Eastern Nagaland cannot be compared with any other demands which are pending in-line or any other statehood demands that their 'predecessors' fulfilled in the past, as the issues of the Eastern Nagas are more serious in nature and has the contours of strategic, global political as well as economic interests of India.

Frontier Nagaland is not simply a question of bad roads and lack of development but a burning question of human dignity, economic rights, constitutional justice and enabling people in the region, making them stronger and self-sufficient to build themselves to lift themselves up from the prisons of darkness and grow forward as the agents of 'change' - the dominant, aggressive contributors and partners in the dynamic success story of modern India.

Eastern people needs Frontier Nagaland more than ever- to empower themselves to build their life to participate in the dynamic growth of our country.

FURTHER, Showing solidarity with NAGA REPARATION AND HEALING OF THE LAND movement, ISAY, "More than hundred years of plundered Naga heritage including Naga ancestral human remains displayed across European Museums as exotic and primitive showpieces- they must be brought back with honour to our people and the land."

HOWEVER, I ALSO SAY, at the same time lost rights and dignity of "living" human beings "surviving" in the inaccessible jungles and the remote mountains of Eastern Nagaland must be brought back and restored as well.

THIS IS MY SIXTH ARTICLE IN "FRONTIER NAGALAND SERIES" WHICH IS DEDICATED TO 'THE WARRIOR SPIRIT OF FRONTLINE LEADERS, MEN, WOMEN, STUDENTS, PROFESSIONALS, INTELLECTUALS AND ALL OTHER UNUSUNG HEROES BEHIND THE CURTAINS WHO BELIEVE AND WORK Tirelessly FOR 'FRONTIER NAGALAND'.

(The author is a Professor, Department of Political Science, Tezpur College, Nagaland)

Teaching is a divine profession

In this era of 'Google University', a teacher is considered secondary, mostly to act as an intermediate between humans and machines. For teachers to survive in this new world is challenging, especially for school and college teachers.

Teachers in the earlier generations ranked based on their knowledge in their domain and their attitude. Today if a teacher has to earn respect in the knowledge domain, they need to overpower the 'Google University'. This is a difficult task for many. The attitude of a teacher in the present generation is hard to define. Indian society gives high respect to teachers and the teaching profession. Our tradition considers teachers at par with God, and hence they expect some qualities from a teacher that a student can emulate.

Truthfully speaking, most teachers are just moving with the trends of the society and never try to keep their

individuality at the forefront. They try to satisfy the needs of the present generation of students.

Many of today's teachers try to be friends with students to be in their good books and be among them. Partying with students, dancing with them and being with them on social media are new means of impressing students. There are hardly very few students who expect their teachers to be a knowledge repository.

Everyone in our society, be it students or teachers, has become an attention seeker through social media. Seeking attention is the basic human instinct. Toddler seeks attention from their parents; a student seeks attention from their teachers; a teenager from friends of the opposite sex, a professional from their peers; in every sphere of life and every stratum of society, people have become attention seekers.

The quantum of posts available

on various social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, or Pixstory is ample proof of this. A teacher being a part of this new digital society is no exception. Teachers dancing with students, partying with students, or even dating students and posting their photos and videos on social media has become a new norm in this new world. Many teachers play appeasement politics with their students for their survival.

Of course, like any other person, a teacher has a professional as well as private life. There is no need to intrude into their private life. That doesn't make sense to have the teacher and student consuming alcohol together or taking a smoke together. There are excellent teachers who have their temptations like any other person. The authorities should check whether the teacher is doing their profession judiciously.

contd. on page 3

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Amid tension in China border, IAF to conduct combat drills in Assam, Arunachal

Agency
Shillong, Jan 22:

Amid the increased tension with China in the eastern sector of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian Air Force (IAF) has planned to conduct a significant air combat exercise in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and other northeastern states.

This exercise, to be conducted in the first week of February, will involve front-line fighters, helicopters, other aircraft, and drones, TOI reported.

From February 1 to February 5, the Eastern Air Command, which has its headquarters in Shillong, will participate in a "command-level" exercise to evaluate its operational preparedness.

According to a source quoted by TOI, "it will encompass all eastern sector assets, including Rafales and Sukhoi-30MKI fighters flying from air bases including Hasimara, Tezpur, and Chabua."



After the physical skirmishes between Indian and Chinese soldiers at Yangtse in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9, the IAF also carried out a two-day drill in the Northeast in December.

"The forthcoming exercise will be bigger in scale and will include a variety of platforms, including C-130J 'Super Hercules' aircraft, Chinook heavy-lift and Apache attack helicopters, among others," the newspaper reported.

For the third winter in a row, China has kept over 50,000 troops and heavy weapons deployed along the eastern Ladakh border, and it has so far refused to discuss army pullout at the strategically important Dapsang Plains and Demchok areas.

Indian and Chinese troops clashed along the LAC in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 resulting in 'minor injuries' on both sides.

Six Indian soldiers were injured in the face-off.

Protecting one-horned rhinoceros

By: Nava Thakuria
Guwahati, Jan 22:

Incidents of poaching related to rhinoceros in various forest reserves of Assam in northeast India have decreased drastically. Brutal laws against the poachers, strengthening of ground staff inside the protected forest areas and increasing public awareness in the fringe localities of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries across the State have positively impacted the mission to save the one-horned rhinos. Unlike other parts of the globe, common people of Assam irrespective of their political, ethnic or religious differences, maintain a strong will to protect the giant animals.

For records only two rhinos were poached in Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve since 1 January 2021 till date. The last incident took place probably in the last week of December 2021, as a decomposed carcass of a fully-grown (around 30 years old) female rhino was recovered inside the world-famous forest reserve next month. As the precious horn was missing, for which the gigantic animal was apparently hunted down, it could not be a natural death. But it was not confirmed when exactly the rhino was killed.

One can claim that the State authorities were unaware of the poaching till the middle of January 2022, as Assam's anti-rhino poaching task force chief GP Singh asserted on 15 January that 'only one incident of rhino poaching had taken place at Kaziranga in April 2021'. State chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on 1 January last claimed that Kaziranga recorded 'zero' rhino poaching cases in 2022. He also added that it was the first time in two decades that



there was no incident of rhino poaching across the State.

Supporting his stand, the State forest department recently clarified that the female rhino (whose carcass was recovered near Silekhunda camp under Kohora range in January last year) was killed on 28 December 2021. So Sarma's statement justifying 'not a single rhino was poached in 2022' across Assam was seemingly correct. But it may be difficult for the wildlife lovers to digest that no responsible State agency had the information about the female rhino poaching (from 28 Dec) till 15 January last year. Moreover, the Kaziranga authority was also silent when the media outlets reported that particular incident as the first case of rhino poaching in 2022.

Native to the Indian sub-continent, the single horn rhino (also known as rhinoceros unicornis) is one of the worst affected rhino species. The reason behind the poaching of rhinos is due to the high demand for horns in a number of countries (including China) where people term it as a black ivory. A matured horn may fetch a huge sum of money in the international market. The animal enjoys great sexual power, as its mating time may continue for 45 minutes. So many people unsentimentally

believe that one can achieve the unusual power with the help of rhino horns (using it as a traditional Viagra).

The rhino horns are also believed to have other medicinal values supposing to cure the high fever, stomach ailment and cancer. Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East are also known to be huge markets for the horns, where the use of horns for medical purposes and scientific research are legalised. Rhinos are recognised as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and India's wildlife protection act gives enormous power to the rangers for protecting the grass-eating pachyderm. The veterinarians argue that rhino horns comprise the same protein that constitutes the formation of hair.

Rhinos are recognised as a pride to the people of Assam and the 800 square kilometre Kaziranga reserve supports around 2,613 priced animals (whereas the global population of one-horned rhinos is around 3,700). The UNESCO world heritage site on the south bank of mighty river Brahmaputra also gives shelter to over 150 Royal Bengal tigers & around 250 leopards, over 5500 Asiatic elephants, a sizable number of buffaloes, dif-

ferent species of deer, birds, fishes, etc.

Besides Kaziranga, other forest reserves namely Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (around 107 rhinos), Orang National Park (125) and Manas National Park (50) also support the rhino population to make a total count for Assam of over 2650 living rhinos. Every year, over 100 rhinos die because of natural causes in those forest reserves. Assam expects to increase the rhino population to 3,000 as the incidents of poaching are decreased following the deployment of ground forces with sophisticated weapons and other modern gadgets.

There was a time when Assam used to lose 27 rhinos to poachers in 2013 and 2014. Next year the count was reduced to 17, and 18 cases were reported in 2016. With the declining trend, 2017 witnessed only seven incidents of rhino poaching, followed by seven in 2018, three in 2019, two cases in 2020 and 2021. No less than 55 poachers were arrested last year, where four were killed in encounters. The development also attracted appreciation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi who complimented the government and people for maintaining efforts to conserve the critically endangered species.

140 new Covid infections in 24 hours, Active cases climb to 1,960

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 22:

India recorded 140 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases increased to 1,960, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The Covid case tally was recorded at 4.46 crore (4,46,81,921).

The death toll stands at 5,30,733, with one fatality reported by Meghalaya and two by Gujarat in the last 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The daily positivity was recorded at 0.10 per cent while the weekly positivity was pegged at 0.08 per cent.

The active cases now comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.81 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

An increase of 20 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to

4,41,49,228, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent. According to the ministry's website, 220.28 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country 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.

The country crossed the grim milestone of four crore on January 25 last year.

Officials from Six Countries Join MRCC Mumbai for SAR and Operations Course

By: Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Jan 22:

22 personnel including Officers and sailors from six foreign are undergoing one week course on Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations at Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (Mumbai) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

The officers and sailors from Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles and Sri Lanka are undergoing the course being conducted under the aegis of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). The programme is steered by the Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The ITEC is the leading capacity building platform that builds upon India's vast and rich network of governance and development related expertise.

The course is modelled on international best practices and covers legal background of SAR, SAR Planning and Coordination, Computation of datum and search plans, case studies, Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), lectures on "Harmonisation of Aeronautical and Maritime SAR" from Airport Authority of India and Satellite Aided SAR Operations by Indian Mission Control Centre (INMCC) and Indian Space Research



Organisation (ISRO) The scientists from the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) will share their expertise with visiting personnel, an official statement read.

The trainees are being provided practical exposure to SAR coordination techniques at MRCC Mumbai, Rescue coordination centre (RCC) of the Airport Authority of India and DG Comm Centre, an online Marine Casualty Reporting Centre of the Directorate General of Shipping.

The course was inaugurated by the Commander Coast Guard Region (West) Inspector General Manoj Vasant Baadkar in the presence of Chief of Staff and Chief Staff Officer of the Coast Guard Region (West) who interacted with the trainee foreign officers.

Inaugurating the event, Inspector General Manoj Baadkar emphasised need for cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and mentioned that not only our history, culture, economy remained interconnected but our present day challenges and their solutions are also interconnected and interdependent.

The IOR maritime domain is fundamental to global and regional economic and environmental well-being. We have shared obligations for maritime and aeronautical search and rescue (SAR), marine environment protection, conservation measures, climate change, shared responsibilities towards Disaster Relief and shared response towards transnational organised crimes and other maritime challenges, IG Manoj Baadkar added.

He also highlighted guiding principle from Prime Minister's mantra of SAGAR, that is Security and Growth for All, in the Region and our Neighbourhood First Policy, we endeavour to take our co-operation to next level. This year India has assumed presidency of G-20 and the theme includes "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family and One Future". Co-operation with our neighbours has always been a priority for us.

He urged the trainees to strengthen the SAR and Ops Construct by assimilating knowledge gained during the course along with developing life-long bonds of friendship as our primary jobs towards Maritime Safety and Security demands Co-operation and Coordination across the seas.

Contd. from Page 2

Teaching is a divine.....

Even though a good teacher should be a friend to a student, they should know where to draw the line. They should know how to keep a distance from students. Too much closeness to students may be misused by some.

Many institutions have put forth a dress code for teachers, driven mainly by the prevailing traditions in that society. The dress code also gives dignity to the profession and helps demarcate teachers from students. Otherwise, it would be tough to identify a young teacher from a student. Imagine how our army men/women would look without proper uniforms.

The unwritten rules and codes of ethics formulated by society are based on the experience our ancestors gained through their experience. The teachers are dealing with students, who are mostly in the age group of adolescents or teenagers. Their brain is fluid and is driven by the temptations caused by body chemicals. Many times the outward behaviour a student ex-

presses is beyond their control. It's the duty of every teacher not to instigate their physiological status to extremes. In a recent affidavit filed by the Kerala University of Health Sciences at the Kerala High Court, it was stated that "absolute freedom on attaining the age of 18 may not be appropriate and good for the society, and maturation is fully accomplished at the age of 25".

In this digital communication world, a teacher must be more cautious in their attitude and behaviour on social media, as their students are constantly monitoring them. In this era, it is the duty of teachers to teach students how to behave on social media and how to tackle crimes associated with it. They should teach students how to use the internet judiciously.

With the emergence of AI technologies, all creative things like writing, drawing, compositions, etc., where human brains need to be used, can be done using the internet within minutes. In this situa-

tion, evaluating a student and developing content for teaching is an arduous task for the teachers.

A teacher's job is not only to complete the syllabus or pass examinations but to equip the students to overcome the travails they face in their later life. A good teacher should play the role of a good student, friend and parent. Only if they consider themselves a student will they be curious to learn more from their domain. Similarly, they should be a good friend to students, listening to their concerns. They should also play the role of parents showing empathy and correcting them when they make mistakes.

The problem we face in our education system is that we lack teachers who are passionate about the profession. Many have taken up the job either by accident or by peer pressure.

Teaching is a divine profession, and teachers should show divinity by inculcating the spirit gained from our rich heritage.

Nagaland Assembly polls: Police conduct raids across state, seize narcotics, arms

Courtesy: The Print Kohima, Jan 22:

Nagaland Police has conducted raids and searches across the state since the announcement of Assembly elections and seized an amount of over Rs 18 crores this week including arms and ammunition, police said.

Elections were announced on January 18 by the Election Commission.

Elections will be held on February 27 this year, the EC announced. The police have been conducting searches to ensure free and fair elections by maintaining law and order across the state.

"This week alone, the Police Department has seized a grand total seizure amount of Rs. 18,49,73,650," an official statement said.

According to the police, among the items seized included narcotics worth Rs 3,43,53,025,

other contraband (Rs 14,84,14,000), arms and ammunition (Rs 50,900), Indian-made foreign liquor (Rs 21,25,725), and other seizures (Rs 30,000).

The Department has also sought for public cooperation and support during this period for the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct.

The Election Commission on January 18 announced the schedule for Assembly elections to the northeastern states of Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland to be held in February-March this year. The results of all three states will be declared on March 2, 2023.

"Voting for Assembly elections in Tripura will be held in a single phase on February 16 and in Nagaland and Meghalaya on February 27. The results will be declared on March 2," Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said during a press conference.

The Assembly polls in the

northeastern states of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura were announced on Wednesday, thus beginning the election season in 2023.

The CEC said that the terms of the poll-bound states of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura are coming to an end on March 12, 15, and 22 respectively.

"The term of Assemblies of respective states in Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura are respectively due to expire on March 12, 15, and 22. The 3 states have 60 Assembly constituencies each," the CEC said.

Detailing the number of voters in the poll-bound states, Kumar said, "There are more than 62.8 lakh electors combined in Nagaland, Meghalaya & Tripura including - 31.47 lakh female electors, 97,000 80+ voters, and 31,700 PwD voters. Over 1.76 lakh first-time voters to participate in the elections in 3 states."

President to confer the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2023 tomorrow

PIB New Delhi, Jan 22:

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu will confer the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2023 to 11 exceptional children in an award ceremony which will take

place at Vigyan Bhawan tomorrow i.e. on 23rd January, 2023.

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi will interact with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees on 24th January, 2023.

Minister of Women & Child

Development, Smriti Zubin Irani will interact with the children and congratulate them for their exemplary performances in their respective categories in the gracious presence of Minister of State, Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai on 24th January, 2023.

Sports

Barjang Punia thanks PM Modi, PT Usha for support; WFI Annual Meet cancelled after Govt suspends all its activities

Agency New Delhi, Jan 22:

Amid grave allegations of sexual harassment against Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) Chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the Union Sports Ministry on Saturday suspended assistant secretary Vinod Tomar. Besides, the ministry also directed the WFI to suspend "all ongoing activities with immediate effect", including the Ranking Tournament in Gonda, UP, Sharan's stronghold.

It was earlier said that the meeting of the Executive Committee and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Wrestling Federation of India will be held in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. However, fresh reports have suggested that the meeting is cancelled.

All eyes are set on whether Brij Bhushan will tender his resignation from the post, now that he has been asked to step aside until the Oversight Committee probes charges against him.

On Saturday, WFI Categorizedly denied claims of sexual harassment against Brij Bhushan, BJP MP from UP's Kaisarganj. However, he has been ordered to step aside from the post and reclusive himself from day to day activities.

The federation has also clarified that Brij Bhushan is neither a suspended or a ter-



minated President. He is still a president who has reclused himself from duty.

Wrestler Bajrang Punia took to Twitter to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur for their cooperation in the protests. Wrestlers have levelled sexual harassment allegations against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

WFI's emergency general council meeting, scheduled for Sunday, was called off after the Sports Ministry directed it to suspend all ongoing activities owing to the various allegations against the sports body and its president.

Union Sports Minister

Anurag Thakur on Saturday announced the formation of an oversight committee to probe the charges levelled by some of the country's top wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya, against Sharan and WFI.

WFI will suspend all ongoing activities with immediate effect, unless the Oversight Committee is formally appointed and takes over the day to day functioning of WFI, a statement from the Sports Ministry read.

Boxer Mary Kom, wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, archer Dola Banerjee and Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) president and IOA treasurer Sahdev Yadav, two advocates — Talish Ray and Shlok Chandra and former shuttler Alaknanda Ashok, constitute the 7-member panel.

Contd. from Page 1

I went to Kakching SP office to appreciate...

In connection with his comment to media persons, Meghachandra told that neither he nor his congress party members organized the press meet. However, some media persons were already present inside the police station complex covering the news events for the seizure of the drugs. On seeing the Congress President visiting the Police station those media persons wanted his comment in connection with the drug seizure case and as an MLA and as the president of a political party he had given his statement and that too in support of the police and the government's "war on drugs".

Reacting to the Chief

Minister's statement Meghachandra further said that the Congress party had not given any opposition to the handling of drug haul related cases to the CBI.

"It is unfortunate that the Chief Minister of a state said that if drug haul related cases are supposed to be handed over to the CBI than the 28 drug haul related cases from 2012 to 2016 will be handed over to CBI and not the remaining", Meghachandra said adding that why not handed over the 28 cases where police personnel are involved as well as all the drug haul related cases that occurred between 2016 till today.

Meghachandra said that, the congress party support the "war on drugs" by the government but as the people as well as the congress notice various lapses to the handling of drug haul related cases and often found the king pin of such cases released due to technical loopholes during investigation the Congress demanded the case be handed over to CBI for winning the war on drugs.

MLA Meghachandra also stated that during Congress regime some of the high profile drug haul cases were handed to CBI. When Okram Ibobi was the Chief Minister he handed over the drug seizure case of

Airport to CBI even after there were allegations about the involvement of his nephew. The MLA also question on the reliability of the Lotkhosei Zou cases where he was acquitted by the court even after knowing that huge quantity of drugs were seized from his official quarter. On the other hand he also stated about a Myanmar National arrested but released and re-arrested again on different act even after a huge consignment of drugs (WY tablet) belonging to him, smuggled by a police personnel was rounded up by locals of Wangkhem Assembly Constituency and handed over to the police.

Mass Destruction of Poppy Cultivation....

On January 21, 2023, a joint team of Kangpokpi Forest Division, Senapati Forest Division and District Police Kangpokpi destroyed 15 ha of illegal poppy cultivation in the hill ranges of T Khonophmai, 25° 06' 07.1"N 93° 49' 05.0"E, under Kanchup Leimakhong Irang Protected Forest, Champhai Sub-Division of Kangpokpi District; and Kangpokpi Forest Division, District Police Kangpokpi destroyed 11 ha of poppy cultivation at Puleijang village under Imphal Tril Protected Forest, Kangpokpi and a FIR has been registered. Under

Churachandpur Forest Division, a combined team of 148 led by RO/ Churachandpur & RO/ Sagang of Churachandpur Forest Division, led by Inspector/ Churachandpur Police, led

by AC 1st IRB, led by AC and JCO 2nd IRB, led by ASI NAB, led by Asst. Narcotics Commissioner of India CBN destroyed 60 ha of Poppy cultivation at Haopi Mollen 24°13'33.67"N 93°44'46.77"E Unclassified Forests; FIR Case has been registered. Under Ukhrul Forest Division, 40 personnel of Phungcham Youth Volunteers led by Phungchum Headman, Ukhrul Forest Division led by RO Jessami, Ukhrul Police led by Chingai SDPO destroyed 20 ha of poppy cultivation at Phungcham village, Ukhrul.

During these operations, a total area of 195.805 ha of poppy plantation has been destroyed. Huts and articles used in cultivation of poppy such as fertilizers, salt packets, herbicides, etc were burnt and destroyed. A total of 471.665 ha of poppy

plantation has been destroyed since 16.1.2023.

Forest Department will continue these intensive operations in concerned Forest Divisions and will carry out operations in other Forest Divisions also wherever poppy cultivation is detected by involving all law enforcing Departments. POR/FIR will continue to be registered as per relevant Acts/ Rules for taking up illegal poppy plantations in Forest areas against persons responsible. Further, stern legal and punitive action will follow up. Altogether, 14 (fourteen) FIRs have been filed against village Chiefs/ Cultivators/unknown persons since January 16, 2023.

Illicit poppy cultivation in forest areas violates provisions of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act

1985. The use of forest land for non-forest purpose violates the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, the Indian Forest Act 1927 and The Manipur Forest Rules 2021. Poppy plantation have been found inside notified forest areas which is a clear violation of the Acts/ Rules governing the Forests.

Deforestation and degradation due to poppy cultivation on vast tract of forests has become one of the major causes for deforestation and degradation of forest in the State. Forest Department, therefore, again makes an earnest appeal to all local communities / Village Chiefs to refrain from indulging in poppy cultivation and join hands in the 'War on Drugs' Campaign to eradicate poppy cultivation in the forest areas as well as protect the forests.

Although Naga Political Solution

Reports quoted Neiphu Rio as saying that the state government cannot allow any constitutional crisis in the event of civil societies remaining firm on not participating in the coming state assembly election if there is no solution to the Naga issue.

Meanwhile, a consultative meeting of eight tribal bodies (Hohos) on January 17 at the Angami People Organization (APO) Hall, Kohima, has resolved to form a common "apex body" for the Nagas soon.

According to a joint press statement issued by Vezuhu Keyho, Sessional Chairman of Chakhesang Public Organization (CPO), and Vihuto Assumi, General Secretary of Sumi Hoho; in the meeting, a four point resolution was also adopted. The house resolved to demand that all the "Naga Political Groups" both "overground and underground" to come together for an amicable solution at the earliest.

The joint press statement stated that in the consultative meeting it was decided that any organization claiming to represent and stand for the interest of the Nagas should be mandated through the tribal apex bodies (Hohos).

Further, the joint statement appealed to all the Churches in Nagaland and beyond to pray for the "unification and solution" of the protracted Naga political issue.

Notably, on the other hand, the NSCN (IM) on January 18 said that it stood by the "Naga National Decision" of the May 31, 2022, to uphold and protect Naga's unique history and "national principle" at any cost.

The NSCN (IM) in a press statement issued through its

Ministry of Information and Publicity (MIP) stated that while upholding the "sanctity" of the "Framework Agreement" that was signed on the "foundation of respect" for and recognition of the sovereignty of the two entities - NSCN (IM) and the Government of India.

Re-affirming that the letter and spirit of the framework agreement of the collective leadership issued by December 16, 2022 whereby sovereignty of the "Naga Nation" was upheld and the Naga "National Flag and Constitution" were declared as "integral" to Naga sovereignty, the NSCN has also stood by the resolution of the collective leadership and the NSCN members of July 23, 2019, to uphold the August 3, 2015, Framework Agreement and strive to conclude the ongoing "Indo-Naga" negotiation honourably.

"Nagas shall unwaveringly stand on the declared Naga national decision come what may", the NSCN (IM) said while also adding that an honourable and acceptable political solution between the Government of India and the Nagas has been "mutually agreed" to be based on the "Framework Agreement" of August 3, 2015, wherein the sovereignty of the Nagas was acknowledged in "conjunction" with the Naga National Flag and the Constitution.

Further, the NSCN (IM) said that the Nagas do not acknowledge "any agreement" signed under the Indian Constitution.

In a significant development in the Naga political process, the NNPGs and NSCN (IM) on January 14 in a joint meeting have agreed and decided to form the "Council of

Naga Relationships and Cooperation" to be led by the Convenor of NNPGs and Chairman of NSCN (IM). The meeting of the NNPGs and the NSCN (IM) was facilitated by the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) on January 14, 2023.

Notably, the agreement to form a common platform to move forward on Naga's rights was arrived at the meeting of the NNPGs and NSCN (IM) representatives under the initiative of the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) in Kolkata from October 17-18, 2022.

According to a statement under the title, "KOLKATA MEETING" signed by N Kitovi Zhimomi, Convenor of NNPGs and Tongmeth Wangnao, Vice President of the NSCN (IM) issued on October 18, 2022 stated that the meeting was held in Kolkata on October 17 and 18 "with a renewed spirit of commitment" in "response to the Naga people's yearning for reconciliation and unity in purpose."

"Taking forward the September Joint Accordant's resolve 'to chart a path forward,' we have agreed to form the Council of Naga Relationships and Cooperation led by the Convenor of NNPGs and Chairman of NSCN to explore, at the earliest, realistic ways for Nagas to move forward on the basis of Naga historical and political rights," said the statement issued after the Kolkata Meeting.

Again, in a press statement jointly issued by NNPGs Convenor, N Kitovi Zhimomi, and NSCN (IM) Chairman Qhehezu Tuccu on January 14, 2023 stated that in times of crises in the "Naga movement", Nagas have always survived and that today the "loud chorus" of the

day from different directions "converge us" the shared future of the Nagas.

Further, the joint statement said that since the September 14, 2022, "Joint Accordant", the NNPGs and the NSCN (IM) have agreed to form the "Council of Naga Relationships and Cooperation" led by the Convenor of the NNPGs and the Chairman of NSCN (IM) in order to explore at the earliest, realistic ways for the Nagas to move forward on the basis of Naga historical and political rights.

Both the signatories in the press statement have stated that in affirmation to this position, the NNPGs and the NSCN have declared its commitment to collaborate on the basis of respective agreements with immediate effect for the "resolution of the Naga historical and political rights" with the Government of India.

Later, the joint statement also appealed the Nagas to stand with them to prevent any further division to its "shared belongings" for which it has also made it known that the statement is a "political speech" of the "undeniable Naga soul".

Although the BJP's 2018 election slogan, "Election for Solution" cannot bring final solution to the Naga peace talks before the February 27 election of Nagaland Assembly in 2023, a significant development in Naga political process is evident by forming Council of Naga Relationships and Cooperation as a common platform of NNPGs and NSCN (IM) under the initiative of Forum for Naga Reconciliation.

(The author is the Senior Editor of Imphal Review of Arts and Politics)