

Manipur joins the Nation in Celebrating 74th R-Day with pomp and gaiety



DIPR
Imphal, Jan 27:

Manipur celebrated the Country's 74th Republic Day with mass participation from across the State joining the nation-wide celebration. The State Level Republic Day Celebrations, 2023 was held at Kangla with Governor of Manipur Shri La Ganesan unfurling the National flag and taking salute from different march-past contingents.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Cabinet Ministers, Lokayukta of Manipur, Members of

Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly Constituencies, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and Senior Civil and Police Officials also took part in the celebration.

The celebration began with the Governor inspecting the Guard of Honour accorded by a contingent of 6th Battalion Manipur Rifles (MR) commanded by Additional Superintendent of Police (Central Motor Transport Workshop) Shri T. Bishwajit Singh, MPS.

Later, Governor La Ganesan unfurled the Tricolour amidst

playing of the National Anthem by 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Band and then took salute from 76 march-past contingents including different band contingents, commanded by Commandant of 2nd Battalion Manipur Rifles Smt. Victoria Yengkhom, MPS. Apart from this, 20 different Cultural Troupes and Tableaux of 14 different Departments also took part in marching contingents following the march-past.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that the Centre has included two personalities from the State, Thounaojam Chaoba

Singh (public affairs) and K. Shanathoiba Sharma (sports) from the State for Padmashri which are awarded to personalities for their distinguished service in any fields.

N. Biren Singh was delivering the Vote of Thanks at the 1st Manipur Rifles Ground today as part of the 74th Republic Day celebration.

Further highlighting the seriousness of the State government in its War on Drugs campaign, the Chief Minister said that the five Manipur Police personnel arrested recently with illegal drugs have been terminated with immediate effect, said Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today. The Chief Minister further warned that there will be no compromise against anyone found involved in illegal drugs and poppy plantation.

The Chief Minister wished the people of the State on the occasion and further thanked everyone participating including students, civil police, security forces, ex-servicemen, people from different communities, civil societies, etc. in the successful celebration of the occasion.

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PREPAK claims series of blasts occurred on the eve of Republic Day celebration

IT News
Imphal, Jan 27:

The proscribed People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) has claimed responsibility for the series of bomb blasts that took place at various places of the state.

A statement by Mangal Khuman, Publicity Officer, Dept. of Publicity and Propaganda, PREPAK, said that the bomb blast that occurred at Gandhi Statue platform in Ukhrul town at 5.15 pm of January 25, a day ahead of the Republic Day Celebration, the blast that occurred near Iron bridge of Khurkul and Sekmai under

Sekmai Police station at around 11.30 pm on the same day and the blasts that was triggered at around 6.15 pm of January 26 at Wangkhei Yonglan Leirak Machine were the handiwork of the special task force A, B, and C of the Red Army (PREPAK).

The statement of the PREPAK also stated that they also planted bombs at Kiyamegi Pal Ahanbi at NH 39, Keiroa Langdum Lamkhai under Iriblung Police Satation and also at the road side between Heingangkhang Pangei to Saikul Road. However, due to the fortune of the state force those bombs were not blasted.

"Those bombs planted and blasted were the work of the PREPAK and its Red Army to show that the PREPAK is against the celebration of the Republic Day and such blast were occurred in the past too to oppose the Republic Day of the Colonial regime", the PREPAK statement said.

It added that the planting and blasting of bomb to hamper the Republic Day celebration is to show solidarity to the joint body of armed Rebel group CORCOM and other like minded rebel groups who stands against the Indian colonialism in the region.

The statement however apologized to the blast at

Ukhrul where civilians were injured. It said that the blast occurred due to error in the timer setting conducted by the Special Task Force A of the PREPAK.

Giving reason on why the PREPAK and other rebel groups opposed the Indian republic day the PREPAK statement said that the erstwhile nation Kangleipak lost its sovereignty in 1949 after the then nominal king of Manipur was forcibly made signed the so called merger agreement at Shillong. It said that the Manipur government celebrates the Republic Day function to please the Delhi government.

Government seeks more time for reply to PIL filed challenging strictures to book publications

IT News
Imphal, Jan 27:

State government authority is seeking more time to give their reply to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed challenging the legality of the government order prohibiting publishing any book on Manipur with prior screening by a committee the government that was set up on September 13, 2022, at Manipur High Court.

In the second hearing, Government of Manipur have been given time till February 13, 2023 to furnish their reply to the PIL filed by senior journalist Pradip Phanjoubam on December 19, 2022.

In the first hearing on December 19, the government advocate was given time till

January 23 to reply, but this was not complied on the date of the second hearing. The government advocate instead sought another month's time to do so. The court in its ruling allowed a shorter time till February 13, 2023, for the reply.

The case challenges the legality of the government order prohibiting publishing any book on Manipur with prior screening by a committee the government has set up on September 13, 2022.

Prior to filing the PIL, the litigant had written a letter on October 28, 2022, to the Manipur Minister in charge of Education, Law and Legislative Affairs, to withdraw the government order of September 13, 2022, requiring book authors to seek prior approval of their work by

the government committee before getting their works published.

If any book or published research works leads to a false and demeaning image of Manipur, there are other legal means to seek retribution against publishers, authors and researchers to withdraw their works from the market, or to pay damages, the litigant's October 28 letter to the Manipur Education, Law and Legislative Affairs Minister said.

Only when no reply or suitable rectification of the contested order was forthcoming in the litigant on the advice of his advocate Junior Luwang went ahead with the decision to file the PIL on December 19, 2022.

State pays tribute to Rani Gaidinliu

IT News
Imphal, Jan 27:

Manipur paid tribute to Rani Gaidinliu, Freedom Fighter of India on her 108th birth anniversary, yesterday, the 26th of January. Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh led the people to pay floral tribute to the statue of the late freedom fighter at Rani Gaidinliu Park at Mantripukhuri in Imphal East.

Speaking at the anniversary celebration held in the Park, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said, it is a historical fact that Rani Gaidinliu played an important role in fighting against the British for independent Manipur in those days. He said, in recognition of her role in the freedom movement,

Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been taking up a number of steps to propagate her name and fame. State Government will



also organize her birth anniversary as a State function from next year. He further said, Rs.15 crore has already been sanctioned for the development of a memorial in her birth place Nungkao in Tamenglong district. But, unfortunately due to some issues, the development works are being delayed. On the development of Rani Gaidinliu Park, Chief Ministers said, creative changes can also be made to beautify the Park.

Chief Minister continued that we all should follow the footnotes of our departed leaders like Haipou Jadonang, Rani Gaidinliu etc. as these leaders fought not only for independence but also fought for our dignity too. He said, their dedications are worth remembering and we all should co operate each other for instilling

the sense of patriotism to the younger generation. We should never follow the distorted historical pieces as this will weaken the social fabric. Chief Minister appealed people to co operate with the government in all aspects of development for a better Manipur.

Former Union Minister of State Professor Meijinlung Kamson spoke on Rani Gaidinliu's early life and her struggle for independence. Ministers, MLAs, representatives of Civil Society Organisations, women leaders from across the State attended the celebration. Earlier, Kabui Mothers' Association (KAMA) submitted a memorandum urging to develop Rani Gaidinliu Park. Colorful cultural dances were also shown a part of the celebration.

Central Bureau of Communication, Manipur bags the Election Commission's National Award

IT News
New Delhi, Jan 27:

The Imphal Regional Office of Central Bureau of Communication has won the Election Commission's National Award for Best Electoral Practices in the Best Government Department Category, for its contribution in raising voter awareness levels by using traditional folk-dance and drama in its communication campaign during Manipur Assembly Election in Feb-March 2022.

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu gave away the award at the Annual National Voters' Day function in New Delhi at the

Manekshaw Centre today to Sh. B. Narayanan, DG (North East Zone), Central Bureau of Communication, who headed the campaign. The officers and staff of regional office of CBC at Imphal, and its five Field Offices in the districts of Manipur, its staff artistes, and the private registered folkdance troupes participated in the SVEEP campaign, which saw around 150 programmes held all over Manipur, especially in remote areas, over a five-week period. The programmes were organised in close conjunction with the Chief Electoral Officer and District Election Officers in Manipur. The programmes were focused on Ethical Voting and No Voter



Left Behind themes.

The polling stations where the programmes were held witnessed significantly higher voting levels, compared to the previous Assembly Elections in the state.

A total of 13 awards were given away on the occasion, by the President, including

Best State, General Awards, Special Category, and National Media Award, which was given to News Services Division of All India Radio. The National Voters' Day awards are given away on 25th January every year, which marks the day the Election Commission was founded in 1950.

ZUF observes 108th Ranima Gaidinliu Birth Anniversary

IT News
Imphal, Jan 27:

The Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) observed the 108th Birth Anniversary of Ranima Gaidinliu at Council Headquarter on the 26th January 2023 that coincides the 74th January of Indian Republic Day.

The day is observed with solemn homage paid to Ranima Gaidinliu, freedom fighter of India who was born on the 26th January 1915 at her Native Village (Luangkao), Manipur. The 108th Birth Anniversary of Ranima Gaidinliu cum dedication program of ZUF designated camp was organized and observed with Village Authority Council, Luh Phuum,

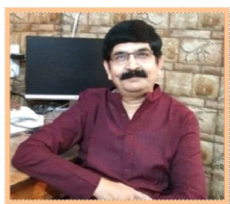
Students Leaders and Church leaders, said a statement by John Pame Secretary, Information & Publicity Zeliangrong United Front.

It said that the aspect of historical importance and due honour given to Ranima Gaidinliu on her 108th Birth anniversary was reasoned and felt significant for Zeliangrong and kindred peoples' struggle for a future secured home soon expected to be materialized with the signing of the peace deal agreement of ZUF & GOI on the 27th December 2022.

It was the day GOI and ZUF have entered new phase of understanding, relation and trust that will usher in to new era of development and

prosperity of the people on equal footing with every Indian in the spirit of republic and freedom. It may be reckoned that the numerical sign and meaning of 26 has a special sign for India and our people which has not been thought of or perceived. It so happened that the lady freedom fighter of India was born on the 26th of January 1915, on which day India happened to emerge as a republic nation of the world. The birth of Indian republic coincides the birth Day of our Mother Ranima Gaidinliu of which mystical hidden prediction and connotation was not perceived that may have phenomenal signs for India and Zeliangrong people.

What happens the next day after Republic Day & Independence Day ?



By- Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

The National Flag is a symbol of the Nation's respect and pride. The flag is the symbol under which our ancestors have strived to promote the Federation and have worked to ensure that it is granted a deserved position among nations and people of the world. In India, during Independence Day & Republic Day there is a new trend of selling flags made of paper and plastic, which is not far. Ahead of Independence Day, the Centre has urged all citizens not to use national flag made up of plastic and asked states and Union Territories to ensure strict compliance of the flag code.

Our PM Narendra Modi has already called for wide publicity and sensitisation of Central and state departments as well as the public to strictly use "paper flags" instead of plastic flags and ensure that national flags are disposed in ways that are consistent with the "dignity of the flag". Millions of patriots have laid their lives to achieve freedom and our National Flag is a symbol of their great sacrifice. Every true Indian knows the importance of this flag and would make sure that it continues to sway freely always. Our national flag is courage and inspiration for us. It makes us remember about the sacrifices of our great Indian freedom fighters. It makes us remember that how tough that moment was for them. Getting freedom was not so easy. We should always respect our flag and never let it go down for our motherland. Many sacrificed their life to save the honour of the Flag by not allowing it to fall down on the ground. Unfortunately people have forgotten to maintain the honour of the Nation. Abuse of national flags takes place on Independence Day and Republic Day, due to use of plastic flags. National flag is used by people in every corner, every crossroad, every shop, and every vehicle. Some proudly places by pinning up on the clothes. Some even set on vehicles but it is painful to see our national flag in Garbage next day. Many unceremoniously dump the national flag to the dustbin while some throw it on the road or in gutter. The feelings of patriotism and loyalty to a country are entrenched in the minds of individuals right from the time they start going to school. While each child enjoys carrying a paper flag on the independence and republic day, parents must be very watchful in ensuring that the flag is treated with respect.

The plastic or paper Flags that are held in the hand on the 'Independence Day' and 'Republic Day' with great honour and love during the flag hoisting ceremony, are seen lying on the streets, drains, filthy places in the afternoon of the same Day itself.

Is this not an insult to the bold patriots who suffered bullets of the British and the Portuguese on their chest to save the honour of the Flag? Flag Code of India 2002, Section II, Point 2.2 (xiii) says that when the Flag is in a damaged or soiled condition, it shall be destroyed as a whole in private, preferably by respectful burning or by any other method consistent with the dignity of the Flag. The Flag Code of India, 2002 containing the provisions of the Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act, 1971 governing the guidelines for display of the national flag of India clearly mentions that whoever in any public place shows disrespect to or brings into contempt the national flag shall be punished according to the law. According to Section 2 of 'The Prevention of insults to National Honour Act, 1971' - Whoever in any public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or otherwise shows disrespect to or brings into contempt (whether by words, either spoken or written, or by acts) the Indian National Flag or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

There have been complaints that after Republic Day and Independence Day, flags made of plastic are often found lying on roads and gutters. It is observed that paper and plastic national flags are found strewn all over roads and even in gutters right from 26th January and it takes time to dispose of plastic flags. The government has already passed orders banning the manufacture, sale, distribution and display of plastic national flags. According to our Flag Code, "The National Flag of India shall be made of hand spun and hand woven wool/cotton/silk khadi bunting." Necessary action as per Mumbai High Court's orders should be taken for prevention of insult of national flags. All heads of departments and other officials should take care to ensure that the national flag is used only in a manner consistent with the provisions of the flag code.

Our national flag is used in festivals. After all the celebrations, people just leave them there. The flags fall to the ground and are stepped on. Plastic flags are preferred by many political parties for the election campaign. The Model Code of Conduct bans the display of any banners or flags in public places. The flags are not only environmentally unfriendly, but also physically hazardous as the loose ends of the twine they are attached to, fluttering from lampposts and buildings, pose a danger to two-wheeler riders and pedestrians. The burning of non-biodegradable waste, including plastic flags, releases dioxins into the atmosphere.

We must uphold its dignity even if it is at the cost of our lives. Showing respect for National Flag is a symbol for the moral values of the citizens of the country. Don't we think like the national anthem and pledge are printed in school textbooks, a message about national flags can also be printed. Our national flag should not be used as a festoon, rosette or bunting or in any manner for decoration. It should be hoisted on important national, cultural and sports events. The paper flags should not be thrown on the ground or discarded after the event and should be disposed of in privacy with the dignity of the flag. Efforts should be made to educate, and spread awareness to the people of the country through advertising, in print and electronic media, so that the proper usage and dignity of national flag should not suffer in any manner.

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Causes and Remedies of Exam Phobia

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwar Singh

A phobia is an intense fear of something that, in reality, poses little or no actual danger. Every one of us experiences some kind of anxiety/phobia from time to time which results out from a situation that we perceive as threatening, such as having to do an oral presentation, having a near-miss with a car, or waiting for the results of a lab test. Anxiety is really common among humans during a situation that tends to create a tense atmosphere. **The examination can be one such event that leads to a lot of tension and anxiety commonly known as examination phobia. It is almost a ritual for students to experience this heart-wrenching feeling as the exam window narrows.** The fear of the unknown dawns and engulfs you, and it is safe to say that this is an everyday occurrence among students. However, how long will this feeling fluster you throughout your academic life? Now's the time to take appropriate measures. Exam phobia can be described as the fear of exams experienced as they prepare for their examinations and sit for them. Students thus become profoundly worried about how they'll revise and perform in their papers. It has been often observed among the students that suddenly something feels very wrong; they feel like they might be losing control. You feel physical symptoms that mimic serious health problems and in some cases, you feel as if death or doom is imminent. Anxiety is a normal human feeling that is part of life and can often serve as a good form of adrenaline. However, in a few people this adrenaline rush exceeds normal limits and at times may lead to some negative consequences.

We often come across the terms examination fever or examination phobia. Scientifically this is a result of anxiety and is often termed as test anxiety. Test anxiety is a type of anxiety that can affect a test taker before, during, or after a test. It is an issue that many students deal with at one time or another and at times can hamper their performance badly. A lot of people think that the cause of examination fever is an inadequate preparation for the test that makes students sick fearing the bad results, which is not true. Exam anxiety can be caused due to under-preparedness as well as over-preparedness also. Test anxiety can also be experienced at varying levels and may range from slight exam stress that can help you by providing alertness, readiness, and

help you to concentrate. However, excessive exam anxiety can result in stress and negatively affect performance and can also lead to forgetfulness or dizziness.

It has been observed that children attend classes regularly, completed homework, and studied regularly. He or she arrived at the exam confident about the material, but are not able to perform well owing to test anxiety. If students develop test anxiety, a type of performance anxiety, taking the test becomes really difficult for them. Fear of failure, lack of preparation or over preparation and lack of experience in handling high-pressure situations. Everyone should feel somewhat anxious before they begin to take a test which is a normal part of life. However, anxiety becomes a problem when it begins to interfere with a student's ability to think logically or remember facts. Physical symptoms of test anxiety include tense muscles, sweaty palms, a pounding heart, and feeling faint or nauseous. Cognitive symptoms include the inability to remember simple things, illogical thinking, and mental blocks. However, it is very important that if a student faces anxiety that causes some physical imbalance or hampers his performance then one must consult a doctor.

If you are suffering from any kind of phobia, you'll often experience a host of physical and mental symptoms that can leave you severely frightened and incredibly drained once they pass. Common phobias and fears include closed-in places, heights, highway driving, flying insects, snakes, and needles. However, we can develop phobias of virtually anything. A headache, nausea, diarrhea, excessive sweating, shortness of breath, rapid heartbeat, light-headedness and feeling faint can all occur. Phobias can lead to a panic attack, which is the abrupt onset of intense fear or discomfort in which individuals may feel like they are unable to breathe or having a heart attack. Most phobias develop in childhood, but it is also possible that these can also develop in adults too. In phobia even if you realize that your fear is unreasonable then also you can't do anything about it and can't control your feelings, whenever you're actually exposed to the thing you fear, the terror is automatic and overwhelming.

From long ago there has been researching about anxiety and its effect, but still, researchers don't know exactly why some people experience anxiety disorders, they do know that there are various factors

involved. Like many other mental health conditions, anxiety disorders seem to be a result of a combination of biological, psychological, and other individual factors. Anxiety has often been linked to the stressful situation leading to an adrenal rush. Tension or fear is not the only reason for the anxiety; however, excitement can also be a reason for anxiety. How we think and react to certain situations can affect anxiety to a great extent. Psychologists believe that we can deal with anxiety to a great extent by the way we actually take up an event. Some people may perceive certain situations to be more dangerous than they actually are e.g., fear of flying or swimming and most of the time ends up developing a phobia. It is also evident that at times people may have had a bad experience with a particular thing and they fear this will happen again to them. Some psychologists believe that childhood experiences can also contribute towards anxiety to a great extent.

A lot of people think that examination phobia is the result of under-preparation for a test or an examination and fear of flunking the exam leads to a stressful situation for the students or a phobia. However, research specialists have simply discarded this theory and made this point very clear that examination phobia can be observed among an underprepared, fully prepared, normally prepared as well as an over-prepared student. A lot of times the most anxious people tend to be the ones who are least prepared, but occasionally they are the high achievers for whom only the top grades will do and even bright students who have prepared well may also experience anxiety that may cause an examination phobia. Examinations vary in their intentions and purpose, and the fact that they are often only revealed at the time of the exam makes them unpredictable. A lot of preparation and expectations are also facts that trigger stress among the students. Lack of predictability and control are sure to make most people feel anxious and this is a fact of life not simply examinations. You can improve your odds if you have a broad understanding of the topic. You will find this helps your ability to answer the question(s) in the form the examiner has set.

As defined earlier, a phobia is an intense fear situation from something that may or may not possess any actual threat in reality. Phobia may turn you down and at times may become your greatest enemies or hurdles in your life. Examination phobia among the

student can be a great hurdle for your academic success. It is very important to realize on time that you have developed a phobia form something and overcome your phobia at the right time before it ruins a good opportunity of your life. It is important to realize that factors such as caffeine, alcohol, and certain medications can cause anxiety symptoms. Traumatic life events such as the death of a family member, witnessing a death, war, and natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes may trigger anxiety disorders or phobias. If you are suffering from any kind of phobia, it is very important that you must act to overcome your problem before it takes on to you. When it comes to treating phobias, self-help strategies and therapy can both be effective. What's best for you depend on a number of factors, including the severity of your phobia, your insurance coverage, and the amount of support you need. As a general rule, self-help is always worth a try. The more you can do for yourself, the more in control you'll feel which goes a long way when it comes to phobias and fears. However, if your phobia is so severe that it triggers panic attacks or uncontrollable anxiety, you may want to get additional support, do not hesitate to get a professional support if the problem is serious. Yoga and meditation is also a very effective way of keeping your mind calm and developing your inner strength.

If you are trying self-therapy then you must start with full confidence and motivation. Face your fears, one step at a time and should never consider stepping back an option. It's only natural to want to avoid the thing or situation you fear but this time don't avoid them rather find you ways out to deal with those. When it comes to overcoming phobias, facing your fears is the key. Face your phobias fearlessly and you will wonder that no longer these would be a problem for you. While avoidance may make you feel better in the short-term, it prevents you from learning that your phobia may not be as frightening or overwhelming as you think. You never get the chance to learn how to cope with your fears and experience control over the situation. As a result, the phobia becomes increasingly scarier and more daunting in your mind. **Hence don't fear just face these strongly and kick your phobias away from your life forever.**

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Power Corridor: A New Dimension of India-Bangladesh Relations and Energy Security

By - Samara Ashrat.
PhD Fellow, University of Bucharest.

Bangladesh needs to transition from conventional energy sources to ensure its energy security & long-term sustainability in the near future. Given the supply chain disruption followed by the Ukraine crisis, energy security has become a major concern for developing and least-developed countries. As the sources are becoming scarce and prices are becoming volatile, these countries are finding it difficult to navigate without cooperation. In this context, cross-border energy cooperation and revitalizing the idea of the power corridor can help Bangladesh to mitigate energy shortage.

Revitalization of the idea of Power Corridor

During Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India on September 2022, Bangladesh requested that it be allowed to import power from Nepal and Bhutan via India. The

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) sought approval from the Indian authorities to export 40-50 MW of electricity to Bangladesh through India's existing transmission infrastructure. In August 2022, Bangladesh and Nepal decided to request India to allow the export of 40-50MW of electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh in the initial phase by utilizing the high-voltage Bahrampur-Bheramara cross-border power transmission link. As per the understanding reached during the secretary-level Joint Steering Committee (JSC) formed for Nepal-Bangladesh energy cooperation, the NEA and the Bangladesh Power Development Board requested India for a trilateral energy sales and purchase agreement utilizing the power line. Being a land-locked country,

Nepal's plan to export its electricity other than India requires India's close cooperation and partnership. According to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission of India, the Indian authority is allowed to do cross-border trade where India is involved. There is a specific provision of a tripartite agreement that allows the Indian authority to sign the framework of bilateral agreements between the government of India and the governments of the respective neighboring countries. In other words, Bangladesh and Nepal need to sign bilateral agreements for cross-border electricity trade with India.

Now, India is considering Nepalese and Bangladesh proposals to allow Kathmandu to sell electricity to Bangladesh via Indian territory and Indian infrastructure. Hence, the issue of

a 'power corridor' has sparked new talk in Bangladesh-India bilateral relations.

Based on Reciprocity?

Both India and Bangladesh want to increase their share of renewable energy substantially in the upcoming years. The Indian government has set an ambitious plan to generate 500GW from non-fossil energy-based sources by 2030, meeting 50 percent of energy requirements from renewables. Likewise, Bangladesh wants to increase the share of renewable energy in the country's power mix to around 40 percent by 2050 from less than three percent now. Water-rich Nepal could help both countries achieve their dreams.

Northeastern region is India's main hub for increasing its renewable energy capacity. India needs to tap the unexplored natural resources of its Northeast.

Meeyamgi Numit & Hill Leaders day for January held School items distributed to students



IT News
Noney, Jan.27:

The January Edition of Meeyamgi Numit & Hill Leaders' Day for Noney District was held today at the Multipurpose Hall, Longmai-III, Noney.

DC Noney Joseph Pauline Kamson distributed school accessories like white boards, uniforms etc. and prized to the students belonging to the different schools of the district. He also conducted few rounds of

inspection of the different stalls opened at the function.

PHED Division, District Cooperative Office, District Police Noney, District Industries Centre, Handloom & Textiles Department, Medical Department, Department of Social Welfare, ICDS Cell Noney opened stalls at the function to provide services to the people.

Sub Divisional Officers, District Level Officers and other related officials were present at the programme amongst others.

Gov' pays tribute to Lala Lajpat Rai on his birth anniversary

IT News
Imphal, Jan 27:

Manipur Governor La Ganesan extended his heartfelt greetings on the auspicious occasion of birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai and pay his tributes to noted freedom fighter. Remembering the "Punjab Kesari" as Rai was known, his history of bravery, struggle and dedication in the freedom

struggle will always be memorable for the countrymen.

Born on January 28, 1865, Rai was a fervent nationalist who also worked for social reforms and wrote regularly. He was one of the prominent leaders of the Congress who formed the trinity of military leaders "Lal-Bal-Pal" (Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal).

Manipur joins the Nation in Celebrating 74th R-Day.....

N. Biren Singh recounted his memories of participating in the Republic Day, 2021, Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Training, 2020-2021, President Correctional Service Medal for Distinguished Service, President Correctional Service Medals for Meritorious Service and Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service.

Further stating that India has assumed the presidency of the G-20 and that Manipur will also be hosting meetings as part of the presidency as in other parts of the country, the Chief Minister has urged support from the people for the successful hosting of the meetings.

Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has become a leading nation in various fields including defence production, economy, automobile, he said.

Meanwhile, during the celebration at Kangla, officers and personnel of Manipur Police, Manipur Central Jail and Manipur Fire Service Department were decorated by the Governor with the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, Police Medal for Gallantry on the occasion of Independence Day, 2021, Police Medal for Meritorious Service on the

occasion of Independence Day, 2021, Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Training, 2020-2021, President Correctional Service Medal for Distinguished Service, President Correctional Service Medals for Meritorious Service and Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service.

Director General of Police (Prison) and Managing Director (Manipur Police Housing Corporation Limited) Christopher Doungel, IPS received the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

Inspector, CDO/Imphal West Gunachandra Chanam and Head Constable (HC), 8th Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) Shri Hijam Eshworchandra Singh were decorated with the Police Medal for Gallantry.

Police Medal for Meritorious Service was accorded to Superintendent of Police (SP), Vigilance & Anti-Corruption S. Gautam Singh, IPS, Deputy Superintendent of



Police/CID (SB) Th. Gojen Singh, MPS, Inspector (Vigilance & Anti-Corruption) Konthoujam Bobby, Subedar, 1st MR Akoijam Bhogendra Singh, Subedar, 1st IRB Shri Sanasam Raju Singh, Jemadar (MPTC) Konjengbam Priyot Singh, HC/CID (SB) Shri M.

Parpa Chothe and Assistant Sub-Inspector, Imphal West Sarangthem Joychandra Meitei.

Subedar (MPTC) Maibam Babu Meitei, Subedar (MPTC) Potsangbam Robert Singh, Jemadar Lukram Lenin Meitei and Rifleman (MPTC) Kongbrailatpam Prem Sunder Shrama received the Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Training.

Retired Deputy Superintendent N. Hemantakumar Singh was accorded with President Correctional Service Medal for Distinguished Service, while Chief Head Warder W. Didymus Tangkul, Head Warder Jilkhokai Touthang, Warder Khupzalam Neishil, Warder L. Robindro Singh and

Retired Chief Head Warder Thamsel Lamkang were accorded with President Correctional Service Medals for Meritorious Service.

Apart from this, Fireman M. Romendro Singh and Lanamei Benjamin of Fire Service Department received the Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service.

The 74th Republic Day celebration was also observed at all the 16 districts head quarters of the state. District administrative of the respective districts unfurl the Indian tricolour flags.

Security measures were tightened in all the district head quarters to ensure that no unwanted incident took place, as there are report of armed groups boycotting the event.



Of Education and Careers

Need to Raise Infrastructure and standard of Education in rural schools



By-Vijay GarG

Infrastructure in rural schools is far below the satisfactory level, with 82 per cent of the schools requiring renovation; books are often unavailable and teacher absenteeism tends to be high. A large number of teachers are unwilling to teach in rural areas and those who do are usually under-qualified. Improvement is only possible if more schools are established and the basic infrastructure of the existing ones is

THE 2022 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) sheds light on learning outcomes in schools in rural districts of India. Conducted every year since 2005, this survey is a key source of information about children's learning skills across the country. The current report, released after a gap of four years, records the impact of school closure on the studies of children during the Covid pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

A household-based, rather than school-based, survey, it includes children who have never been to school or have dropped out, as well as those

who are in government schools or private ones. Around 7,00,000 children in the age group of 3 to 16 years, who are residents of these households, were surveyed across the country. In each rural district, 30 villages were sampled and in each village, 20 randomly selected households were surveyed. This process generated a total of 600 households per district, or about 3,00,000 households. Information on the schooling status was collected for all children living in sampled households who were in the required age group. Children in the age group of 5-16 years were tested to assess their basic reading and arithmetic skills.

Major findings of the report are not entirely negative, but they do underline the need to improve the standard of education in rural India. The national-level study shows that despite school closure during the pandemic, the overall enrolment figures, which have been above 95 per cent for the past 15 years for the age group of 6 to 14 years, increased from 97.2 per cent in 2018 to 98.4 per cent in 2022. Government schools have seen a sharp increase in children enrolled, from 65.6 per cent in 2018 to 72.9 per cent in 2022, reversing the trend of a steady decrease in student enrolment seen since 2006, when it was 73.4 per cent. The report also suggests that despite wide variations in how children accessed technology during the pandemic years, most

schools, even those in rural areas, 'attempted to keep learning going with digital resources.' Some of the parents followed suit. This needs to be encouraged hugely.

The report also lays to rest apprehensions about the pandemic forcing families to withdraw girls from schools and push them into early marriage. It finds that the percentage of girls in the age group of 11 to 14 years, who were out of school, declined to 2 per cent from 4.1 per cent. The decrease in the proportion of girls not enrolled in school is even sharper among older girls in the age group of 15 to 16 years, which stood at 7.9 per cent in 2022 as compared with 13.5 per cent in 2018.

However, the report shows a severe decline in reading ability and comprehension of the students. The percentage of Class III students in government or private schools who could read a Class II book fell by nearly 7 per cent from 27.3 per cent in 2018 to 20.5 per cent in 2022. This decline is visible in every state, and for children in both government and private schools.

States showing a decline of more than 10 percentage points from the 2018 level include those that had higher reading levels in 2018, such as Kerala (from 52.1 per cent in 2018 to 38.7 per cent in 2022), Himachal Pradesh (from 47.7 per cent to 28.4 per cent), and Haryana (from 46.4 per cent to 31.5 per cent). Large drops are also visible in Andhra Pradesh (from 22.6 per cent to

10.3 per cent) and Telangana (from 18.1 per cent to 5.2 per cent). Nationally, the proportion of children enrolled in Class V in government or private schools who could at least read a Class II-level text fell from 50.5 per cent in 2018 to 42.8 per cent in 2022 i.e. dropping to pre-2012 levels and reversing several years of improvement.

While families withdrew students from private schools to save money spent on tuition fees, they also invested in private tuition classes, which increased as the proportion of such students rose from 26.4 per cent in 2018 to 30.5 per cent in 2022 in both private and government schools. This may also be the reason why learning gaps are sharper in reading because students typically choose to study mathematics and science in tuition classes.

What is it that the ASER survey forces us to think without spelling it out in as many words? Directly, it deals with a lot of figures and facts, but indirectly, it compels us to critically analyse what exactly is wrong with our education system, particularly in rural India. With nearly 64.61 per cent of the population being rural, issues of quality and access remain areas of concern in the sphere of rural education. Children in rural areas remain deprived of quality education owing to factors such as lack of competent and committed teachers, shortage of textbooks or teaching-learning material, among other things.

Infrastructure in rural schools is far below the satisfactory level, with 82 per cent of the schools requiring renovation; books are often unavailable and teacher absenteeism tends to be high. A large number of teachers are unwilling to teach in rural areas and those who do are usually under-qualified. Improvement is only possible if more schools are established and the basic infrastructure of the existing ones is upgraded. Also, by bringing innovative teaching methods like in private urban-based schools and promoting computer literacy, things can definitely be bettered.

However, due to the shortage of resources and lack of political will, this system suffers from massive gaps, including high pupil-to-teacher ratio, shortage of infrastructure and poor level of teacher training. Since 80 per cent of all recognised schools at the elementary stage are run or supported by the government, making it the largest provider of education in rural India, it is for the government to enforce these remedies as soon as possible and make the required changes.

As schools have reopened, the situation requires urgent thought, attention and immediate action. Things can definitely be improved if the required steps are initiated immediately. The ASER survey has clearly set the alarm bells ringing. The solution lies in accepting it and rectifying the shortcomings in education.

Contd. from Page 2

Power Corridor.....

Bangladesh has the potential to offer multiple electricity corridors for transmission. Arunachal Pradesh alone has a 50,000 MW of hydroelectricity potential. According to Indian North Eastern Electric Power Cooperation, the Indian North Eastern Region has the potential of about 58,971 MW of power, almost 40 per cent of India's total hydropower potential. India is planning to explore all hydropower potentials in Arunachal Pradesh and other northeastern states. At present, India has a total potential of 145,320 MW hydropower but only 45,399.22 MW of the quantum was being tapped. But India needs to spend a huge amount of money to transmit hydropower from India's northeastern to northwestern region. But the geographical barrier has constrained India from untapping its potential. 18 projects above the capacity of 25 MW were now under construction across Northeast in 2019.

But India can easily use the power corridor of Bangladesh to reduce the cost. In 2021, Bangladesh showed interest in the power corridor and expected to get 20 to 25 per cent of the hydropower to

be transmitted through the high-voltage gridline passing through its territory. The transmission line with the capacity of 6,000 MW in Bangladesh land maybe 100km in length if it is built in Boropukuria and 200km if it is installed in Jamalpur while a substation would be built in each route. Two possible routes of the transmission line are — from Assam's Bonga through Baropukuria (Dinajpur) or Jamalpu to Bihar's Purnea and from Assam's Silchar via Meghna Ghat-Bheramara to West Bengal. There can be such high capacity interconnectors in Tripura-Comilla, Bongaigaon (Assam)-Jamalpur/Dinajpur-Purnea (Bihar), Silchar (Assam), and Fenchuganj.

A win-win situation

If India finally allows power corridor to Bangladesh to import electricity from Nepal, it will usher a new era of bilateral energy cooperation. Not only that, through Bangladesh, it can achieve its untapped opportunities of hydropower from the northeastern region. So, both Bangladesh and India should come forward to enhance their energy security based on reciprocity and enhance South Asian regional cooperation.

Inter-Governmental agreement to Re-Introduce Cheetah to India from South Africa concluded

PIB
New Delhi, Jan 27:

The Republic of South Africa and the Republic of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Re-introduction of Cheetah to the Asian country. In terms of the agreement, an initial batch of 12 cheetahs are to be flown from South Africa to India during February 2023. The cats will join eight cheetah introduced to India from Namibia during 2022.

Restoring cheetah populations is considered to be a priority for India and will have vital and far-reaching conservation consequences, which would aim to achieve a number of ecological

objectives, including re-establishing the function role of cheetah within their historical range in India and improving the enhancing the livelihood options and economies of the local communities. Following the import of the 12 cheetah in February, the plan is to translocate a further 12 annually for the next eight to 10 years.

The initiative to reintroduce cheetah to a former range state following the local extinction of this iconic species due to over hunting and loss of habitat in the last century is being carried out following the request received from the government of the Republic of India. This multi-disciplinary international programme is

being coordinated by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South African National Parks (SANParks), the Cheetah Range Expansion Project, and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) in South Africa together with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Reintroduction of Cheetah to India facilitates cooperation between the parties to establish a viable and secure cheetah population in India; promotes conservation and ensures that expertise is shared

and exchanged, and capacity built, to promote cheetah conservation. This includes human-wildlife conflict resolution, capture and translocation of wildlife and community participation in conservation in the two countries. In terms of the MoU, the countries will collaborate and exchange best practices in large carnivore conservation through the transfer of technology, training of professionals in management, policy, and science, and to establish a bilateral custodianship arrangement for cheetah translocated between the two countries.

The terms of the MoU will be reviewed every five years to ensure it remains relevant.

Governor joins Prime Minister's Pariksha Pe Charcha



IT News
Imphal, Jan 27:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan today joined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction programme with students "Pariksha Pe Charcha". Governor joined the students of Tamphasana Girls

Higher Secondary School in watching the live interaction session of Prime Minister with students at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi.

After watching the session, speaking to the students, Governor said, the whole idea of the Charcha is to respect examination. He said,

examination is an important phase in student's life. Everybody cannot be masters of all subjects, but students should try to excel whatever they read and with confidence they should face the examinations. Governor wished the students a grand success in their examinations.

In Focus

Union budget 2023-24 should focus on jobs Needed large manufacturing investments

By Nantoo Banerjee

The best thing the Narendra Modi government's last full budget before the next Lok Sabha election can do is to focus primarily on job creation and provide attractive incentives to large industrial investments to help push quality employment. The government has done reasonably well in the infrastructure investment sector, despite various constraints in dealing with state-level authorities. However, it has not succeeded enough in attracting fresh investments in manufacturing to create lasting jobs. The manufacturing field needs a massive investment drive like of which the country has not witnessed since the 1960s and '70s. The measure will automatically create a large number of quality jobs. Large foreign investments in manufacturing provide the best option. This will also give credence to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's any future election promise with regards to employment generation.

Interestingly, BJP's election manifesto for 2019 Lok Sabha polls did not specifically mention the party's job generation target as it did before the 2014 LS election. Instead, the 2019 manifesto specified support to 22 'Champion Sectors' as 'drivers of the Indian economy' providing opportunities for the youth. "We will optimally leverage the untapped employment-generation potential of sectors such as defence and pharmaceuticals," the document said. The party's 2014 election manifesto aimed at creating 250 million jobs over the next 10 years as part of an economic development programme that could create 100 new 'smart' cities. BJP had put jobs and urbanisation at the centre of its 2014 policy pitch. Unfortunately, it failed miserably to achieve the job generation target. This could explain why the party avoided fixing an employment creation target in the 2019 LS election

manifesto.

BJP's last LS election manifesto chose to focus on the economy. It said that India was branded as 'fragile five' in 2014 and "within five years, we have turned India into a bright spot that is not only the fastest growing major economy of the world but also enjoys macroeconomic stability. We aspire to make India the third largest economy of the world by 2030. This implies that we commit to make India a US\$5-trillion economy by 2025 and US\$10-trillion economy by 2032." They appear to be achievable targets despite the covid pandemic which witnessed a negative economic growth in 2020. Unfortunately, the GDP growth under the current regime has not quite reflected on the employment growth in the country. India's nominal GDP at the end of last year is estimated at \$3.8 trillion under the World Economy Ranking 2022. The first advance estimates of national income for 2022-23 is significant because the data is used for preparing the 2023 Union Budget. It is said that the country's GDP is likely to grow seven percent in FY23.

Meanwhile, the unemployment situation in India continues to be quite alarming. There is no reliable annual unemployment and job generation figures in the country. Government jobs are limited. A report published on July 27, 2022, by the Department of Personnel and Training under the union government said that nearly 22.06 crore applied for central government jobs since 2014, of which only 7.22 lakh were employed in the last eight years. The year-wise number of jobs given stood at 1,30,423 in 2014-15; 1,11,807 in 2015-16; 1,01,333 in 2016-17; 76,147 in 2017-18; 38,100 in 2018-19; 1,47,096 in 2019-20; 78,555 in 2020-21; and 38,850 jobs in 2021-22. Interestingly, the maximum central government jobs came in the election years of 2014-15 and 2019-20. Last week, the union government released nearly 71,000 appointment letters to

unemployed youth across the country at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Rojgar Mela' (job fair) ahead of assembly elections in nine states this year.

The trouble with the government's infrastructure projects is that most of the jobs created during the construction time are contractual in nature. Large number of people engaged in such projects become jobless after their completion. Project hurdles also impacted employment. Going by an internal report of the NITI Aayog, the government may axe as many as 116 infrastructure projects worth Rs. 1.26 trillion, due to unresolved obstacles ranging from land acquisition to Centre-State tussles. A good number of them concern road and rail construction. So far, these projects have incurred a cumulative capital expenditure of only Rs 20,311 crore. Frustrated with their lack of progress, the Centre is considering finally putting a lid on them.

Despite the government's best initiative, several large and important infrastructure projects are running behind schedule. Among them are: \$30-billion Narmada Valley Development project; \$2-billion Navi Mumbai International Airport; nearly \$100-million Chenab River Railway Bridge, the world's highest rail bridge, establishing a Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link; \$90-billion Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (launched in 2007); \$130-billion Bharatmala Project connecting the country's economic corridors, ports, airports and industrial hubs; \$2.2-billion Mumbai Trans Harbour Link; Inland Waterways Development Project covering 14,500 km navigable waterways; and nearly \$1-billion Zoji-la & Z-Morh tunnel project bringing Kashmir and Ladakh closer. Instead of announcing new construction projects, the next year's budget should provide impetus for completion of those large unfinished projects and focus on programmes that

would create lasting jobs for the unemployed. In the absence of deep pocket domestic investors, the budget should provide strong financial assistance and tax incentives to foreign investors in manufacturing. More than FDI inflows, the government should be more concerned about the FDI destination with manufacturing given preference to services. The FDI inflow is still tilted in favour of the services sector as pointed out by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra). Within the services sector, FDI is predominantly flowed into trading, telecommunications, banking/insurance, IT/business outsourcing and hotels/tourism. FDI in manufacturing are mostly concentrated in segments such as auto, chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, metallurgical and food processing.

The budget should also be concerned about creating new jobs across states by providing special incentives to foreign industrial investors in projects in a large number of states which they have been normally skipping for various reasons. The budget should find ways — maybe, in quick consultations with state governments — to induce FDI beyond a few chosen states. Currently, FDI is highly clustered around only a handful of India's 28 states and eight union territories. Of the total FDI inflow of \$146.7 billion between October 2019 and March 2022, only four states attracted as much as 83.0 percent of the fund with Maharashtra accounting for 27.5 percent, Karnataka 23.9 percent, Gujarat 19.1 percent and Delhi 12.4 percent. The government will fail in the country's economic development as a whole and nation-wide employment generation effort by ignoring the investment needs in other states. Employment focus will make the BJP government's term-end budget really meaningful and attractive to the public before the party prepares a new economic and social agenda for the next Lok Sabha election in 2024. (IPA Service)

RS MP Sanajaoba inaugurates Community Park at Aimol Chinghut Village

IT News
Imphal, Jan 27:

Rajya Sabha MP Leisemba Sanajaoba today inaugurated a Community Park at Aimol Chinghut Village in Tengnoupal district. The community park was constructed under the Local Area Development fund of the MP. It was started construction in

August 2021-22 with an estimated cost of Rs. 10 lakhs.

MP Sanajaoba expressed his gratitude to the people of the area for the support they gave in the construction of the community park. He said that without the help of the community of the area it is next to impossible to take up developmental works. He appealed the people to be

more cooperative with the government to works taken up for the welfare of the people.

Village chief of Aimol Chingnunghut and the villagers of the same attended the inaugural function of the community park.

The villagers lauded the MP for construction of the community Park.

Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha appoints Biswadeep Gupta President for Northeastern states of India



IT News
New Delhi, Jan 27:

Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha has appointed Biswadeep Gupta son of Late Biswajit Gupta permanent resident of Silchar, Assam, the President for Northeastern states.

In a media release by Prof. (Dr.) Neeran Gautam, National Spokesperson it was stated that Biswadeep who hails from Northeastern region is hereby appointed the President of Northeastern states for the Mahasabha by Rajyashree Chaudhuri the present National President.

He is given the mandate to expand organisational base and take the Mahasabha's work and objectives to all the northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Biswadeep is a technocrat with management degree and has worked extensively in the field of education, media & management consulting with a passion to work for the common man. At present he is the Managing Trustee of KRC Foundation which works in the field of media, education, entrepreneurship and social outreach with the goal to

connect the unconnected. Speaking from New Delhi Biswadeep said that he is honoured to accept this responsibility with sincere and clear focus to establish organisational base in the region.

Hindu Mahasabha was established in the year 1915 by Madan Mohan Malaviya and in the year 1933 evolved as a political party under the leadership of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

Biswadeep Gupta with Smt. Rajyashree Chaudhuri, National President along with Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha's other officials at New Delhi