

12th Manipur Legislative Assembly

Expert Committee report on Liquor Legalisation by March end: Chief Minister

IT News
Imphal, Mar 3:

On the last day of the ensuing 3rd session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, Leader of the House N. Biren Singh, replying to a question raised by MLA K. Ranjit Singh, said that an expert committee has been constituted to look into liquor legalization. He also said that the expert committee will submit a report by the end of this month. Responding to another question raised by the MLA, Chief Minister N. Biren informed the House that there are 2,28,520 hectares of land under paddy cultivation in the State. From 2017 to January 2023, 3,017 cases have

been registered for violation of the Paddy land and Wetland Act, 2014, the CM added.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Paolienal Haokip, Chief Minister N. Biren said that 18,500.6 acres of poppy plantations had been destroyed since the inception of "War on Drugs" till date. The Chief Minister further said that the government will extend all possible assistance to poppy planters on humanitarian ground even if there is no definite plan to provide livelihood means for them.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Th. Lokeshwar Singh, Fisheries Minister H. Dingo Singh said that fish pond scheme is avail-

able under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and that fish farmers belonging to SC/ST/Women will receive 60% subsidy whereas the subsidy will be 40% for general category.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Surjakumar Okram, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Y. Khemchand Singh informed that the expected amount receivable under MGNREGS for 100 days for the year 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 are 1301.86 Crores, 1398.07 Crores and 1498.47 crores respectively.

Later, the Leader of the House laid three papers on the table of the House: (i) Medium Term Fiscal Policy

Statement, Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement & Macro Economic Framework Statement and Disclosures (ii) Report of the Fourth Manipur State Finance Commission 2021-2026, Volume I & II and (iii) Explanatory Memorandum as to the Action Taken on the Recommendations made by the 4th Manipur State Finance Commission in its Report submitted on 31.07.2021. The Leader of the House also moved the Manipur Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2023 (Bill No. 3 of 2023) for consideration and passing.

Leader of Opposition Okram Ibobi Singh and MLA K. Ranjit Singh also expressed their observations on the Appropriation Bill.

Police arrest suspected UG



IT News
Imphal, Mar 3:

A team of Kakching Police Commando unit led by Jem E Subhachandra arrested one suspected underground cadre while conducting search operation at Arong Nongmaikhong area early today morning.

Police source said that the

UG cadre was arrested after the police team conducted search operation at the area after getting credible information about the presence of some armed cadres belonging to rebel group.

The suspected UG cadre arrested has been identified as Salam Santa s/o Salam Singhajit of Nongmaikhong Mayai Leikai. On verification,

he disclosed that he was a member of the banned rebel organization and was working under one Punshiba of the outfit. He revealed that he was tasked to extort money in Arong Nongmaikhong area of Kakching district, the police source said. The person has been handed over to Arong Police station for further investigation.

Kaladan Project delayed due to Myanmar, says Union Minister RK Ranjan Singh

Courtesy: EastMojo
Aizawl, Mar 3:

Union Minister of State for External Affairs RK Ranjan Singh on Thursday said that the ambitious Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP) was delayed due to political uncertainty in Myanmar.

He said that the Centre prioritises the bilateral cross-border project and also the waterways project with Bangladesh under the Act East policy.

"Because of the unpredictable atmosphere occurring in Myanmar, our progress in view of the Kaladan project is a bit de-railing," Singh told a news conference here.

He said that the Kaladan



project was strategically planned by the Centre to connect the northeastern part of the country with Indo-Pacific countries.

"The Kaladan project is intentionally and strategically planned by the Centre with the full cooperation of the Mizoram government.

The project, if it comes true, will help us to be exposed to the Indian ocean and also link us with all Indo-Pacific countries," Singh, who is also from the Northeast (Manipur), said.

Even though the Kaladan project was derailing, the Centre has an alternative and

is looking for waterways towards Bangladesh, according to the Union Minister.

RK Ranjan Singh on Thursday attended the G20 business meeting held in Aizawl.

Addressing the meeting held at Mizoram University (MZU), Singh said that the Northeastern region has a big youth population, who are agile in skilling and have good experience in communicating English fluently with clients.

"This must be leveraged by our business community in employing these skilled individuals across sectors. The NE region has the diverse potential to propel 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' by being the engines of growth," he said.

Police foils kidnap attempt, rescue driver

IT News
Imphal, Mar 20:

A team of Imphal East police led by OC Kh. Henery foils a kidnap attempt of a driver and rescue him from gunmen in Chingarel area last evening.

Report reaching here said that, a driver of a Tata Mega Excel truck bearing Registration No. MN 06 L 2728 was stopped by six gunmen came in two wheeler vehicles near

Salanthong area in Imphal each. The driver of the truck has been identified as Noor Khan (39) son of Md. Abdul Rahim. The six gunmen reportedly came in two wheeler vehicles – one a white colour Activa and another a yellow colour Dio. The gunmen over power the driver and took him towards Chingarel Tezpur area but the driver Noor Khan managed to escape and hide somewhere taking advantage of the darkness.

On receiving the information the team of Imphal East Police led by OC Kh. Henery rushed to the site and conducted search operation to rescue the driver. The truck was found in between Sajai Jail and Chingarel. When conducting search operation Noor Khan was seen hiding in a pile of straw. He was rescued and later on follow up action the gunmen managed to escape however a pistol with bullets was found by the police team.

AR apprehends a drug peddler with Heroin worth 1 crore

IT News
Imphal, Mar 3:

Loktak Battalion of Headquarters 27 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police Commando team apprehended a Drug Peddler along with Heroin worth approximately

Rs. 1 Crore at Torbung Awang Leikai Community Hall, Churachandpur District of Manipur yesterday.

Based on specific input received from the Battalion's intelligence team the troops of Assam Rifles launched a joint operation with Police Commando which led to the successful apprehension of the drug peddler. On subsequent

interrogation and frisking a total quantity of 1.195 Kg of Heroin No 4 worth approximately Rs 1 Crore was recovered from the individual's possession.

The apprehended drug peddler was handed over to Phoujakchao Ikhai Police Station for further investigation after following due course of formalities.

2nd Society of Psychiatric Nurses, Manipur Conference

IT News
Imphal, Mar 3:

The Second Annual Conference of 'Society of Psychiatric Nurses Manipur', (SPNMCON), 2023 was held today (3rd March, 2023) at Jubilee Hall, RIMS, Imphal.

The conference was organized by SPNM in association with Department of Psychiatry, RIMS & Share and Care Foundation, Wangkhei, Imphal.

Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh, Vice Chancellor, Dhanamajuri University, Manipur, Kh. Ratna Devi, President, Society of Psychiatric Nurses Manipur, Dr. Arunjioti Baruah, HOD, Nursing, LGBRIMH, Tezpur, Assam, Prof. H. Priyosakhi Devi, Director, RIMS, Imphal, Dr. N. Hemantakumar Singh, Addl. Director/Consultant Neurologist, Manipur Health Services, Govt. of Manipur and Dr. R.K. Lenin Singh, Prof. Dept. of Psychiatry, RIMS/ Founder,



Share and Care (SAC), Wangkhei graced the event as the Chief Guest, President, Special Guest and Guests of Honor respectively.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh said, "the main objective of this

conference is to highlight the need for prioritising the mental health of healthcare providers and understanding how to balance professional and personal health".

Further, Prof. H. Priyosakhi Devi mentioned that "nurses

are the backbone of the medical society" stressing that "the specially trained nurses are very reliable in spite of their less number". She also added that they are the need of the hour, given that they are in a very vulnerable field.

Rail connectivity in North-East:

Construction of new Jiribam - Imphal line nears completion

Courtesy: Financial Express
Imphal, Mar 3:

To boost rail connectivity in the North-Eastern states, Indian Railways is executing several projects in full swing in the region. Of these, the Jiribam - Imphal new line railway project is of immense importance. On completion of the track work, the capital city of Manipur will get connected to the rest of the country. Presently, the construction of a new track between Jiribam and Imphal is at the final stage.

The 110 km long Jiribam to Imphal new line railway project has 52 tunnels and bridges in tough terrains. Among the tunnels, tunnel number 12 is the

longest tunnel of this project. It passes through the most complex geological condition having fragile soil type conditions. The 10.275 km long tunnel includes a 529 metre RCC Ramp with a parallel safety tunnel of length 8.30 km.

The construction work of the tunnel has been one of the most challenging jobs for the railway authorities. Considering the complex geological condition of Imphal valley, the North East Frontier Railway has adopted vertical shaft technology to build tunnels. Normally, this sort of technology was used in Metro projects but for the first time in the history of the zonal railway, the vertical shaft technology was fol-

lowed. The Vertical Shaft technology helps to reduce the construction time of balance tunnelling stretch and thereby expedites the progress of the tunnel work. All the tunnelling activities will be done through a vertical shaft with the help of a Gantry Crane and other modern machinery.

In FY 2023-24, the Ministry of Railways is also focusing to boost connectivity to the remotest part of the country. For this, the laying of the track is most important. The ministry has set a target to lay tracks for a distance of 7,000 km in the next fiscal. This includes new lines, doubling, tripling, gauge conversion, etc.

North East trusted in BJP Ruling

By: Abhijit Roy

Voters in three northeastern states who recently voted have placed their trust in the ruling parties and alliances. The results of the assembly elections in the three northeastern states are encouraging for the BJP but concerning for the Congress. This is possibly the first time that the assembly elections in the northeastern states have piqued the interest of the entire country. The good news for the country is that the previously isolated Northeast is becoming more connected to the rest of the country. Without a doubt, the BJP's victory in Tripura, a former Leftist stronghold, is surprising, while its coalition government has returned to Nagaland.

The BJP has crossed the double-digit threshold in this state for the first time. Where the BJP is strong, it forms governments on its own, while where it is weak, it accepts the role of a minor party. The BJP attributes its success to an increase in vote percentage in Meghalaya. It could be argued that keeping the Northeast on the agenda is advantageous for the BJP. The impact of the Prime Minister's constant visits to the Northeast is also visible in the election results.

To bring the Northeast into the country's mainstream, the Prime Minister has stated that it is neither far from Delhi nor far from the heart. However, the BJP's formation of governments in Tripura and Nagaland, as well as its efforts to form a government in Meghalaya, lays the groundwork for assembly elections in several key states this year. However, a Tripura government led by the BJP and the Indigenous People's Front is forming. It is attempting to form a new government in Meghalaya with the NPP, which was a partner in the previous alliance. This is what the preliminary results of the talks indicate.

In Nagaland, the BJP is forming a government with the NDPP. The BJP demonstrated its growing mass base by winning 12 seats for the first time. In Nagaland and Meghalaya, the BJP has no qualms about becoming a minor power partner. Indeed, the BJP's strategies have become increasingly focused on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. There was speculation that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra would affect the elections there and that Congress would reap its benefits. That didn't happen, though. The results of the NE poll represent another setback for Congress, which suffered embarrassing losses in Punjab and Gujarat last year. The party drew a blank in Nagaland, queered the pitch for the Left in Tripura, and failed to prevent the defection of Mukul Sangma to the TMC in Meghalaya. That is bad news for the big old party, which now faces more pressure in other elections this year.

Startups & North-East India connect: Untapped potential

By: Rupa Dutta

The term "startup" became popular in the late 1990s as a result of the "dot-com" bubble. Although the term does not have a universally accepted definition, it is commonly understood to refer to new businesses. According to DPIIT, an entity will be considered a "start-up" for a period of 10 years from the date of incorporation/registration and if its revenue for any of the financial years since incorporation/registration has not exceeded Rs 100 crore. The startups are expected to focus on the innovation & improvement of products, services, processes, and are crucial economic development agents, and sustainable growth. They generate employment, promote social inclusion and reduce income disparities. They have technological advancement and economic growth in both developed and emerging markets today. The global startup economy is propelled by the growth and innovation of startups.

There is no denying that Startups are key drivers of global economic growth due to their capacity to rapidly develop innovative solutions. With the assistance of funding entities, incubators, technology providers, and policymakers, their focus on cutting-edge technology and disruptive innovation has aided their global expansion. During COVID-19 pandemic, startups played a crucial role in driving innovation and adapting to rapidly changing market demands by launching a variety of digital health services, "contactless" food delivery, and remote working and learning tools.

India's startup ecosystem has developed tremendously from 400 registered startups in 2014 to approximately 85,000 registered

startups with more than 100 unicorns and a combined valuation of \$350 billion. India has the third-highest number of unicorns in the world, thus it is only a matter of time until it tops this list. According to research by Nasscom, India added more than 1,300 active technology firms in the past year, bringing the overall number of active technology startups to between 25,000 and 27,000. In addition, the nation added over 23 unicorns in FY2022, ranking it second in the world.

The expansion of India's startup ecosystem can be attributed to a number of government initiatives designed to encourage entrepreneurship in the nation. Launched in 2016, the Startup India programme provides startup companies with tax breaks, self-certification, and expedited patent applications. Other initiatives, such as the Atal Innovation Mission and Digital India, are centred on fostering innovation and creating a digital infrastructure and startup-friendly ecosystem. A national network of incubation centres and accelerators, offering co-working spaces, investor access, and networking opportunities, has been established to provide access to resources and mentorship. Because of all these initiatives India has become one of the most vibrant startup ecosystems and has attracted global attention and investment.

India's 41-place rise on the Global Innovation Index over the last seven years can be attributed to the government's unwavering efforts, and this demonstrates the importance of innovation & innovation is main ingredient for a startup. The Indian startup ecosystem has benefited from a growing network of

angel investors and incubators, as well as partnerships among startups, corporations, and universities.

Historically, India's startup ecosystem has been linked to tier 1 cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Delhi. However, a startup ecosystem is gradually gaining traction in India's north-eastern region. As a result of government policies and initiatives, the number of startups in North-east is increasing exponentially.

The startup ecosystem in the Northeast is comprised of over 900 DPIIT-recognized startups that have created over 8,800 jobs, with around 42% of these startups having at least one female director.

The Northeast Entrepreneurship Fellowship was established to advance the startup ecosystem. It is a unique programme that connects, networks, and trains entrepreneurs from the entire Northeast. Since the launch of Startup India as a national platform, the number of startups in the Northeast has grown, and in November 2022, Startup India hosted ASCEND (Accelerating Startup Calibre & Entrepreneurial Drive) workshops in the states of the Northeast. The North-eastern Council, with the B-School Incubator IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, has launched the first-ever North-East Entrepreneurship Development Programme (NEEDP) at the NEC Secretariat in Nongrim Hills, Shillong. The initiative, which is considered a ground-breaking initiative, which will benefit beneficiaries from all eight states in the region as it aims to identify and empower 270 promising entrepreneurs from North-East India via well-planned incubation and pre-incubation programmes.

The Northeast Venture Fund (NEVF), which was founded in collaboration with the North-eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi), intends to equip companies in the region with the funding they need to grow and attract outside investment.

The establishment of some of the finest educational institutions, such as IIM and NIFT, will go a long way towards establishing the Northeast as a resource and training destination of choice. The Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship is an additional government organisation dedicated to enterprise development and capacity building for state residents.

The Northeast region of India has tremendous potential for investment, trade, and startups. To establish a robust startup ecosystem, it is essential to provide aspiring innovators and founders with the infrastructure, guidance, and support they require from ecosystem enablers such as incubators, mentors, and academia. Government of India had taken a number of initiatives to make this happen. It has become an attractive location for entrepreneurs as a result of significant improvements in transportation and connectivity over the past few years and concerted administrative efforts. Young people & entrepreneurs are increasingly drawn to the region to explore its untapped potential by utilising the government's various supportive policies and measures. As India continues to attract global attention, it is time to unlock the potential of the North-east and open it to the world.

(The author is a Principal Economic Advisor and Yash Rawat, Consultant-DPIIT)

Foreign Languages



By: Vijay GarG

A foreign language can be defined as a language that is indigenous to another country. A foreign language is also a language not spoken in the native country of the person referred to, i.e. a person living in India and speaking Indian languages can say that Chinese is a foreign language for him. These two characterizations do not exhaust the possible definitions, however, and the label is occasionally applied in ways that are variously misleading or factually inaccurate. The definition of the foreign language is vast, and cannot be confined into one single definition.

There are also students who learn more than one language from birth or from a very young age, they are bilingual or multilingual. These children can be said to have two, three or more mother tongues and neither language is foreign to that child, even if one language is a foreign language for the vast majority of people in the child's birth country. For example, a child learning English from her English father and Japanese at school in Japan can speak both English and Japanese, but neither is a foreign language to him. Learning a new language can be a lot of fun and rewarding experience and at the same time, it is also

not a very easy job to do. There are a lot of benefits associated with learning new languages.

There is no age for learning a new language and learning a new language at any age can be an enormously rewarding experience in many ways. There are a lot of rewards associated with learning a new language. While language learning is an enriching experience for all ages, children have the most to gain from this wonderful adventure, also learning a new language at a young age is quite easy. Quite simply, starting early offers the widest possible set of benefits and opportunities. Besides having a new learning experience, we also get to know more about the culture of other people when we study their language. We also become aware of other civilizations and every culture has something or other for us to offer, which is beneficial for us.

The Benefits of Learning a Foreign Language

We all go to school with something or other in our minds. Our parents send us to school to learn new things that will help us become a learned personality which would help us in some way or the other. Education never goes wasted, and all that we learned to remain with us for our lifetime and we do use that information in some place or the other. In the same way, learning a foreign language also brings in with it a lot of advantages of its own. Learning a new language is not very easy, though learning a foreign language takes time and dedication but still learning involves a lot of fun. Different people have different reasons to learn a new language, some reasons are practical, some inspirational, some intellectual and others sentimental,

but whatever your reasons, having a clear idea of why you're learning a language can help to motivate you in your studies and makes the job a lot easy.

There are a number of reasons why you should learn a foreign language. Some may opt for a new language as a hobby class while for some people it is necessary because of job purpose or business. In our world today, only one-fifth of the population speaks English. So, learning another language is important for both works as well as if you travel to a country like Brazil etc. where about 80% of the population does not speak English. It is also important for making real connections with people, and lastly, it can give you a greater understanding of your own language.

Benefits of Foreign Language in Job

There are a lot of countries that have huge economies and are quite lucrative for seeking jobs but those nations do not speak English, in this case, a candidate with knowledge of their language can easily score a job in that particular country. China, for example, is one of the most populous countries in the world and is continuously growing in importance both economically as well as politically. Since most of the people speak Chinese there; it can be difficult for tourists as well as a candidate who wants a job in that country. Learning a language like Chinese would definitely enhance your chances of getting a job, and not just in China. Chinese is a language that is spoken all over the world. Almost every country in the world has a Chinatown, from the United States, to Canada, Australia, London, and much of Europe. Throughout Asia – in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia – people speak Chinese.

Benefits of Foreign Languages in Business

If your work involves regular contact with speakers of foreign languages, being able to talk to them in their own languages will help you a lot to communicate with them. It may also help you to make sales and to negotiate and secure contracts though you may have an interpreter to translate your thoughts it gives a much better impact when you explain things yourself. Knowledge of foreign languages may also increase your chances of finding a new job, getting a promotion or a transfer overseas, or of going on foreign business trips. A lot of English-speaking business people don't bother to learn other languages as they believe that most of the people they do business within foreign countries can speak English, and if they don't speak English, interpreters can be used. The lack of foreign language knowledge puts the English speakers at a disadvantage. It is also a fact that during any kind of socializing after the meetings, the locals will probably feel more comfortable using their own language rather than English. Hence if you travel a lot for business or work, then learning their language is a must.

Benefits of Foreign Language during Traveling

You may think of travelling outside your country for a vacation. Many English speakers seem to believe that wherever you go on holiday you can manage by speaking English, so there's no point in learning any other languages. Well, this is not always true; there are a lot of countries in this world where people do not speak English. If people don't understand you all you have to do is speak slowly and turn up the volume. You can more or less get away with this, as long as you stick to popular tourist resorts and hotels where you can usually find someone who speaks English. However,

if you want to venture beyond such places, to get to know the locals, to read signs, menus, etc., knowing the local language is necessary. Sometimes the situation can get really fussy when you do not know the local languages of the country you are travelling to. A lot of countries which are really famous among tourists like Brazil, China, and Spain etc. are the examples of countries where people do not speak English.

Foreign Languages Enhance Confidence

It is also believed that more you learn, more confident you tend to become of your personality. Learning one or more than one language may give you a great sense of self-confidence and you tend to become confident in your abilities. Learning a new language gives your brain a boost. Many scholars, authors, artists, poets, and other people of professions that require an excellent grasp of their own language, study another language as well. This is often because learning another language helps to improve your English as well as gives a boost to your brain which further improves your confidence.

Advantages of Learning at Early Age

It is always believed that the child is the best time to learn anything, and even in the case of learning a new language, it is the same. Starting at young has many advantages. Children understand intuitively that language is something to explore, to play around with and to enjoy. During younger times, there is a lot of enthusiasm for learning new things; their enthusiasm is both infectious and effective. Their brains are really quick and sharp; the quickness with which they pick up their first language is nearly miraculous. There are a lot of other reasons to get started at a younger age. There are a lot of benefits associated with

learning another language at a young age.

Learning a foreign language at an early stage gives a great boost to confidence. Children are always discovering new things, but learning a new language can be a uniquely rewarding experience for the student of any age. For children, the feeling of accomplishment that comes with their first steps toward a second language can spur them on to a deeper and broader passion for learning in general. And because children are at a special "window of opportunity" in which language learning is intuitive and natural, the ease and pleasure of the experience may boost their confidence and their desire for new discoveries. Some other benefits of learning a foreign language at a young age are:

Gives Brains a Boost: Learning a new language opens the horizons of your brain and acts as a gateway for the healthy brain. The mind is much more like a muscle than we've ever realized. Our mind needs to get cognitive exercise and it is not like a piece of clay on which you put an indelible mark. Research into the effects of bilingualism on children suggests that exposure to more than one language is an excellent way of flexing those brain muscles and building them up, too. Bilingual children in one study reported in Nature showed a significantly larger density of grey matter in their brains which is a very good sign. And those who had been exposed to a second language from an early age proved to have the most grey matter of all. Grey matter is an important part of the human brain that is responsible for processing information, including memory, speech, and sensory perception. And if it can be increased by exposure to a second language, then language learning would be just like taking your brain to the gym.

contd. on page 3

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PM addresses Post Budget Webinar on 'Developing Tourism in Mission Mode'

"These webinars work as a catalyst in achieving the goals set during the budget" - Prime Minister

**PIB
New Delhi, Mar 3:**

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, addressed a Post Budget Webinar on the subject of 'Developing Tourism in Mission Mode'. It is the seventh of a series of 12 post-budget webinars organized by the government to seek ideas and suggestions for effectively implementing the initiatives announced in the Union Budget 2023.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that the new India of today is moving forward with a new work culture. He expressed delight at the appreciation shown towards this year's Budget by the people of India. Reflecting on the previous work culture, the Prime Minister said that something as innovative as the post-budget webinars would not have existed if not for the present government's spirit of discussions with all the stakeholders before and after the budget. The Prime Minister underlined that the main objective of these webinars is to maximize the output of the budget as well as its timely implementation. "These webinars work as a catalyst in achieving the goals set during the budget", Modi said. Speaking from the experience of working as the head of the government for more than 20 years, the Prime Minister emphasized that the desired results are achieved within the stipulated time when all stakeholders align themselves with any strategic decisions taken by the government. He expressed happiness at the suggestions received through the post-budget webinars that have been conducted so far.

The Prime Minister underlined the need to think out of the box and plan ahead to take tourism in India to new heights. Throwing light on the parameters before a tourist destination is developed, the Prime Minister listed out the potential of the place, ease of travelling to the destination, and new ways to promote the destination. He further added that emphasizing these parameters helps in preparing a

roadmap for the future. The Prime Minister highlighted the huge scope of tourism in the country and listed out coastal tourism, beach tourism, mangrove tourism, Himalayan tourism, adventure tourism, wildlife tourism, eco-tourism, heritage tourism, spiritual tourism, wedding destinations, tourism via conferences and sports tourism. He also gave the example of Ramayan Circuit, Buddha Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Northeast Circuit, Gandhi Circuit, and pilgrimages of all saints, and stressed the need to work together collectively on this. The Prime Minister informed that several places in India have been identified through the route of competitive spirit and challenge in this year's Budget while also focusing on the holistic development of the destinations. Modi asked for a detailed discussion on how different stakeholders can be engaged.

The Prime Minister busted the myth that tourism is a fancy word associated only with the high-income groups of the country. He noted that yatras have been a part of India's cultural and social life for centuries and people used to go on pilgrimages even when there were no resources available to them. He gave the example of Char Dham Yatra, Dwadash Jyotirling Yatra, 51 Shaktipeeth Yatra and said that it is used to connect the places of our faith while also strengthening the unity of the country. Observing that the entire economy of many big cities of the country was dependent on these yatras, the Prime Minister lamented the lack of development to enhance facilities suited to the times despite the age-old tradition of yatras. He pointed out that hundreds of years of slavery and the political neglect of these places in the decades after independence were the root cause that inflicted damage to the country. "The India of today is changing this situation", the Prime Minister interjected as he noted that the increase in the facilities leads to an increase in the attraction among the tourists. He gave the example of Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi and informed that

around 80 lakh people used to visit the temple in a year before it was rebuilt, but the tourist footfall crossed 7 crores last year after the renovation. He also informed that 15 lakh devotees have gone to see Baba Kedar compared to only 4-5 lakhs before the completion of reconstruction work in Kedarghati. Similarly in Pavagadh of Gujarat, the Prime Minister informed that 80 thousand pilgrims go for the darshan of Maa Kalika compared to only 4 to 5 thousand people before the renovation. The Prime Minister noted that the increase in facilities has a direct impact on the number of tourists and the increasing numbers mean more opportunities for employment and self-employment. The Prime Minister also touched upon the Statue of Unity, the tallest statue in the world and informed that 27 lakh tourists visited the place within a year of its completion. He underlined that India's tourism sector can increase manifold with growing civic amenities, good digital connectivity, good hotels and hospitals, no trace of filth, and excellent infrastructure.

The Prime Minister also mentioned the Kankaria lake project in Ahmedabad, Gujarat and informed that skill development for those working in the food stalls was carried out apart from the redevelopment of the lake. He emphasized on cleanliness along with modern infrastructure and informed that about 10,000 people visit the place every day despite the applicable entry fees. "Every tourist destination can also develop its own revenue model", the Prime Minister said.

"Our villages are becoming centers of tourism", the Prime Minister remarked as he underlined that remote villages are now coming up on the tourism map due to their improving infrastructure. He informed that the Central Government has started the Vibrant Village Scheme for the villages situated along the border and emphasized the need to support businesses such as homestays, small hotels and restaurants.

Throwing the spotlight on the increasing number of foreign tourists in India, the Prime Minister noted the growing attraction towards India and informed that 8 lakh foreign tourists

have come to India in January this year compared to only 2 lakhs in January last year. The Prime Minister also underlined the need to profile such tourists and create a special strategy to attract them to the country who have the maximum spending capacity. He informed that foreign tourists who come to India spend an average of \$1700, while international travelers spend an average of \$2500 in America and around \$5000 in Australia. "India has a lot to offer to high-spending tourists", he pointed out. The Prime Minister stressed that every state needs to change its tourism policy to align with this thought. He gave the example of bird watchers who camp in the country for months and underlined that policies should be made to target such potential tourists.

Highlighting the basic challenge of the tourism sector, the Prime Minister pointed out the lack of professional tourist guides here and stressed the need for certificate courses in local colleges for guides. He suggested that guides working in a particular tourist destination should also have a specific dress or uniform so that tourists will come to know at first glance. The Prime Minister noted that a tourist's mind is full of questions and guides can help them find answers to all those questions.

The Prime Minister also stressed promoting school and college trips to the northeast so that more people become aware and start developing infrastructure and facilities for tourists. He also emphasized promoting wedding destinations as well as sports destinations. The Prime Minister insisted on developing 50 such tourist destinations that every tourist from around the globe is bound to visit on his trip to India. He also mentioned developing apps for tourist destinations in all languages listed in the United Nations.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that this webinar will seriously consider every aspect related to tourism and come up with better solutions.

"Tourism has the same potential in the country as agriculture, real estate development, infrastructure and textile", the Prime Minister concluded.

Meghalaya: NPP chief Conrad Sangma meets governor, stakes claim to form government



**Agency
Shillong, Mar 3:**

Meghalaya chief minister and NPP national president Conrad Sangma, on Friday, met governor Phagu Chauhan and staked claim to form new government in the state.

Conrad Sangma claimed that his party – the NPP – has an "absolute majority with 32 MLAs" in the 60-member Meghalaya legislative assembly.

We have an absolute majority. The BJP has already extended its support. Some others have also given their support," said NPP chief

Conrad Sangma.

Conrad Sangma also "submitted the letter of resignation as chief minister of Meghalaya" to governor Phagu Chauhan in the meeting.

Two BJP leaders – AL Hek and Sanbor Shullai – who secured victory from their respective constituencies also accompanied Conrad Sangma in the meeting with the Meghalaya governor.

The National People's Party (NPP) emerged as the single-largest party in the state, bagging 26 seats out of the 59 constituencies that went to polls recently.

The United Democratic Party (UDP), which was NPP's ally in the Sangma government, emerged as the second-largest party, winning 11 constituencies.

Meanwhile, the BJP had also advised its state unit in Meghalaya to support the NPP in forming the next government in the state.

The newly formed Voice of the People Party (VPP) won four seats, while the Hill State People's Democratic Party (HSPDP) and the People's Democratic Front won two seats each. Two Independent candidates also emerged victorious.

India records 283 new Covid-19 cases, active tally at 2,525

**Agency
New Delhi, Mar 3:**

India logged 283 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases rose to 2,525, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

According to news agency, the death toll stands at 5,30,772.

The Covid case tally was recorded at 4.46 crore (4,46,87,162) and the national recovery rate has been recorded at 98.80 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,53,865, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.63 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra on Thursday logged 48 new Covid-19 cases, taking the overall tally to 81,37,710, while no fresh death linked to the infection was registered in the state, said the health department.

The death toll remained unchanged at 1,48,421, said the health department in a bulletin.

As per the bulletin, the Pune administrative circle reported the highest 26 new cases followed by 11 in the Mumbai circle, seven in

Nashik, two in Akola, one each in Latur and Kolhapur circles.

An administrative circle consists of multiple districts.

The number of recoveries rose to 79,89,065 after 22 patients recuperated from the respiratory illness in the last 24 hours, leaving the state with 224 active cases, said the bulletin.

Of the 224 active Covid-19 cases, the highest 69 are in Pune district, followed by 58 in Mumbai and 33 in Thane district, among others, it said.

Maharashtra's coronavirus recovery rate was 98.17 per cent, while the case fatality rate stood at 1.82 per cent, said the department.

Contd. from Page 2

Foreign.....

Greater Opportunities at College: Competition these days is increasing day by day. Colleges now place an increasingly high value on knowledge of more than one language. As the admissions process becomes more competitive across the board, knowing a second or a third language adds a new dimension to an applicant's resume. And as the economy becomes more and more globalized, English-only becomes less and less of an option. Knowledge of a third language can also help you get an on-campus placement and this quality will always make you shine bright always different from the rest of the crowd.

Conclusion

Learning new things has always attracted humans. Curiosity is the human's biggest quest. While some people learn a dif-

ferent language because of a practical need, many others learn a language because of interest or because they want a challenge or just out of a hobby. Every language is unique in itself, some languages can be extremely hard to learn, but once they are learned they benefit you greatly. Language is what makes us human. It is how we share our thoughts with the world. It is really difficult to imagine a world without language, without it there would be no way to communicate and express ourselves. The more languages you know, the more ways you have to communicate and express yourself. This is why learning many languages should be important, and why one language simply won't do.

7th Pay Commission:

Good news for Central Govt Employees! DA hike announcement expected after March 8

**Agency
New Delhi, Mar 3:**

The Narendra Modi-led government is expected to make an announcement regarding Dearness Allowance (DA), and Dearness Relief (DR) hike soon. Reports said that the Centre is planning to revise DA from the current 38% to 42% and the fitment factor for lakhs of employees after Holi, which falls on March 8. If the reports come true,

an employee who receives Rs 15,500 in 4200 Grade Pay would get a total pay of Rs 39,835, by multiplying (Rs 15,500 x 2.57) as per the 6th Central Pay Commission. For the unversed, the common fitment factor, currently is at 2.57%.

Previously, the 6th CPC had approved a fitment ratio at 1.86%, while the 7th CPC recommended 2.57%, at which the employees are being paid currently. But now the employees are demand-

ing that the fitment factor should be hiked to 3.68. Once their demand gets a go-ahead from the centre, their minimum wage would be increased to Rs 26,000 from Rs 18,000.

Economic Times reported that the new salary would be effected from January 23. Notably, the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) of government employees are revised twice a year, effective January 1 and July 1.

Passport Lost

I, the undersigned, Heigrujam Daya Devi, have lost my Passport issued by the Government of India on 01/12/2017 bearing Pass Port No. R4411693, and expiry date of the pass port is 30/11/2027 on the way between Keirak to Kakching Bazar on 01/03/2023.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Heigrujam Daya Devi
D/o. Heigrujam Thobiba Singh
Keirak Mamang Leikai,
P.O. & P.S Kakching
Mobile No. 9362427589

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Hari Maya Sangroula do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Harimaya Sigdyal Poudyal** as I have assumed my new name **Hari Maya Sangroula**.

Sd/-

Hari Maya Sangroula
Lower Kalapahar

Three-day B20 Conference of North East India in Aizawl concludes



PIB
Aizawl, Mar 3:

The second of the four B20 conferences of the G20 dialogue forum for the global business community of North East India concluded here in Aizawl (Mizoram) on March 3rd, 2023. 38 delegates from USA, China, Canada, France, Ger-

many, Japan, Russia, Argentina, South Africa, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Cote D'Ivoire, Costa Rica and 124 Indian delegates participated at the mega event.

The delegates were enthralled by the rich cultural heritage of Mizoram that were showcased during the Chapchar Kut

celebration at Assam Rifles Ground, Aizawl. Of all the Mizo Kùts, Chapchar Kùt is the grandest one and is often called festival of adults. A spring festival, held between the cutting and the burning of jhum in the month of March. It is a Festival of joy, love and affection. It is a time of peace and harmony between everyone.

The delegates witnessed bamboo dance, playing of Seluang (bell), folk song by Padma Shri Awardee K.C Runremsangi and other cultural dances as highlights of the Chapchar Kut celebration.

The three-day meeting discussed prospects for multilateral business partnership in Bamboo, Nursing & Paramedics, Handloom & Handicraft, Artificial Intelligence, Grape farming and processing, Start-ups and Skill Development.

The Aizawl event was the second B-20 conference of India's G20 presidency while the first one was held in Imphal, Manipur from 17 to 19 February. The next one will be in Sikkim's capital Gangtok from 15 to 17 March, while the fourth conference will be in Kohima in Nagaland from 4 to 6 April.

About 30 stalls showcased beautiful handloom and handicraft products and different cuisines from across Mizoram.

AR alongwith Thoubal Commandos apprehends two women arms dealers



IT News
Imphal, Mar 3:

Based on credible intelligence inputs a joint operation was launched by Keithelmanbi Battalion under

the aegis of HQ IGAR (South), and Thoubal Commandos wherein, two women arms dealers were apprehended, from Heirok Part-II Mayai Leikai, Thoubal district March 1. One 9mm pistol

(Glock) was also recovered from their possession.

The apprehended women alongwith the recovered items, were handed over to Heirok Police Station for further investigation.

Security Forces apprehends two insurgents of PREPAK

IT News
Imphal, Mar 3:

Based on credible intelligence inputs provided by Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South), operations were launched by Imphal East Cdo and two active cadres of proscribed group PREPAK were apprehended, from Sekmajin Thongam Makha Leikai, Imphal West district yesterday.

The apprehended insurgents were actively involved in extortion and carrying out other subversive activities in

the valley on behalf of the proscribed group. The apprehended insur-

gents were handed over to Mayang Imphal Police Station for further investigation.

NAME CHANGE

I, the undersigned, **Thounaojam Ngangbi Devi** W/o Laishram Dhiren Singh, Ningthemcha Karong Mongsangei, Manipur University, Imphal West do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Laishram Ngangbi Singh** as I have assumed my new name **Thounaojam Ngangbi Devi**.

Sd/-

Thounaojam Ngangbi Devi
W/o Laishram Dhiren Singh
Ningthemcha Karong Mongsangei
Manipur University, Imphal West

IT News
Imphal, Mar 3:

Loktak Battalion under the aegis of Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) conducted a Security Meet with Village Chief at Tuibong, Churachandpur District (Manipur) today.

The meeting was organized to strengthen the spirit

of bonhomie and trust buildup between Assam Rifles and Village Chiefs of local communities. The meeting was attended by twenty two village chiefs of Churachandpur district. The meeting was chaired by the Company Commander, Tuibong Company Operating Base of Loktak Battalion. The meeting enabled an environment for a constructive interaction and sharing of mutually

supported views reflecting a positive outlook and deep rooted ties between Assam Rifles and village chiefs for the upliftment of the society in general and rural folks in particular. The Company Commander apprised the village chiefs of various tasks undertaken by Assam Rifles for the betterment of the civil society, comprising of, construction works, organization of medical

camp and educational facilities and employment opportunities being provided by the Loktak Battalion.

The Village Chiefs sincerely appreciated the efforts being undertaken by the Loktak Battalion and owed a deep sense of gratitude towards Assam Rifles for its endeavour to provide selfless service towards nation building.

Yaipha Thourang Crafts Bazar

At MMRC & Unity Park, Khangbaok, Thoubal District, Manipur

DATE : 24th Feb., to 5th March 2023

TIME : 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Sponsored by :

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