

PM renews call for debate on simultaneous polls

New Delhi, June 18.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday again called for widespread consultation on simultaneous elections in the country during the fourth governing council meeting of the NITI Aayog. The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers of 23 States, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and senior Union Ministers. "The Prime Minister called for widespread debate and consultations on simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas, keeping in view aspects such as the resulting financial savings and better utilisation of resources," an official statement said. Reacting to Mr. Modi's speech, the Congress accused the government of "telling half-truths and building tall tales."

Briefing the media after the meeting, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar said as a result of being in a "perpetual election" mode, the focus on development was diluted. On amending the terms of reference of the 15th Finance Commission as raised by some States, Mr. Kumar said, "Those who are already born, they should be given what is rightfully theirs... For all such devolutions, the current population [as per 2011 census] should be the basis." He, however, added that Mr.



Modi had asked States to give "fresh ideas" to the Commission for incentivising outcome-based allocations and expenditure correction. "He (the PM) emphasised that the Finance Commission devolution formula has to take cognizance of the relative backwardness and low per capita incomes of some States," an official statement said. States like Andhra Pradesh, have demanded that 1971 census be used as reference for 15th Finance Commission as raised by some States, Mr. Kumar said, "Those who are already born, they should be given what is rightfully theirs... For all such devolutions, the current population [as per 2011 census] should be the basis." He, however, added that Mr.

Mr. Modi called upon States to fix "ambitious growth targets" for their economies as India looks to become a \$5 trillion economy soon. Mr. Kumar said chief ministers of northeastern States could not participate due to the flood situation in their respective States. However, he added that no response was received from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on the invitation sent to him. The Prime Minister assured all central assistance to flood-affected States. Additionally, the PM has suggested that a committee of seven Chief Ministers—from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Gujarat, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, be set up to make

recommendations on leveraging MNREGA in the agriculture sector. Mr Modi also asked States to explore opportunities to increase corporate investment in agriculture, such as in food processing, warehousing and logistics. Pointing that the Indian economy has grown at a healthy rate of 7.7% in the fourth quarter of 2017-18, Mr Modi added that the challenge before India is to take the economic growth rate to double-digits for which many more steps needed to be taken. "He said in the current financial year, States are receiving over 11 lakh crore from the Centre, which represents an increase of about 16 lakh crore, from the last year of the previous government," as per the statement. Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram too attacked the government for the high fuel prices and said it was "robbing Rs 13,000 crore from the people every time it increased fuel prices by one rupee." In a series of tweets, Congress communication chief said PM Modi presented GDP figures of only one quarter. "Instead of 'Jumlas', Modi should tell why did the GDP fall steeply to 6.7% in 2017-18 despite changing the GDP calculation methodology? Was it because of his Disastrous DeMo & Flawed GST?" asked Mr Surjewala. (Courtesy: The Hindu)

3rd Annual General Body meeting of Editors' Guild Manipur held; New Office bearers elected



IT News
Imphal, June 18.

The 3rd Annual General Body meeting of the Editors' Guild Manipur was held on Saturday at Hotel Imphal. The meeting also elected new office bearers for the upcoming term. Khogendra Khomdram, Editor of Sangai Express (Manipur) have been elected as the new President of the Editors Guild Manipur for the term 2017-19. He will be replacing the A Mobi, former Editor of Eechel, who will remain as the Advisor of

the EGM. Three Vice Presidents, P. Ibochouba, Chief Editor of Kangla Pao, N Hemanta, Editor Huiyen Lanpao (Manipuri) and A Robindro Sharma, Editor Poknapham, were also elected at the Annual GB meeting. Editor in Chief of Impact TV Yumnam Rupachandra and P Labango, Editor Kangla Pao has been retained as the Secretary General and Treasurer respectively. Shivadutta Luwang of Pandam and Onjamang Haokip of Zalen Banner have been

elected as Joint Secretaries. Addie Chiphang of The Dawn Tantak, O Ranjit of Paojel and T Chandragupta (Gautam) of Naharolgi Thoudang have been elected as Executive members. The 3rd Annual General Body meeting of the Editors Guild Manipur was chaired by outgoing President A Mobi. All members of the new executive body were elected unanimously. Ahead of the election, the Annual GB passed the report of the secretary general and the Finance account.

Eid and Sun Bring Cheer in Flood Hit Areas



PRO, IGAR(S)
Imphal, June 18.

After days of inclement weather and rising water levels, on Saturday the flood affected population of Irong had something to cheer about. After all, it was Eid-ul-Fitr. Adding to the smile was the repaired breach on the mighty Imphal River and a bright and sunny day which had brought joy after a continuous spell of heavy showers and flash floods. The locals were in a festive mood and they had invited the troops from Mayang Imphal Company of Tulihal Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under aegis of HQ IGAR (South) who had been toiling hard since last three days to comfort them and to share the joy. Officers and troops from the company visited the locals and conveyed Eid greetings on behalf of Assam Rifles. The team also gifted sweets among the locals and chocolates among children. The locals reciprocated by serving traditional vermicelli dish.

Also Keithelmanbi Battalion and Phundrei Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised Eid Ul Fitr at Company Operating Base of Lilong Chajing Karam, Irong and Maibam. He took stock of the relief and repair work at the breach sites. Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the Tulihal Battalion in the relief work. While inspecting the repair of Maibam breach, he conveyed his admiration for the troops assisting the state water resources department in the repair work at the site and told them, "Well done, keep it up." Chief Minister also interacted with affected population and asked them to stay strong in the face of this natural calamity. At the same time, he assured the population that state administration and Assam Rifles are working 24x7 to alleviate their hardship.

Journalist Shujaat Bukhari killed for trying to find middle path: MoS Jitendra Singh

Agency
New Delhi, June 18.

Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh has said that senior journalist Shujaat Bukhari was killed because he tried to find a middle path in Jammu and Kashmir. Dr Singh said whoever follows the middle path in Kashmir is targeted. He said what happened to Bukhari is

not an isolated case, Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq and Abdul Ghani Lone were targeted by Pakistan over the years for speaking with humanity. In an exclusive interview to DD News, Dr Singh said DD News has decided to restart operations against terrorists in the state keeping in mind all security aspects. He said, government's priority is to ensure peaceful conduct of Amarnath Yatra.

Assam Rifles motivates the Manipur Senior Rugby team



PRO, IGAR(S)
Imphal, June 18.

Keithelmanbi Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organized a ceremony to motivate the Manipur State Senior men and women Rugby Team which will be participating in the Senior Rugby Championship scheduled from 22 to 24 June 2018, which is being hosted by Punjab University, Chandigarh. Chairperson Assam Rifles Wives Welfare Association, Keithelmanbi Battalion and

Second-in-Command, Keithelmanbi Battalion interacted with the players and distributed T-Shirts as a token of best wishes for all their matches. They further added that every Manipuri will be cheering for the entire contingent to return home as champions. The General Secretary Mr Rameshwar Singh and the team appreciated the efforts and initiative which the Assam Rifles has been providing to the young talents of the state and expressed their heartfelt gratitude for organizing the event.

Let's talk about our children today and yes let's talk to them!!!!

"My question is how safe is our children?" - Anonymous

I am not trying to scare you all (especially young parents) or just exaggerating for the sake of writing and so on.



According to Ministry of Women and Child Development 53.22% of our children are sexually abused. Being a member of Child Welfare Committee (which work for the best interests of the children) I also have come across many cases on sexual assault committed against children especially below the age of 11 or 12 yrs. (which was filed under POCSO Act, 2012) and of which I believe that many more are unreported. As the incidents of Child Sexual Abuse are increasing day by day, it's high time we talk about Child Sexual Abuse and talk to our children about different measures so as to make them smart enough to protect their own self/ themselves.

"What Child Sexual Abuse"
When a child who are below the age of 18yrs. is pressurised, forced or tricked into taking part in any kind of sexual activity with an adult or young person (18 yrs. below) then it is sexual abuse. Child Sexual Abuse involves sexual assaults like fondling/touching/kissing of private parts and other parts of the body or making the child to touch their own private and others body parts and even non forced sex with an underage child, sexual harassments i.e., talking to a child inappropriately explicitly about sex or making a child exhibit any part of his body or showing any object to a child in any form or media for pornographic purpose, and used of child for pornographic purposes.

We have a popular belief that very young children cannot be sexually abused but to be honest no child is spare from such abuses or crime. Among the many cases that have been reported in Imphal west, I would like to highlight some cases which will open eyes for every one of us. *A 6 years old girl was sexually assault by her mother's uncle and another case is of a 6 years old girl who was forced to engage in sexual activity by a stranger while she was out playing in her friends place. In another rare incident 3 children of the age 4, 5 and 7 years, all girls were sexually abused by their cousin brother who was also minor (14 years) for a long period of time.*

Culprits or accused have been taken care of/ lodged under "The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences act, 2012 (POCSO)" - an act which aims to protect children from any sexual offences. This Act provides stringent punishment to the culprit ranging from 3 years imprisonment to imprisonment for life with fine.

It is evident from the above cases that any child regardless of age can be a victim of such act or crime and the offenders/culprit can be either relatives or acquaintances or strangers but as per report the culprit are more likely to be someone the child knows. Offenders can be male or female but studies have supported that more offenders are male than female. Sexual offences can occur in variety of settings it can be your own place, locality or school settings.

Another popular myth BOYS CANNOT BE ABUSED here I would like to draw your attention to the report compiled by Manipur Alliance for Child Rights (MACR) based on newspaper that among the 36 cases of Child sexual Abuse, 99% of the victim was girl and 1% boy. Number is few as compare to girls still boys can be a victim too.

Therefore any child regardless of age, boy or girls, poor or rich can fell prey/be victim of such crime.

Though number of the incidents has surface but many of such crime is underreported. Child Sexual Abuse is a crime that happens in secrecy and it's something we don't talk openly in our society. As the awareness has been done by many forums on POCSO Act cases has been reported still many more are underreported due to various reasons, it could be because of the social stigma, child not disclosing due to fear or denial and even though the child disclosed the parents or guardians do not know what to do, where to approach and so on.