



उदयमान्तरात् उदयमान्तरात्

**EMERGING MANIPUR**  
PEACE, PROSPERITY & GROWTH



## Inauguration and Foundation Stone Laying of 21 Development Projects worth ₹ 1311 Crore in Manipur

### INAUGURATION

- Construction of Manipur Olympian Park, Sangaithel
- Fruit Preservation Factory (MAGFRUIT), Nilakuthi
- Paid Private Ward at JNIMS
- Churachandpur Medical College (State Component)
- Moreh Town Water Supply Scheme
- Nongpok Thong Bridge at Eastern Side of Kangla, Imphal
- Infrastructure Development of DM University
- Marjing Statue Complex
- Development of Cave Tourism Project at Kangkhui Cave
- Model Residential School at LM Block, Ukhrlul
- 100 bedded Residential School Rengpang
- Pediatric Cardio-Thoracic Operation Theatre at RIMS Campus

### FOUNDATION STONE LAYING

- Manipur Exhibition Centre, Imphal East
- District Youth, Skilling and Employment Centres in 5 Districts
- Construction of Jiribam-Tipaimukh Road
- Strengthening of Road from Serou Lamkhai to Salluk Village via Chakpikarong
- Construction of 40 Police Outposts (34 along Indo-Myanmar International Border and 6 along NH-37)
- Integrated Management of 3 Water Bodies/Wetland (Utra Pat, Zaimeng, Waithou-Phumnom)
- Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme
- Bharat Net Project/Capital Project on OFC Network under Scheme for Capital Investment (SACI)
- PM Gati Shakti Projects under Scheme for Capital Investment (SACI)

by

# Amit Shah

Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation  
Government of India

in the august presence of

## N. Biren Singh

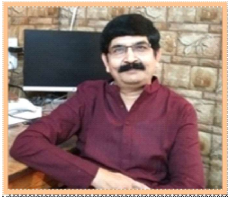
Chief Minister, Manipur

6<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.  
at Moirang, Bishnupur District

Live on YouTube



## “Pariksha Pe Charcha”



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Time and again our Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students, teachers, and parents during his “Pariksha Pe Charcha”. A lot of excitement and enthusiasm was seen among the students, teachers and parents to not only participate in the unique event but also to receive valuable tips from PM Modi who is keen to ensure that the students take exams in a relaxed atmosphere and do not come under stress, to ensure better results in the long run.

To a question from a student and losing interest while studying, the PM said most often students get demotivated due to factors that are external to them and also as they try to attach too much significance to their own expectations.

It is a very common phenomenon among students especially when an important examination is at their door step. It is extremely disastrous as it affects them psychologically, socially, emotionally and cognitively. In fact, even Albert Einstein suffered from exam fever, and Winston Churchill only managed to write his name when he was appearing for an entrance exam.

Prime Minister asked the students to find out the reason for the demotivation and ponder over how to deal with it. He gave the example of the recent issue of Chandrayaan and his visit to ISRO. PM Modi while giving examples of how cricketers Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman batted in difficult situations during India – Australia match in 2001 to clinch victory for India from the jaws of defeat rightly said that “We should not look at failures as setbacks or stumbling blocks. We can add enthusiasm to every aspect of life. A temporary setback doesn’t mean that we cannot succeed in life. In fact a setback may mean that the best is yet to come. We should try to convert our distressed situations as stepping stones for a bright future”

Examinations are always stressful and fill us with fear because our future is linked up with them. The extent of exam stress is too much that drives them to take extreme measures. For a brilliant student the examination is “Now or Never”. For a poor one it is “Neither here nor Anywhere”. The fear of exams is more before the exams causing them to underperform on that day. We cannot expect what is coming in exam & what is not. Many negative happenings take place when exams enter the student’s life. Student becomes nervous, tensed & unhealthy because of such environment. The best solution for this issue is that the students need to maintain a calm and peaceful mind. And it is the responsibility of parents and teachers to make it possible. Our parents can also be a big reason of students getting too much tensed for their examinations. Parents pressurize them to perform extremely well in exams & in that immense pressure, academic performance gets affected. Sometimes even students also feel anxiety when they study to compete in exams. They feel the fear of losing in the competition. One must remember that scoring low marks or failing an exam is not the end of the world. Each time the going gets tough, I think of this quote I had read in my school days, “Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better.”

## Memory tips for Class 10 & 12 students for Board Exam 2023



By: Vijay GarG

With less than a month to go for the Class 10 Board Exams, students must be well-prepared by this time.

Board exam preparation can be a stressful time and one of the biggest challenges is memorizing a lot of information across subjects and topics.

1) Written practice is importance;

Some students might struggle to memorize information properly, despite preparing and revising well. Lack of written practice could be one of the reasons behind this.

So, students can write as they read to memorize better, also highlighting important words and lines can help.

For such students, reading out loud while studying something could also help them retain the lessons and information for long.

2) Practice and revise as many times as possible

The importance of regular practice and proper revision cannot be emphasized enough. Students may not be able to remember what they have study if it is not registered in their mind properly.

But if they practice and revise regularly, retaining and retrieving information becomes easier.

Also, written practice and solving previous papers or sample papers can help them train their brain to retain information.

(3) Students can try studying in a group, too

Studying in a group can also help students enhance their learning experience as it allows interacting with others, discussing ideas, and improving retention power. To ensure that they understand and remember everything, students can also teach or explain concepts to others.

4) Mind mapping and preparing flashcards, notes, charts can help, too

Students should make notes of important points while studying something as it can be useful in quick revision. Mind mapping to visually organize information and preparing charts, flash cards, and diagrams can help remember important concepts, figures, formulae, historical events, definitions, and other data.

Watching videos or documentaries on the topics or subjects they are studying can help students remember key details better.

5) Maintain good health, overcome stress to boost memory

Maintaining good health and eating healthy food while preparing for exams is important to enhance memory.

Students should overcome stress to concentrate properly and boost their memory. They must avoid studying continuously for long hours and take breaks, relax, and get sufficient sleep.

They can include memory-boosting food items like almonds, walnuts, green and leafy vegetables, berries, and dark chocolate in their diet.

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## Environmental Impact of Poppy Cultivation

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Across the world, the state of environmental stress is unprecedented. This includes major threats to the lands, soils, waters, forests, and oceans that make up our ecosystems and bio diverse nature. Cutting across this are the unfolding effects of climate change and global heating. All of these developments will continue to have dramatic impacts on both people and planet. These impacts are however not evenly distributed. As scholarship and activism on “environmental justice” points out, poorer and marginalized communities, often differentiated along class, gender and racial lines, face particular exposure to environmental harms. This holds especially true for populations in the Global South, including Myanmar. The role of opium cultivation in relation to these environmental stresses is an underexplored terrain. Drugs like cannabis, cocaine, opium and ecstasy have catastrophic environmental impacts that range from deforestation to land sinking. Yet, as this new TNI report argues, drugs, as well as the policy responses to them, are an environmental crisis in Myanmar as well as other countries where opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plants are cultivated.

Greater concentrations of carbon dioxide in a warming world may have a drastic effect on the potency of opium poppies, according to a new study. While this increase might mean more morphine available for legal pharmaceutical uses, the painkiller is also the main ingredient in heroin. The current crop of poppies is twice as potent as those grown at carbon dioxide levels seen in 1950, says Lewis Ziska of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Crop Systems and Global Change Laboratory. If projections hold, the rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide will increase morphine levels three-fold by 2050 and by 4.5 times by 2090. Morphine is part of a class of chemicals called alkaloids, which plants produced to ward off bugs, birds and other natural dangers. While toxic to some animals, human use of hundreds of plants alkaloids in various ways. Cocaine, Caffeine, Capsaicin (which makes chili papers hot), lysergic acid and anti-malarial drug quinine are examples. The speed of the biological changes affecting plants’ alkaloid levels suggests that the climate may have a greater impact on plant life than computer models had generally predicted, Ziska says. Earlier studies by Ziska had shown that certain alkaloids decrease in some plants as

carbon dioxide increases, including lower concentrations of nicotine in tobacco. The net result, according to Ziska, is that climate change’s impacts on plants are likely to be chaotic and difficult to predict. For example, he says, “wheat may make more seeds, but we may have stronger poison ivy and poppies.” Changes in alkaloid levels may pose a challenge to public health as carbon dioxide continues to build up in the atmosphere. The World Health Organization estimates that over 3.5 billion people rely on plants for part of their primary health care. This includes the U.S. population, where 25 percent of prescribed drugs contain an ingredient derived from plants.

Around 337,000 football fields, or 23 times the size of Paris — that’s the amount of land that was used to cultivate opium worldwide in 2019, according to the UN. The main producers are Myanmar, Mexico and Afghanistan — which accounts for 84% of global cultivation. Poppy fields spread mainly across the country’s southwest in areas where, until the 1990s, there was nothing but arid desert. Today, some 1.4 million people live there, making a living from cultivating opium and agriculture. **That’s all possible, thanks to more than 50,000 solar-powered water pumps that have greened the desert. But that is not as green as it sounds.** A report found that the region’s groundwater is sinking by 3 meters (9.8 feet) per year. Wells as deep as 130 meters are now being drilled to find water. “Each year, more people are arriving in the desert and installing solar deep wells. There are local fears that there will fast become a time when agricultural production will no longer be viable. “The poppy farmers also use chemical fertilizers and strong pesticides to control weeds. Groundwater tests have shown that nitrate levels are significantly higher than what is deemed safe. This can increase the risk of blue-baby syndrome, which leads to heart defects and death in newborns. Mansfield warns that if water in the region does eventually run out, it will likely force large numbers of people from their homes, sparking a rural exodus.

The production of coca and poppy as well as the processing and production of cocaine and heroin involve significant environmental impacts. Both coca and poppy are grown intensively in a process that involves the clearing of land in remote areas, the planting of the crop,

and protection against pests such as weeds, insects, and pathogens. Poppy cultivation was found in small pockets of the hills bordering Myanmar about two decades ago by journalists. Word then was that, the poppy cultivators of the state sell their opium produce to small-time drug smugglers who operate mobile drug manufacturing units across the border. Manipur, which borders the Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia — infamous for drug trafficking, has been facing the drug menace for decades. And now, “thousands of hectares of land are used for poppy cultivation in areas near the international border with Myanmar.” State data shows that in five years, the extent of land used to grow the plant from which opium is derived has increased more than three times from 1,853 to 6,742.8 acres. Of this, only 3,200 acres of poppy crop were destroyed this year. The absence of clear land ownership records compounds the problem. The progressive-and-rapid-expansion-of-poppy-cultivation-in-all-hill-districts of Manipur — have become-a-serious-concern-over-the-threat-it-poses-to-environment-apart-from-other-issues such as health problems, family issues etc. Although the poppy cultivated hill ranges look majestically attractive from far, a closer look and better understanding will tell a different story. No insects can be seen buzzing, not a single burrowing animal are visible with no sound of animals or birds while taking a trek through the poppy cultivated hill ranges. Some of the poppy farmers revealed that they use chemical fertilizers mostly Di-Ammonium Phosphate and pesticides regularly on the hill ranges to grow poppy plants. Pesticides are also used extensively to ward off the attacking insects and animals. The ceaseless exploitation of forest land, which in turn has impacted on the biodiversity, merely for making money. Uncontrolled deforestation for poppy cultivation coupled with massive spraying of chemical fertilizers at the upland slope directly or indirectly impact on the environment as well as posing health hazards to those living in the surrounding villages.

The hill ranges were all catchment areas that provide perennial water source for the down flowing rivers but with forest cut down to make way for poppy cultivation this is no longer so. This is a major factor in climate change as well as causing water shortage in the hill areas.

Chemical fertilizers & pesticides dissolve in the water and become toxic which makes it unfit for human consumption. It is also reported by people of poppy cultivated area that the problem of miscarriage among pregnant women has become more common after the villagers started to engage in massive poppy cultivation. Conventionally pregnant women were forbidden to visit the area during poppy flowering season. There is however no scientific reason to substantiate this. Excessive use of fertilizers affect humans in different ways, adding that it reduces natural soil fertility, increase soil erosion, which directly impacts on the flow of water, drying up of river beds, increase in siltation etc. The continuous forest destruction has impacted the natural cycle and this has led to change in the natural vegetation in some regions.

Manipur Government’s “War on Drugs” including a drive against illegal poppy cultivation should not only be confined to destruction of poppy plants but educate the villagers about the alarming facts and its detrimental impact on the whole ecosystem. Wanton deforestation for timber extraction, jhum cultivation, poppy cultivation, forest fire etc. are the main factors for rapid forest depletion in all hill districts of Manipur. Now, poppy cultivation is widespread in the hills of Manipur. According to rough survey reports, poppy cultivation has now expanded to over 5000 acres in Ukhrul district alone in a short span of time. It was never in the minds of the state political leaders to look deep for causes which had led to the present scenario as they looked as always for the easy explanation. The State Government should intervene and come out with policies to replace poppy plants with alternative cash crop for better management and to sustain livelihood. **The recent adoption of coffee plantation in the golden triangle of Myanmar replacing Poppy plantation is one good step closer to a secured future.** However, the talk of alternative crops or means of livelihood will always be foreign to the ears of the hill people like the message of alternating jhum cultivation which had fallen on deaf ears. Therefore the support and involvement of village headmen, women leaders, youth leaders and village authority members as stake holders are needed in the fight against poppy cultivation.

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## Demonetisation Decision Making Process Lawful: SC

By: Sanjeev Sirohi, Advocate

While leaving no room for even an iota of doubt on the much debated demonetization issue in all forms of media, the Apex Court has in a most laudable, learned, landmark and latest judgment titled Vivek Narayan Sharma vs Union of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 906 of 2016 and cited in 2023 LiveLaw (SC) 1 that was finally pronounced on January 2, 2023 has upheld by 4:1 majority the decision taken by the Union Government six years ago to demonetize the currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 denominations. It must be mentioned here that the majority of Bench except Justice BV Nagarathna held that the Centre’s notification dated November 8, 2016 is valid and satisfies the test of proportionality. It must be noted that the Bench of Justices S Abdul Nazeer, BR Gavai, AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian were in majority and Justice BV Nagarathna was in minority. Justice BV Nagarathna in her dissenting view held that though demonetization was well-intentioned and well thought of, it has to be declared unlawful on legal grounds (and not on the basis of objects).

At the very outset, this refreshing, robust, recent, rational and remarkable judgment authored by Justice BR Gavai for a Bench of the Apex Court comprising of Justice S Abdul Nazeer, himself, Justice AS Bopanna and Justice V Ramasubramanian in majority and Justice BV Nagarathna in minority sets the ball in motion for majority by first and foremost setting forth in para 1 that, “This reference to the larger bench of Five-Judges arises out of the writ petitions filed challenging the Notification No. 3407(E) dated 8th November 2016 (hereinafter referred to as “the impugned Notification”), issued by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (hereinafter referred to as “the RBI Act”), vide which the Central Government declared that the bank notes of denominations of the existing series of the value of five hundred rupees and one thousand rupees shall cease to be legal tender with effect from 9th November 2016, to the extent specified in the impugned Notification. This is popularly known as an act/policy of ‘de-

monetization.’”

As we see, the Bench states in para 2 that, “Immediately after the impugned Notification was issued, several writ petitions challenging the policy of demonetization came to be filed before this Court as also before various High Courts. Transfer Petitions were filed by the Union, seeking transfer of all such matters pending before the High Courts to this Court.”

To put things in perspective, The Bench observes in para 4 that, “Vide the said order dated 16th December 2016, this Court also directed that, if any other writ petitions/proceedings were pending in any High Court, further hearing of those matters should also remain stayed. This Court further directed that no other Court should entertain, hear or decide any writ petition/proceeding on the issue of or in relation to or arising from the decision of the Government of India to demonetize the notes of Rs.500/- and Rs.1,000/-, since the entire issue in relation thereto was pending consideration before this Court.”

As it turned out, the Bench then discloses in para 6 that, “On 8th No-

vember 2016, vide the impugned notification, the Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act, notified that the specified bank notes (hereinafter referred to as “SBNs”) shall cease to be legal tender with effect from 9th November 2016. The SBNs were bank notes of denominations of the existing series of the value of Rs.500/- and Rs.1000/- . Under clause 1 of the said notification, every banking company and every Government Treasury was required to complete and forward a return along with the details of SBNs held by it at the close of business as on the 8th November 2016, not later than 13:00 hours on the 10th November 2016 to the designated Regional Office of the Reserve Bank of India (hereinafter referred to as “RBI”). Insofar as the individual persons were concerned, under clause 2 of the impugned notification, they were entitled to exchange SBNs in various banks specified therein upto 30th December 2016 subject to certain conditions. Initially it provided a limit of Rs.4,000/- for such exchange.

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# China's current data underrepresents true impact of Covid-19, says World Health Organization

Agency  
Geneva, Jan 5:

The World Health Organization on Wednesday said that China is underreporting Covid-19 figures – especially the number of deaths – in its official data, reported the BBC.

On December 25, China's National Health Commission had stopped publishing daily Covid-19 data amid a significant surge in infections and hospitalisations in the country.

"We believe that the current numbers being published from China underrepresent the true impact of the disease in terms of hospital admissions,

in terms of ICU admissions, particularly in terms of death," WHO's emergencies director, Mike Ryan told reporters on Wednesday, reported the BBC.

He added that China's definition of Covid-19 death is too narrow.

Last month, China had narrowed its definition of Covid-19 deaths, drastically cutting down its death statistics. The health officials are counting only those who died from Covid-caused pneumonia or respiratory failure.

China has only recorded 22 Covid-19 deaths since December, reported *Al Jazeera*. However, according to a *Financial Times* report, officials

in the country have estimated that around 25 crore citizens or 18% of the population were infected with coronavirus in the first 20 days of December.

Coronavirus cases in China increased sharply after the authorities abandoned its strict "zero-Covid" policy last month following unprecedented anti-lockdown protests. The rapid increase in cases has led to some hospitals and morgues in the country being overwhelmed.

On Wednesday, the global health body's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus asked China to present more rapid, regular, reliable data on hospitalisations

and deaths. "With circulation in China so high and comprehensive data not forthcoming – as I said last week it is understandable that some countries are taking steps they believe will protect their own citizens," Ghebreyesus said.

Last month, India along with the United States, Spain, France, South Korea, Italy, Japan and Taiwan announced they will require negative tests from passengers arriving from China. On Tuesday, China had warned that it would take countermeasures in response to the mounting travel restrictions imposed on passengers travelling abroad from its territory.

# Freezing cold in Delhi as city logs season's lowest temperature of 3 deg C

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 5:

A brutal cold wave swept Delhi on Thursday with the minimum temperature dropping to the season's lowest of three degrees Celsius.

Most people kept indoors and turned to space heaters and cups of hot tea to keep themselves warm as frosty winds from the snow-clad Himalayas barreled through the plains, including the national capital.

A blinding layer of dense fog over north India, including Delhi, caused major inconvenience to commuters. The visibility levels were 50 metres around 5:30 am.

The Safdarjung observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, logged a minimum temperature of three degrees Celsius as against 4.4 degrees



Celsius on Wednesday and 8.5 degrees Celsius on Tuesday.

The weather stations at Lodhi Road, Ayanagar and Ridge recorded minimum temperatures of 2.8 degrees Celsius, 2.2 degrees Celsius and 2.8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The cold snap is expected to strain power grids and pose

challenges to the homeless.

The meteorological office had on Wednesday issued an orange alert for Delhi-NCR for Thursday and Friday.

The India Meteorological Department uses four colour codes for weather warnings — green (no action needed), yellow (watch and stay updated), orange (be prepared) and red (take action).

# Army Commander, SC visits Mumbai Military Station

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Jan 5:

Lieutenant General AK Singh, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, visited Headquarters Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa Area, Mumbai on Tuesday and Wednesday.

During his visit the Army Commander was briefed by Lieutenant General HS Kahlon, General Officer Commanding, Headquarters Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa Area on the operational and logistical aspects of the formation.

The Army Commander lauded the efforts being made by the formation in all the spheres of operations and administration. He took the tour of Colaba Military Station in South Mumbai and witnessed the newly renovated Other Ranks accommodation and Station, Health and wellness centre.

The Army Commander



Lt Gen AK Singh, GOC, SC, interacting with Army officers.

during his visit also interacted with Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Western Naval Command and discussed issues of maritime security and enhancement of synergy in joint operations.

The Commander also interacted with the academia of Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai at Powai in North East Mumbai. He was briefed on

various projects of internal security being developed.

Lt Gen AK Singh also called on Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. He shared the issues of common concern and assured them of continued synergy in Civil-Military relationship.

**Armed Forces Veterans Day**

In the meanwhile the

preparations are underway to observe the Armed Forces Veterans Day on January 14. The Day is observed since 2017 to honour the sacrifice of veterans serving the nation. It recognises the services rendered by Field Marshal K M Cariappa, the first commander of the Indian Commander in Chief of the Indian Armed Forces. He retired on January 14, 1953.

Run up to the Armed Forces Veterans Day, the 20th Admiral Soman memorial lecture will be held on Saturday, January 07 at the Mulla Auditorium at Navy Nagar in South Mumbai. The guest speaker will be Vice Admiral Girish Luthra (Retd), former FOC-in-C, WNC, who will deliver a speech on the subject "Indo-Pacific & the New Intersectionality of Geopolitics and Geo-economics". Vice Admiral AB Singh, FOC-in-C (West) will be the chief guest for the event.

# India reports 188 new Covid-19 cases, 3 deaths in day

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 5:

India reported 188 new coronavirus infections and three deaths in the last 24 hours, the Union health ministry said in an update on Thursday. The country's active caseload currently stands at 2,554 cases, with total reported cases since the pandemic hit in 2020 at 4,46,79,319 and death toll at 53,710.

Active cases comprise 0.01% of total infections, while the recovery stands at 98.80%, according to the ministry.

As of now, Karnataka has 309 active cases, Kerala has 1,406 active cases, Maharashtra has 140, Odisha 88 cases, Rajasthan 67 active cases, Tamil Nadu has 90 ac-

tive cases, Uttar Pradesh 89, and West Bengal has 55 active cases.

The country conducted over 1,93,051 tests were in the last 24 hours. Under the covid vaccination drive, more than 220.12 crore vaccine doses have been administered to people across the country so far. In the last 24 hours, around 61,828 doses were given.

Meanwhile, INSACOG under the supervision of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has kept up with genome sequencing to track any new variant. Hospitals are also being constantly monitored to keep a tab on Influenza-like illness (ILI) & SARI cases.

Given the fresh surge in infections some countries, RT-PCR tests have been made

mandatory for flyers coming from China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand from 1 January. They will have to upload their reports on the Air Suvidha portal before travel. This is in addition to the 2% random testing of all international passengers on their arrival at an Indian airport.

Government officials have warned that the next few days would be crucial in determining the possibility of a resurgence of covid-19 cases in India.

In addition to this, to prepare for any covid-19 emergency, the Centre has directed state governments to ensure that medical oxygen equipment are well set-up and functioning properly.

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# Demonetisation Decision Making Process Lawful....

It also provided that the limit of Rs.4,000/- for exchanging SBNs shall be reviewed after 15 days from the date of commencement of the impugned notification. It further provided that, insofar as Know Your Customer (KYC) compliant bank account maintained by a person with a bank was concerned, there was no limit on the quantity or value of the SBNs that could be credited to such an account. However, insofar as non-KYC compliant bank accounts were concerned, an outer limit was fixed at Rs.50,000/-. There were certain other provisions made under the impugned notification.

Needless to say, the Bench then mentions in para 15 that, "The matter came up for hearing before this Bench initially on 12th October, 2022 and, thereafter, on various dates. We have heard Shri P. Chidambaram and Shri Shyam Divan, learned Senior Counsel, Shri Prashant Bhushan, learned counsel, Shri Viplov Sharma, petitioner-in-person in support of the petitions and Shri R. Venkataramani, learned Attorney General appearing for the Union of India and Shri Jaideep Gupta, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the

RBI. We have also heard the learned counsels appearing in the connected petitions."

Most significantly, the Bench then mimes no words to enunciate in para 274 what constitutes the cornerstone of this notable judgment wherein it is postulated that, "Insofar as the third test is concerned, it is required to be examined as to whether the measure undertaken is necessary in that there are no alternative measures that may similarly achieve the same purpose with the lesser degree of limitation. As held in the case of M.R.F. Ltd. v. Inspector Kerala Govt. and Others (1998) 8 SCC 227, to judge the reasonableness of the restrictions, no abstract or general pattern or a fixed principle can be laid down so as to be of universal application and the same will vary from case to case. As to what measure is required to meet the aforesaid objectives is exclusively within the domain of the experts. The RBI, as already held, plays a material role in economic and monetary policy and issues relating to management and regulation of currency. The Central Government is the best judge since it has all the in-

struments with regard to fake currency, black money, terror financing & drug trafficking. As such, what measure is required to be taken to curb the menace of fake currency, black money and terror financing would be best left to the discretion of the Central Government, in consultation with the RBI. Unless the said discretion has been exercised in a palpably arbitrary and unreasonable manner, it will not be possible for the Court to interfere with the same."

It merits mentioning that the 6 questions re-framed as Reference by Justice BR Gavai are as follows: -

1. Whether the power available to the Central Government under sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act can be restricted to mean that it can be exercised only for "one" or "some" series of bank notes and not "all" series in view of the word "any" appearing before the word "series" in the sub-section, specifically so, when on earlier two occasions, the demonetisation exercise was done by the plenary legislations?

2. In the event it is held that the power under sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act

is construed to mean "all" series, whether the power vested with the Central Government under the said sub-section would amount to conferring excessive delegation and as such, liable to be struck down?

3. Whether the impugned notification dated 8th November, 2016 is liable to be struck down on the ground that the decision-making process is flawed in law?

4. Whether the impugned notification dated 8th November, 2016, is liable to be struck down applying the test of proportionality?

5. Whether the period provided for exchange of notes vide the impugned notification dated 8th November, 2016, can be said to be unreasonable?

6. Whether the RBI has an independent power under sub-section (2) of Section 24 of the 2017 Act in isolation of the provisions of Section 3 and Section 4(1) thereof to accept the demonetised notes beyond the period specified in notifications issued under subsection (1) of Section 4 of the 2017 Act?

Finally, it would be worthwhile to note that the Bench then holds in para 304 that, "We accordingly answer the Reference as under:

(i) The power available to the Central Government under sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act cannot be restricted to mean that it can be exercised only for "one" or "some" series of bank notes and not for "all" series of bank notes. The power can be exercised for all series of bank notes. Merely because on two earlier occasions, the demonetisation exercise was by plenary legislation, it cannot be held that such a power would not be available to the Central Government under sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act;

(ii) Sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act does not provide for excessive delegation inasmuch as there is an inbuilt safeguard that such a power has to be exercised on the recommendation of the Central Board. As such, sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the RBI Act is not liable to be struck down on the said ground;

(iii) The impugned Notification dated 8th November 2016 does not suffer from any flaws in the decision-making process;

(iv) The impugned Notification dated 8th November 2016 satisfies the test of proportionality and, as such, cannot be

struck down on the said ground;

(v) The period provided for exchange of notes vide the impugned Notification dated 8th November 2016 cannot be said to be unreasonable; and

(vi) The RBI does not possess independent power under sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the 2017 Act in isolation of the provisions of Sections 3 and 4(1) thereof to accept the demonetised notes beyond the period specified in notifications issued under sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the 2017 Act."

In conclusion, we thus see that the Apex Court in its majority view in the fitness of things has made it indubitably clear that demonetisation decision making process was lawful. The Apex Court also made

it crystal clear that the decision-making process cannot be faulted merely because the proposal emanated from the Central Government. We also must note here that the Court while very rightly adding a caveat on decisions of economic policy and deciding to maintain an arms length distance laid down elegantly, eloquently and effectively that, "There has to be great restraint in matters of economic policy. Court cannot supplant the wisdom of executive with its wisdom." It was also made clear that Section 26(2) RBI Act, which empowers Centre to demonetize any series of bank notes of any denomination, can be used to demonetize the whole series of currency. There can be just no denying it!

## Document Lost

I have lost my Pan Card, Aadhaar Card, Voter Card, Driving Licence, ATM Card, Service Identity Card and Smart Card on the way between Lakshmi Thongkhong Bazar to Imphal on 2nd January, 2023.

Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Laisram Enil Meitei  
Sugunu Bazar, Kakching District  
#8731054725

# Security tightened ahead Union Home Minister visit to Manipur; Operation of drones & UAVs prohibited

IT News/Agency  
Imphal, Jan 5:

Security measures has been tightened in Valley districts and Churachandpur district in the state of Manipur ahead of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah visits to Manipur.

While, state police conducts checking of suspected vehicles and people in an around Imphal area the same has also been taken up by the state police in Bishnupur and Churachandpur district.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to arrive at Bir Tikendrajit International airport at around 4.30 pm today in an Indian Air Force plane. As per scheduled he is likely to head for City Convention where the state government will organized a grand reception programme of the

Home Minister.

To ensure full proof security measures, the Manipur government has prohibited operation of drones and Unmanned Aerial vehicles (UAVs) in three districts of the state where union home minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit.

Amit Shah will visit Imphal West, Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts of Manipur where he is slated to inaugurate various projects during his two-day visit to the state.

In the Imphal West district of Manipur, the operation of drones and UAVs are prohibited from the Imphal International Airport to Kangla Park and other key areas of Imphal city including Classic Grande from 4.30 pm of January 5 till his (Manipur) departure on January 6, an official notification said.

Bishnupur district magistrate Lourembam Bikram, in an order, stated that there would be a "No Fly Zone for Drone and UAVs within one km radius area of NH-2 from Torbung till INA HQ, Moirang; Chengei Lampak, Moirang; and along NH-2 from Chengei Lampak till Ngangkhalawai Helipad Ground starting from 4.30 pm of January 5 till the time of the Union minister's departure on January 6".

Similarly in Churachandpur district, the Manipur government has also imposed a ban on using of drones and UAVs in some parts of the district including the roads to be travelled by Amit Shah.

In addition, any parked vehicles and construction materials piled along the routes

to be travelled by the union home minister should be removed by 10 am on January 5. Any failure to do so will invite strict action from the police, the order said.

During his visit, Amit Shah According will inaugurate various completed projects worth over Rs. 300 crore including the 120 feet tall statue of Polo constructed at Marjing complex in Imphal East. He further said that among others, the Union Home Minister will also officially inaugurate the Churachandpur Medical College.

Besides, the inauguration of the various completed project Union Home Minister Amit Shah will also lay foundation stones for various projects at various part of the state which is estimated over Rs. 1000 crore.

# Political party bribes media for news coverage

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 5:

Members of one political party identified as Manipur Peoples' Democratic Front (MPDF) tried to buy reporters by paying Rs. 100/- to cover their press conference at Manipur Press Club today afternoon.

The press meet was conducted by its Secretary Sapam Samungou Singh in the presence of its Presi-

dent N. Nodiachand, Former MLA and Women Wing Secretary S. Eechal Devi at Room No. 3 of Manipur Press club.

The issue that the political party tried to highlight is the problem being faced by the people due to the non-availability of safe drinking water. Sapam Samungou, the secretary of the MPDF indeed highlighted problems with the scarcity of proper and safe

drinking water and blamed the PHED department for failure to make - "Manipur Water Policy".

When the matter put forward by the political party seems genuine, it is unethical for the political party to bribe reporters for their news coverage.

Imphal Times representative earlier didn't expect such act by the political party at a time when there is a big issue of paid media.

# 47th Foundation Day of Manipur Press Club

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 5:

The 47th Foundation Day of Manipur Press Club will be held tomorrow, 6th Jan at the premises of Manipur Press Club, Majorkhul. The Foundation Day celebration will be

attended by Dr. Thangjam Dhabali, Chairman and Managing Director, Babina Group of Company, Wangkhemcha Shamjai, President All Manipur Working Journalists' Union, Khogendra Khomdra, President Editors' Guild Manipur and Ningombam Ibochouba,

Managing Director, Bhartia Infra Projects Ltd. as Chief Guest, President, and Guest of Honour respectively.

This edition of Manipur Press Club's Foundation Day will see the inauguration of two Guest Rooms at Manipur Press Club.

# CM attends Poumai Thounii 2023 Let us Forgive and forget our historical mistakes says Chief Minister

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 5:

We are one, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said highlighting recent celebration at Makhel and the significance of the Makhel Heritage Park.

The Chief Minister was speaking as the Chief Guest of the inaugural function of the three day long Poumai Thounii 2023 on its second day at Phaibung Khullen, Senapati District, celebrated under the theme Sustaining Culture. Poumai Thounii which began on January 4 will conclude on January 6, 2023.

"Let us forgive and forget our historical mistakes," the Chief Minister said highlighting his efforts to bring unity and equal development in the State and sought support and cooperation of the public.

N Biren Singh stressed on his relation with the Poumai community and said it dates back to his early days as a NEROCA player. He lauded the community for their discipline, hardwork and traditional values and said the communities of the State have brotherly relations.

We had been set apart due to lack of development, interaction and communication between the people in the past, the Chief Minister said highlighting the need to visit and interact with people from across the State to bring unity in the State.

He further stressed on the benefits of introducing the Go to Hills and Go to Village schemes. Senapati district has also witnessed a huge developmental change over the past few years, he said highlighting the construction of Ima market, installation of open gyms, trauma centres, blood bank, oxygen plant etc.

The Chief Minister also highlighted ongoing projects like indigenous sports complex, amusement park, astro turf installation at the district headquarter.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the government's efforts on war on drugs and to bring an end to corruption



and further lauded and thanked the Poumai community for their support and response to the war on drugs.

N. Biren also said that it is encouraging that the people seems to be emphasizing more on terrace cultivation rather than taking up jhum cultivation, and added that the government is also in the process to encourage terrace cultivation.

Speaking on the memorandum submitted to him, the Chief Minister expressed that he is quite impressed that the memorandum has laid special emphasis on natural and organic farming. He further assured to look into the memorandum.

N. Biren Singh was accorded a warm welcome by the public of the area. Traditional trumpets were blown on his arrival. The Chief Minister also unveiled a monolith of the village.

Cultural dance performances, fire making, whooping by Phaibung Union, release of souvenir, greetings from civil organizations and folk tunes were highlights of the inaugural function.

The function was also attended by Cabinet Ministers Govindas Konthoujam, Letpao Haokip, L. Susindro Meitei, MP

Dr Lorho SPföze, MLA J Kumo Sha, Losii Dikho among others.

Several stalls also exhibited local products of the nearby villages. Including from Pural Rosofii, Chingmai

Khunou, Pural Akutpa, Lakhama, Laii, Koide, Thingba Khullen, Maiba, Siimai, Ngari Raiduloumai, Kodom Khullen, Ngari Khullen, Khamson, Phuba, Taiwan Songdo, Phaibung Khullen.

Courtesy: NE NOW  
Imphal, Jan 5:

Chairman of the Manipur Tribal Revolutionary Army (MTRA) and one of his followers were arrested while trying to extort money at Mantripukhri Bazar under the Heingang police station in Imphal east district of Manipur.

Two mobile handsets and some incriminating documents have been recovered from them, an official source informed on Wednesday.

Acting on reliable information, a team of commandos of the Imphal east district police in Manipur managed to trap the two rebels at Mantripukhri Bazar at around 5 pm on Tuesday.

Based on the input provided by the rebels after interrogation, the commandos found that they came to the marketplace to collect extortion money to expand their networks.

The arrested chairman has been identified as Chuirei Makung (42), a resident of

Manthuram village under Kasom police station in Manipur.

The other militant, who has been arrested, has been identified as Asonam Shinglai Tangkhul (40) of Lungin village in Chandel district of Manipur, a police statement stated.

The arrested persons along with the seized items have been handed over to the Heingang police station in Manipur for taking up further legal procedures against the duo, the statement added.

# NSCN-K's 'PM' Isak Sumi impeached for imposing 'one-man govt' policy

Agency  
Kohima, Jan 5:

The Ato Kilonser or the 'prime minister' of Khango led NSCN-K Isak Sumi has been impeached by the group after Sumi was found guilty of imposing a 'one-man government policy'.

As per an impeachment order issued from NSCN/

GPRN-K by its president styled Lt Gen (Retd) Khango Konyak, SS Col (Retd) Isak Sumi was found guilty of grabbing absolute control of powers and functions without the concern of collective leadership.

Sumi was also accused of non-distribution of powers and functions, nepotism, and exposing self-style one-man

government policy, which it said is completely in violation of the Yezhabo (Constitution) and discipline.

As per the order, Sumi shall no longer be a member of NSCN/GPRN-K and the organisation shall not be responsible for any of his actions.

The order came to force on Thursday.

# Governor visits Kumbi and interacts with people

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 5:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan visited Kumbi in Moirang Sub-Division of Bishnupur district and interacted with MLAs, DLOs, CSOs, local clubs and people today. Governor enquired about various developmental works taking up in the district particularly in Kumbi Assembly Constituency and also heard about the grievances and problems raised by the people there. He assured to extend all possible help in the best interest of the people saying that he will ask the concerned authorities including the Chief Minister to take steps at the earliest.

Speaking at the interaction programme held at Kumbi Kangeibung, Governor said, his objective is to interact with people of different communi-

ties in the State to know their culture, tradition and way of life. He said, most of the issues raised by the people are genuine and therefore it has to be addressed in a time bound manner. He said, issues pertaining to connectivity, healthcare, education, irrigation etc. are the basic issues which have to be addressed as soon as possible. He asked the concerned officials to take appropriate steps for the welfare of the people.

La. Ganesan said, due to prompt action of the State Government and with the support of people, Covid-19 pandemic is almost under control. Covid vaccination has to be encouraged further and appealed people to come out for vaccination. He also appealed to conduct a survey in Bishnupur district to find out TB patients and report to the concerned Department so as to enable them to carry out



remedial measures. Expressing concern over the increasing number of drug user among the youth in the State, Governor said, this has to be, in any case, prevented with collective efforts including CSOs and general public. Collective efforts are very much necessary and State government has already committed to make this State,

drug free State. He continued that G-20 meeting is going to be held in Bishnupur district for which we all should feel proud of it. After a few years, Bishnupur district particularly the Loktak Lake will be one of the most popular Tourist hubs of the State for which unstinted support from the public is quite indispensable, he added.

S. Premchandra Singh, MLA, I. Nalini, MLA, T. Robinro, MLA, M. Asnikumar, Chairman LDA and former MLA S. Bira attended the interaction programme. Deputy Commissioner, Bishnupur L. Bikram, SP Bishnupur, district level officers, students and people from adjoining areas of Kumbi also attended the programme.