

31st Manipuri Language Day Observed



IT News
Imphal, August 20:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today paid his respect to those who were involved in the movement for inclusion of the Manipuri Language in the 8th Schedule of India.

N. Biren Singh was attending the 31st Manipuri Language Day observation, today

as the Chief Guest at the Maharaja Chandrakirti Auditorium, Palace Compound. The Observation was organized by the Manipuri Language Day State Level Celebration Committee in collaboration with the Department of Art & Culture, Government of Manipur and Directorate of Language Planning and Implementation, Manipur.

The Chief Minister observed that there are not many good published works of our history, on our forefathers' struggle, and appealed to intellectuals, scholars, historians, etc of the land to do the needed research and to publish their work based on truth and facts. Stressing on the need to protect what has been left by the ancestors, he said

we have to safeguard, protect the indigenous land, identity and language.

N. Biren Singh further explained that we need to educate the younger and future generations of our history, nationalism, nation-building concept, the obstacles faced by the forefathers, etc.

The Chief Minister proposed a three-month course for those willing to study the dialects and languages of the different communities of the State. This will encourage interaction amongst the people and help in building unity and nationalism, he observed.

Lamenting that, many books have been published distorting history of the land, the Chief Minister said that a State level committee will be set up under the Education Department to check and regulate books published in the State specially related to history.

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2024 battle will be Modi vs Kejriwal, says Manish Sisodia day after CBI raids

Agency
New Delhi, August 20:

A day after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raided Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's house for 14 hours, Sisodia on Saturday said the Excise policy scam case against him is the BJP's bid to stop Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's developmental schemes. "They want to stop Arvind Kejriwal whose work on education and health is being talked about in the world," Sisodia said while addressing a press conference on Saturday.

Asserting that Kejriwal has emerged as a national option, Sisodia said the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will be between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kejriwal. Comparing Modi with Kejriwal, Sisodia said while Kejriwal works for the common man, Modi only works for the rich.

"These people are not concerned about the scam, their worry is Arvind Kejriwal who is loved by the masses and has emerged as a national option," he added.

Attacking PM Modi, the AAP leader said, "Modiji is always busy scheming to topple the state government.



He has been made the Prime Minister of the country, he should be working for the country instead of toppling the state government. It doesn't look good on PM Modi that he is arresting good ministers — the health minister was doing a good job, and he has been arrested. I, as education minister, was doing good work, he wants to arrest me."

Sisodia also said that the CBI officials might arrest him in the next 3 to 4 days. "It is not a coincidence that the health and education work, which is being lauded across the world, is being targeted. They arrested Delhi Health

Minister Satyender Jain. In three-four days, they will arrest me."

Also, hailing the Delhi Excise policy 2021-22, Sisodia said the Delhi excise policy was implemented with complete transparency and that there was no scam. "It is the best excise policy. Had the LG (Anil Bajaj) not changed the Excise policy in the last 48 hours, Delhi would have gotten revenue of Rs 10,000 crore."

Sisodia categorically denied the allegations of his corruption and said the only crime he committed was that he is the education minister in Kejriwal's cabinet.

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Security Forces apprehends PLA insurgent

IT News
Imphal, August 20:

Based on credible intelligence input provided by Keithelambi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(South), Manipur Police launched an operation and apprehended an active insurgent of proscribed group People's Liberation Army (PLA) from Thoubal district on August 19, 2022.

The apprehended insurgent was actively involved in carrying out subversive activities in the alleys recently on behalf of the proscribed group.

The apprehended insurgent was handed over to Khongjam Police Station for further investigation.

PREPAK condole the demise of its cadre



IT News
Imphal, August 20:

Proscribed group PREPAK condole the demise of its cadre Sanju Oinam @Pheijao @Premjit @Athouba who was reported succumbed due to an illness at a hospital.

The deceased PREPAK cadre, Major Sanju was born on April 16, 1976 at a Haobam Marak Irom Leikai. The statement said that he was arrested time and again, even under NSA. The PREPAK reminded his activities in the freedom struggle of Manipur.

Jenus Laishram will compete against Greek at Thailand

IT News
Imphal, August 20:

Emerging Indian MMA fighter, Jenus Laishram, 21 years old, will fight in Thailand Fighting Championship against Sotiris Kaselouris of Greek. The fight will be held at Thailand's Bangla Boxing Stadium, Ban Khao Lak, Phangnga, Thailand.

He will be the first MMA fighter from Manipur to compete at the Thailand Fighting Championship. Jenus Laishram from Mayang Imphal will represent from Team Bonjovi and Fitness Academy, Manipur. The championship will take place on Friday, August 26, 2022. His opponent, 26-year-old Sotiris Kaselouris, has a wealth of MMA skills. On the other hand, Jenus Laishram is a promising young MMA fighter. He has a strong sense of confidence in his ability to win the fight despite having to overcome considerable financial challenges to reach Thailand. He would become the first person from Manipur to have ever won the Thailand Fighting Championship if he wins this bout. He is now receiving training in Delhi and will go for Thailand the following day.



The Team Bonjovi and Fitness Academy, his family and supporters are looking for backing the people of Manipur for him. We are proud of him and extend our best wishes to him too.

lowing day.

Jamiat Ulema-E-Hind executive body reforms

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, August 20:

The Jamiat Ulema-E-Hind executive body of Jiribam District Committee was formed in a meeting held on Friday at Babupara Jame Masjid, Jiribam.

The meeting decided to reform, the Jamiat Ulema-E-Hind Executive body of Jiribam

District Committee with Maulana Imdadul Hussain as the President; Maulana Nurul Haque, Vice President; Maulana Abdul Hakim, General Secretary; Maulana Hussain Ahmed, Treasurer; Maulana Salauddin, Joint Secretary; Hafiz Baharuddin as a Publicity Secretary along with seven other executive members.

While Maulana Ahmed Ali, Babupara; Maulana Riazul Islam, Bhowmikpara; Maulana Abdul Hashim, Islamabad and Md. Jalal Uddin, Babupara were selected as advisors of the new committee.

The new executive has been formed after completion of the tenure of the previous body.

Indian Embassy in Madagascar hosts event to honour rich history & cultural legacy of Manipur

Agency
Antananarivo, August 20:

The Indian embassy in Madagascar on Friday hosted an event to honour the rich history and cultural legacy of the northeastern state of Manipur in Madagascar's capital - Antananarivo.

This gala event was attended by members of local government, diplomats, leaders of International Organizations, members of the Indian diaspora in Madagascar, and a sizeable population of Malagasy citizens.

According to an official statement issued by the Indian Embassy, this event kicked off by exhibiting the various aspects of the northeastern state.

Speaking at the event, the Indian Ambassador to Madagascar - Abhay Kumar, noted that Manipur has a glorious history, along with exquisite culture, diversified ethnic population, pristine natural beauty, and historic structures.

He further elaborated on how the state is home to a diverse indigenous group of people, each unique in their culture and dialect.

"It is a location of numerous cultural landmarks, including temples. One such historic site in Manipur is the Shree Shree Govindajee Temple. Radha & Krishna, the temple's presiding deities, are carved out of a jackfruit tree. The performance of Rasleela by the Manipuri group today



here in Madagascar has a significant symbolic value," stated the Ambassador.

The event saw enthralling performances of Manipuri dances by a 12-member group

sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

The group was a part of the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy (JNMDA). The Academy is named after the first Prime Minister of India and was established in 1954. It is a constituent unit of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, with the objective to train students in Manipuri dance, music, and allied arts.

The event also featured a special exhibition highlighting Manipur's art, festivals, tourism destinations, culture, and cuisine. Ambassador Kumar himself gave a guided tour of the exhibition to children from various schools in Madagascar and the invited guests at the State Promotion event for Manipur in Madagascar.

Money Can't Buy Happiness

By: Jaswinder Pal Sharma

We often think that our lives would be so much better off if we just had more money. For example, "that person in my class has the brand new Playstation. I wish my parents were that rich to buy me one." or "That person has a nice looking Rolex. If only I had the money to buy one." "If only I had the money to buy a new car."

Hence, the list goes on. But what we take for granted is that once we have enough money to buy that item, we get bored of it and desire something new. Psychologists call this the "Hedonic Treadmill" – New things always become "old", and they need to be replaced with newer items.

Another factor we're not going to be happy with buying things is that we want to compare ourselves to those around us – our families, our friends, celebrities, advertisements, etc.

When we see some new advertisements on TV, we feel like we have to buy it as a celebrity endorses it. When we open social media, we see photos of our friends and relatives who have gone for vacations and trips, and we feel we need the money to go on a vacation to enjoy ourselves as that is the only way to spend time with family properly. But what we don't realize is comparisons are often insidious and harming, especially if we see ourselves at the non-receiving end.

What we should keep in mind is money always begs for more money. Of course, the main aim of a modern lifestyle is to get a proper job and earn wealth, but making earning wealth the sole purpose of one's existence is dangerous and harmful.

One will never be happy and peaceful and will always yearn for more wealth. He/she will never be satisfied. No amount of wealth can be seen as "enough". If one's sole purpose is to accumulate wealth to spend on material goods, then he/she will never be satisfied with their life.

Greek Philosopher, Diogenes says, "He has the most who is most content with the least." This means that when a person appreciates and knows the value of his earnings, and does not take it for granted, and takes care of it properly, he can be happier than the wealthiest person on Earth.

With this being said, there are ways in which you can utilize your money more happily and healthily;

Instead of wasting money on material goods, spend your accumulated wealth on road trips and vacations, picnics, family outings, etc. Getting out of the house and getting the experience of the outside world will have a positive impact on your mental health. Visiting new locations, be it solo, with friends, or family will boost your morale as you visit new places and meet new people, giving you new experiences and will teach you how to use your money carefully. If you have enough money to spare, you should donate some money to charity to help those less fortunate. Not only will you be doing a good deed, but acts of charity will also teach you to be empathetic towards others.

All in all, the bottom line then is whether money buys you happiness or not is entirely dependent on how you choose to spend it.

(The author is a District Education Media Coordinator Sri Muktar Sahib, Punjab)

Livestock smuggling to Bangladesh is witnessing changing patterns

By: Ashis Biswas

While it has not been possible for the Border Security Force (BSF) and different state police authorities to reduce illegal cattle sales to Bangladesh to zero level, cow smuggling has declined sharply over the years. However, reports from Assam and West Bengal areas close to the Bangladesh border suggest that comparatively speaking, the smuggling of black buffaloes continues much as before.

Ironically, Bangladesh authorities do not have any official policy regarding India's move since 2014 to reduce cattle smuggling (especially of cows) to the extent possible. Because of political and religious considerations among many Hindus, the illegal sale/despatch of cows particularly to Muslim countries has always been an emotive issue. Ironically there is by and large no major public reaction or interest among common people in India when buffaloes are smuggled out or sold for sacrificial or other reasons.

However there have been some cases of public resistance even against the illegal movement of buffaloes to Bangladesh, but these have been too few to matter.

Also, it has not been possible to quantify the decline in illegal earnings resulting from cow smuggling, as separate figures for buffaloes are not maintained accurately. Until about four/five years ago, illegal cattle smuggling was estimated to be a parallel 'dark industry' involving transactions up to Rs 5000 crore or more.

From Karimganj in Assam, close to the Bangladesh border at Sunatula, there were recent reports of how local miscreants tried to smuggle some buffaloes to Bangladesh one night, and the police tried to stop them for questioning. The miscreants attacked the police who resorted to blank fire. The smugglers fled, leaving behind four buffaloes that lived for another day. Locals said such cattle movements while occurring less than before, had never really stopped.

In neighbouring West Bengal, during the last few weeks, cattle smuggling has dropped significantly. North Bengal political circles ascribe this to the recent GOI-sponsored official drives launched against livestock smuggling, especially targeting the massive smuggling network headed by powerful Birbhum-based Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal.

As the Trinamool Congress (TMC) president of Birbhum District, Mondal has enjoyed a charmed life within the party organisation since 2012 being a favourite of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Despite his recent arrest and a slew of scandalous charges against him, involving smuggling, political violence and money-laundering, the 'Bahubali' Mondal continues to remain a major force within the organisation. Unlike former Education Minister and senior leader Partha Chatterjee, also arrested on corruption charges, Mr Mondal has retained his posts within the TMC.

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Challenge of Solar Energy Target



By: Vijay GarG

Conventional sources of energy like coal, gas, petroleum etc. are proving to be harmful to the environment along with being limited in quantity.

In such a situation, it is necessary that such non-conventional sources of energy should be developed rapidly, which are not wasted and they are also not polluting. The Standing Committee on Energy Affairs in its report tabled in Parliament has said that the central government has not been able to meet the target of implementing seventy percent of renewable energy schemes in the country. So far only twenty one percent solar parks have been developed.

According to this report, the central government had set a target of generating forty gigawatts of solar power by the year 2022 through more than fifty solar parks and ultra mega solar power projects. But the situation is that even after three years, eleven solar parks have not even got approval from the ministry. Due to this delay, the whole exercise of setting the target has become meaningless. According to the Standing Committee, the delay in sanctioning eleven more solar parks resulted in 40 gigawatts of solar power. The production target is likely to fall by 6.2 GW. The Standing Committee report states that so far only seventeen states have been granted approval for setting up forty nine solar power parks with a capacity of twenty two thousand eight hundred and ninety nine MW out of a total of fifty solar parks.

Out of these, the infrastructure of only eight parks has been fully developed, which has the capacity to generate only six thousand five hundred and eighty MW of solar power. In addition four solar parks have been partially developed, which have solar. The power generation capacity is being told as one thousand three hundred and sixty five MW. Expressing concern over this, the Standing Committee says that the Ministry has been able to develop only eight solar parks in a period of five years from 2015 to 2020. There has been no increase in the number of fully developed solar parks after the year 2020.

In such a situation, the question is bound to arise that why these solar park projects got stuck? The ministry also did not specify the reasons for the delay in respect of eleven solar park schemes. Therefore, the committee sought a reply from the ministry on this delay. It is The Committee also regretted that the Ministry concerned had not taken any initiative even on the recommendation of the Committee to utilize the surplus land available with various State Governments and to set up solar projects on the lines of Kochi Airport for all the airports.

However, during the discussion on the 'Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022' in the Lok Sabha, Power, New and Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh recently told that the Government of India is working towards becoming self-reliant in energy production with concern for the environment, and renewable energy Large economies and developed countries are also behind India in achieving the target of production. The Energy Conservation Bill contains proposals for modern energy efficiency, creating green and sustainable electricity usage standards for large buildings, which can be changed by the state government.

The Bill provides for meeting energy requirements from renewable sources for buildings with an elec-

tricity connection of at least one hundred kilowatts. The government believes that all countries are ready to deal with climate change and rising global temperatures. We want to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases, and under this resolution, the campaign has started towards adopting renewable energy and clean energy. At the United Nations International Conference on Climate Change (COP-21) held in Paris, India had decided that by 2030, forty per cent of its electricity generation capacity would be met from non-fossil fuel sources such as renewable energy and clean energy. Under this, the government is also promoting charging of electric vehicles with renewable energy. Engaged in the major challenge before the government is to eliminate dependence on imports of petroleum products and coal.

In fact, traditional sources of energy like coal, gas, petroleum etc. are proving to be harmful to the environment along with being limited in quantity. In such a situation, it is very important that such non-conventional sources of energy should be developed rapidly, which do not decay and are also not polluting. This is the reason that efforts are on to develop such energy and technology around the world, which will reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. If not the minimum, the temperature of the earth can be prevented from rising and sufficient energy is also available. About forty percent of the electricity in the world is generated from coal, while in India more than sixty percent of the electricity is generated from coal and other energy sources that harm the environment.

More than 1.25 million thermal power stations in the public sector consume more than 18 million tonnes of coal per day. Not only does this coal emit a large amount of carbon into the atmosphere, but burning of so much coal also produces a lot of carbon from it. Pollution of heat and mercury is also causing great dam-

age to the environment. The gap between the demand and supply of energy in the country is widening rapidly. Apart from the industrial sector, the demand and consumption of energy in the agricultural sector and domestic applications has also increased significantly over the years.

According to a report, the per capita energy consumption in the country is increasing at the rate of four percent. According to the National Power Portal, more than 3.5 lakh MW of electricity is being produced in the country, but it is about 2.5 percent less than our total demand. Renewable energy promoting the use of energy sources can bridge the gap between our energy demand and supply. This will also directly or indirectly improve the standard of social living, but for this it is necessary that there is no laxity in developing renewable energy sources like solar power parks. Today, not only India, but the entire world is faced with limited natural resources to meet the critical energy needs, as well as serious challenges like environmental imbalance and displacement. These serious problems and Renewable energy is the best option to meet the challenges, which can prove to be effective in dealing with environmental problems as well as meeting energy needs.

Renewable Energy Day was started by the Central Government in 2004 with the aim of running an awareness campaign about renewable energy. Renewable energy, also known as renewable energy, is actually such energy, whose sources are the sun, water, wind, tides, geothermal, etc. All these sources are safe in every way being a natural source they are neither polluting nor ever ending. Now is the time to switch to relatively cheap and carbon-free eco-friendly energy sources such as thermal, hydro and nuclear power, at the cost of economic degradation and enormous environmental destruction.

Dust the monsoon dirt off your feet with these tips to keep them dry and clean



By: Shahnaz Husain

Foot hygiene is essential throughout the year, however, it is all the more crucial during monsoon.

Taking care of feet during the rainy season can be quite tricky as they're exposed to dirt, germs, and disease more than any other body part due to prolonged and constant exposure to standing water and rainwater during a downpour.

The rain, wetness and humidity in the air can cause smelly feet, sweaty feet, wet shoes, fungal infections, cracked toes, athlete foot, fungal infections and many other allergies.

The main problem during the Monsoons is high humidity and sweat. The feet are among the areas where germs accumulate and odour forms. The waste matter, which is secreted with sweat, has to be removed by daily washing, to eliminate odour and feel fresh and clean.

Make sure you wash your feet every time when you return home with gentle warm water and mild soap daily to keep infections at bay. Dry the area between your

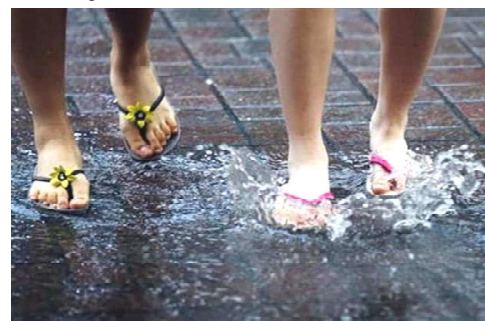
toes and apply an anti-fungal powder daily.

Pay special attention to your feet, while bathing. After washing them well, dry them thoroughly and apply talcum powder. Keep your feet dry and avoid wearing wet shoes. Several bacteria breeds in humidity and wearing closed shoes makes it the perfect environment for pesky fungal infections during monsoon season.

If you wear closed shoes, talcum powder can be sprinkled inside the shoes. However, in the hot season avoid high heels and covered footwear as slippers and open sandals are best because they allow maximum ventilation and help the perspiration evaporate quickly and make your feet dry. But, open footwear also attracts dirt and therefore, foot hygiene becomes all the more important. After a hot day, soak your feet in cold water, to which some salt has been added.

A foot problem called "Athlete's Foot" develops more easily during hot and humid weather, because it thrives on soggy skin. If neglected, it can become a stubborn problem, with an itchy condition. The athlete's foot starts with a fungus infection. So, if there is dry scaling on the feet, especially between the toes, with some itching, consult a dermatologist without delay. Anti-fungal preparations are effective in dealing with the problem in the initial stages.

However, excessive moisture, caused by excessive sweating, tight shoes and humid weather can lead to bacterial activity and this worsens the condition. Avoid socks and wear open shoes, use talcum powder



der and keep the feet as dry as possible. If socks are a must, wear cotton ones. In fact, during the hot and humid season, the feet should be exposed to the air as much as possible. Regularly cut short your foot nails during the monsoon to prevent the dust and dirt from getting collected under your nails to check for fungal infections.

Use a foot scrubber and then apply a good moisturizer that works effectively on hard skin and helps keep the heels soft and smooth.

Here are some home remedies for Monsoon foot care:

Foot Soak: In one-fourth bucket of warm water, add half a cup of coarse salt and 10 drops of lemon, or orange essential oil (if you cannot get essential oil, use a half cup of lemon or orange juice). If your feet tend to sweat a lot, use a few drops of tea tree oil, as it has germicidal properties. It helps to deal with bad odour. Soak the feet for 10 to 15 minutes.

Foot Lotion: Mix together 3 tablespoons of rose water, 2 tablespoons of lemon juice and one teaspoon of pure glycerin. Apply on your feet and leave on for half an hour.

Foot Care for Dryness: In one-fourth bucket of cold water, put 2 tablespoons honey, one tablespoon herbal shampoo, and one tablespoon of almond oil. Soak feet in it for 20 minutes.

Cooling foot bath: Add rose water, lemon juice and a splash of eau de cologne in cold water and soak feet in it. Cools cleans and removes the odour.

Cooling Massage Oil: Take 100 ml olive oil and add 2 DROPS eucalyptus oil, 2 DROPS rosemary oil and 3 DROPS khus, or rose oil. Mix together and keep in an airtight glass jar. Use a little of this for foot massage. It cools and protects the skin and keeps it healthy.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called Herbal Queen of India)

Delhi Lt Governor's orders transfer of 12 IAS officers hours after CBI raid on Manish Sisodia

Agency
New Delhi, August 20:

Hours after a CBI raid at Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's residence in connection with the alleged corruption in the liquor policy, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena ordered the transfer of a dozen IAS officers last evening.

The bureaucratic rejig came hours after Manish Sisodia, who also heads the Excise department, was raided by the CBI and was named as an accused in an FIR on alleged liquor policy violations.

Following the 14-hour raid at his residence, Sisodia said his computer and phone have been seized by the probe agency.

According to a transfer posting order issued by the services department of the Delhi government, those transferred include special

secretary of health and family welfare Udit Prakash Rai, a 2007 batch IAS officer of AGMUT cadre.

The Lt Governor had recently recommended the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to take action against Rai for allegedly accepting Rs 50 lakh bribe to grant "undue favours" to an executive engineer in two corruption cases.

Rai has been transferred to the administrative reforms department as its special secretary, the order said. Vijendra Singh Rawat, a 2007-batch IAS officer, has replaced Rai. He will also hold the additional charge of director (planning).

According to the order, 1990-batch officer Jitendra Narain has been made the chairman and managing director of Delhi Finance Corporation (DFC) while south-west Delhi district magistrate Hemant Kumar has been given the additional charge

as DFC's executive director.

Vivek Pandey has been appointed as secretary (IT) and given the additional charge of managing director of Geospatial Delhi Limited and director of Union Territory Civil Services. He was posted as secretary, administrative reforms.

Shurbir Singh, an officer of the 2004 batch has been relieved of the charge of secretary (cooperation) and given the charge of secretary (power) while he will continue to be the chairman of Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board.

Officer Garima Gupta has been given the additional charge of special secretary, transport, while she will continue to be the managing director of Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation and secretary, social welfare and women and child development, the order said.

Ashish Madhava Rao More,

a 2005-batch officer, has been given the additional responsibility of secretary (services) while he will continue his duties as secretary, General Administrative Department, and staff officer to the chief secretary, the order said.

Director of women and child development Krishna Kumar has been given additional charge of Registrar Cooperative Societies with effect from September 1.

The order said 2010-batch officer Kalyan Sahai Meena has been appointed as special secretary of urban development. He was posted as special secretary, administrative reforms, PTI reported.

Sonal Swaroop, a 2012-batch officer, has been appointed as the special secretary to the Lieutenant Governor. She was posted as additional commissioner in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the order said.

India reports 13,272 fresh Covid cases, 36 fatalities

Agency
New Delhi, August 20:

India on Saturday logged 13,272 fresh coronavirus infections that pushed its tally to 4,43,27,890, while the number of active cases came down to 1,01,166, according to Union health ministry data.

The toll due to COVID-19 climbed to 5,27,289 with 36 fatalities, including six deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.23 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate stands at 98.58 per cent, the ministry said.

A decline of 664 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.21 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 3.87 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people

who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,36,99,435, while the case fatality rate stood at 1.19 per cent, it said.

So far, 209.40 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered under the nationwide vaccination drive, it added.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, three crore on June 23 last year and four crore on January 25 this year.

Maharashtra logged 2,285 fresh infections in the last 24 hours - of which Mumbai accounted for 1,011 and Thane for 447 new cases. While Delhi reported 1,417 Covid cases, Rajasthan saw 750 new cases and 450 infections were reported in Telangana. Gujarat saw 374 cases, while 315 were reported in J&K.

Rahul Gandhi pays tributes to father Rajiv Gandhi on 78th birth anniversary: 'Papa, aap har pal mere dil mein hain'

Agency
New Delhi, August 20:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi paid tributes to his late father Rajiv Gandhi on his 78th birth anniversary at the Vee Bhumi in New Delhi on Saturday. He was accompanied by his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, her husband Robert Vadra and Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge.

Rahul Gandhi later took to Twitter and posted a video of his father Rajiv Gandhi, saying, "Papa, aap har pal mere saath, mere dil mein hain. Main hamesha prayas karunga ki desh ke lie jo sapana apne dekha, usse poora kar sakun" (Papa you are with me every time in my heart, I will always



try to fulfill the dreams for the nation you have cherished.

The Congress party also

posted on its Twitter handle, "We fondly remember former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv

Gandhi, on his birth anniversary. Hailed as the "architect of 21st century India", it was

through his farsighted vision that ushered in the IT and telecom revolution in India. Today, we celebrate his legacy."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid tributes to former PM Rajiv Gandhi on his birth anniversary. "On his birth anniversary, tributes to our former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi," the prime minister tweeted.

On the occasion, the Youth Congress (IYC) will organise a programme at the Talkatora Stadium to highlight the works of the late prime minister. "Rajiv Gandhi was the architect of modern India, who worked towards making a strong and self-reliant India. The country is still reaping the benefits of his vision. It was his foresight that has put India in the ranks of strong, modern nations," said IYC President Srinivas BV.

Rajiv Gandhi, India's youngest prime minister, held office during 1984-89. He was assassinated by a LTTE suicide bomber in 1991.

As things stand, GOI and concerned agencies appear none too concerned with the illegal movement of buffalos across the border. There is on the other hand, a major official satisfaction that in recent times, it has been possible to reduce drastically the number of cows being smuggled. Such smuggling has been reduced very markedly in South Bengal areas, although the porous border in North Bengal and other areas causes concern.

Still, since 2015, when around 150,000 heads of cattle mostly cows were seized by BSF personnel during their routine annual operations, the figure in 2021 was down only to around 20,000 or so. This besides the fact that the price of beef in Bangladesh, around Rs 350 or so in Indian currency in 2015 is currently over Rs 650, carries further confirmation that anti-smuggling measures, from the Indian standpoint, have broadly succeeded. (IPA Service)

AR apprehended one KIA insurgent



IT News
Imphal, August 20:

Loktak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) along with team of Churachandpur Police Station apprehended an active insurgent of proscribed group KIA from Patlen Village near Hengjang, Churachandpur district on August 18.

Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles along

with team of Churachandpur Police launched an operation which led to the apprehension.

The insurgent was actively involved in extortion activities and team of Assam Rifles and police have recovered cash amounting 20000 Indian rupees from the insurgent.

The apprehended insurgent and recovered items were handed over to Churachandpur Police Station for further investigation.

Contd. from Page 2 Livestock smuggling to Bangladesh.....

Ms Banerjee has strongly protested against GOI for Mondal's arrest and harassment. In contrast, Chatterjee has been dismissed from the Ministry and is no longer the party's Secretary general. Nor has Ms Banerjee or any other leader, spoken up in his defence.

Senior police officials admit that the recent arrest of Mondal and some of his associates in Birbhum and elsewhere has for the time being put a damper on cattle smuggling.

Nonetheless after Assam, reports of increased buffalo smuggling have come from North Bengal, in Alipurduar district and its neighbourhood. Local media reports say that the old smuggling routes are being maintained at present as well, with the local Panjipara point in Alipurduar being used as a check/rest point for keeping livestock. The supply chain of animals originates at different areas in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan.

From Panjipara, animals are loaded in trucks and pushed

into convenient points along the Bangladesh border at Sonapur and Mendabari areas. Rent is charged for cattle that are rested at Panjipara, but otherwise restrictions, as confirmed by local traders, are looser and more relaxed for buffalos in comparison with cows.

Normally, the authorities allow the movement by trucks of about 25/30 animals, but mostly 40/45 heads are carried, as pre-arranged amounts of hush money change hands at different levels. The illegal money trail covers the state police, the BSF, local level politicians/leaders (including MLAs, MPs panchayat men), youth clubs affiliated to the ruling party and powerful state-level 'syndicate' leaders considered above the law.

The involvement of many officials in the massive illegal smuggling racket has been confirmed by the recent arrest of over a dozen state police and BSF officials based in West Bengal and several North Indian states by GOI agencies in recent years.

Investigating authorities

feel that nothing short of a bilateral understanding between Bangladesh and India can stop/prevent border area smuggling. The problem is Bangladesh authorities do not treat cattle smuggling as a crime.

Bangladeshis found moving around with cows or other animals near the border are asked to explain from where they had bought/found the animals. The usual explanation is that stray cattle and other animals are often rounded up by nomads/other people in the border areas. Satisfied, Bangladesh guards issue a Customs duty on the animals, and this is treated as official recognition of ownership. There is always a heavy demand for beef in Bangladesh, especially around the time for Eid-ul-Azha. Even buffalos are much in demand, according to reports.

From the body of illegal traders, who have been known to operate under the cover of other 'respected' lines of business, there have been complaints that even buying buffalos from Punjab etc have become costlier than before. Primarily the

war in Ukraine, which has generally led to higher petrol/diesel prices all over India, has been a major cause for this.

As things stand, GOI and concerned agencies appear none too concerned with the illegal movement of buffalos across the border. There is on the other hand, a major official satisfaction that in recent times, it has been possible to reduce drastically the number of cows being smuggled. Such smuggling has been reduced very markedly in South Bengal areas, although the porous border in North Bengal and other areas causes concern.

Still, since 2015, when around 150,000 heads of cattle mostly cows were seized by BSF personnel during their routine annual operations, the figure in 2021 was down only to around 20,000 or so. This besides the fact that the price of beef in Bangladesh, around Rs 350 or so in Indian currency in 2015 is currently over Rs 650, carries further confirmation that anti-smuggling measures, from the Indian standpoint, have broadly succeeded. (IPA Service)

Manik Sarkar blames government's ignorance on insurgent threats

Agency
Agartala, August 20:

CPI(M) politburo member and Tripura leader of the opposition Manik Sarkar on Friday lashed out at the state government for ignoring the threats posed by leftover insurgent groups despite being warned by the opposition repeatedly.

Issuing a press statement soon after the death of a suspected NLFT ambush in Kanchanpur, Sarkar condemned the cowardly attack of the banned NLFT and extended his condolences to the bereaved family.

Expressing his sharp disappointment over the state government's alleged ignorance in combating the active



insurgent groups, Sarkar said, "Time and again, I have drawn the notice of the state government and demanded a strong security build up in the vulnerable areas after every such attack."

Suspecting political backing, he said, "Who are the political personalities using such forces for narrow political gains? On several occasions, newspaper reports have indi-

cated that NLFT is getting political sponsorship for reviving their base again. We have demanded stern action against those people. But no one is there to pay attention to these words".

Sarkar also said that shifting TSR battalions in other states is also a reason behind such attacks.

"We have requested the state government not to disrupt the second line of defence built by TSR personnel. But, the TSR battalions were shifted out for other duties. It is the ignorance of the state government that led to one after another such bloodshed", he claimed.

Sarkar also appealed to the people to unite against such divisive forces trying to disrupt the peace.

'No new cars, encourage tradition of namaste, adaab': Tejashwi Yadav requests RJD minister

Agency
Patna, August 20:

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav has released a series of instructions for the ministers of his party, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). Of the 31 newly-inducted ministers in the Nitish Kumar-led Bihar cabinet, 16 are from the RJD.

Sharing the order on Facebook, Yadav said requested ministers of his party not to buy any new car or any vehicle for themselves.

He also urged RJD ministers to not allow workers, well-wishers, supporters, or any other person older than them to touch their feet. "We will encourage the tradition of salutations, namaste and adaab," the 32-year-old leader said in one of his instructions.

Yadav requested ministers to be unbiased while dealing with the poor and needy people and not let their caste or religion decide the priority of the matter. He also asked them to be "gentle and courteous" towards everyone and



their conversation should be positive.

The ministers have been asked to encourage the exchange of books and pens instead of giving flowers or bouquets as gifts.

He also urged RJD ministers to promote honesty, transparency, under the leadership of the Chief Minister in all departmental works.

The ministers have also been asked to share their work plans and development works on social media so that the public can get positive information about the every initiative work being undertaken by them.

The directives which come amid BJP's relentless attack at the new Bihar government is being seen as an attempt for an image makeover of the RJD.

Earlier this month, Nitish Kumar snapped ties with the BJP-led NDA and joined hands with RJD and other parties to form 'Mahagatbandhan' government in the state.

Following Kumar's move, the BJP had said that the JD(U) leader has pushed Bihar back into the era of lawlessness and corruption by joining hands with the RJD.

Loss of faith in judiciary will endanger democracy: CJI Ramana

Agency
Vijayawada, August 20:

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Saturday said that if people lose faith and trust in the judiciary, the very survival of democracy will be at stake.

Justice Ramana, who is scheduled to demit office next week, said it was necessary to ensure that people do not lose faith and trust in the judiciary.

"If the people lose the faith and trust in judiciary and if the survival of democracy will be at stake," the CJI said.

Justice Ramana was speaking after inaugurating Vijayawada Court Complex here in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court Prashant Kumar Mishra, judges of the high court and other courts.

He said during his tenure as the Chief Justice, he focused on filling up vacancies of judges and as many as 250 high court judges were appointed.

The CJI said filling up the vacancies of judges and improving infrastructure were the two issues on top of his agenda during his tenure of one-and-half years.

He said during his tenure as the CJI, 250 high court judges were appointed. Twelve judges to the Supreme Court and 15 chief justices of various state high courts were also appointed.

The CJI said he ensured all sections of society, especially women and backward sections get proper representation in the judiciary.

He said he spoke on the filling up of vacancies of judges and improving infrastructure in courts across the country and raised the issue with the Prime Minister, Central Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices.

In view of the financial prob-



lems faced by some states, he wanted the Centre to provide funds to the state for construction of court buildings.

"Though there was some opposition from the Centre, some Chief Ministers, especially of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, supported me and demanded that the Centre provide the funds. I thank them for their support," he said.

Justice Ramana observed that high pendency of cases is the main problem faced by the judiciary in the country and there are many reasons for that.

He reminded judges and lawyers that ensuring speedy justice is their responsibility. Judging is the ultimate aim of judiciary is to deliver justice to people, he advised them to ensure speedy justice within the shortest possible time.

He advised lawyers to extend all support to various initiatives to strengthen the judiciary and also recalled the days when he served as a member of Vijayawada Bar Association in 1983.

He said it was Justice K.G. Shankar advised him to go to Hyderabad. He also recalled his association with eminent criminal lawyer Ayyappu Reddy, who was also known for his love for literature and active politics.

"I worked as a junior to him

for 10 years and he treated me like his son," said Justice Ramana.

The CJI thanked all those who helped him to reach the top position. He advised lawyers to encourage their juniors.

"You have a responsibility. You enjoy a respectable position in the society, which is looking at you. You should be role models for a change in society," he said.

The CJI said he was pleased to inaugurate the building for which he had laid the foundation stone nearly a decade ago.

Justice Ramana said while bifurcation of the state was one reason for the delay in construction, the governments could not release funds on time due to financial problems and contractors could not execute the work properly.

He noted that the cost of the eight-storey building had gone up from Rs 58 crore to Rs 100 crore. He said building alone was not enough and advised judges and lawyers to use the building effectively.

He said during his tenure as the CJI, several high court judges were appointed in both the Telugu states. Stating that there are some vacancies, he asked the chief minister and chief justice to work for filling the same.

Contd. from Page 1

31st Manipuri Language Day....

The Chief Minister also proposed schemes to develop local language dictionaries and help in developing and protecting the languages and dialects.

Education, Law & Legislative Affairs Minister and Manipuri Language Day State Level Celebration Committee Chairman Th. Basanta Kumar Singh said today is a significant day for the State as the Manipuri language was included in the 8th Schedule on this day in 1992.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has classified all languages of the world and categorized the Manipuri language under vulnerable classification, he said, expressing the importance of promoting and preserving the language.

The Minister further stated that under the leadership and advice of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, efforts are on seeking recognition of the Manipuri language as the

7th Classical Language of India.

PWD Minister Govindas Konhoujam, Rajya Sabha MP Leishamba Sanajoba also attended the observation. Altogether 17 organisations, which are part of the Manipuri Language Day State Level Celebration Committee, were also handed Certificate of Appreciations. It may be mentioned that Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali were added in the 8th schedule by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992.

2024 battle....

"Their issue is not the liquor/excise scam. Their problem is Arvind Kejriwal. The proceedings against me, raids at my residence and office, are to stop him. I haven't indulged in any corruption activities. I'm just Arvind Kejriwal's education minister," said Sisodia.

Meanwhile, Delhi Congress workers under the leadership of state party president Anil Chaudhary held a protest on Saturday demanding the resignation of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Sports

Durand Cup 2022:

Defending champs FC Goa clinch 1-0 win over Indian Air Force; Sudeva FC and Kerala Blasters play out a 1-1 draw

Agency
Kolkata/Guwahati, August 20:

Youngster Muhammed Nemil's strike for FC Goa made all the difference as the defending champs defeated Indian Air Force 1-0 at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan on Friday (August 19). The 20-year-old has now scored six goals in eight matches overall. Also it was Nemil's second goal in this edition of the Durand 2022 in which FC Goa registered their first win.

FC Goa head coach Deggie Cardozo made three changes to his team's starting XI against Mohammedan SC as Mallikjan Kalegar, Ayush Chhetri and Mevan Dias replaced Rayan Roger Menezes, Shanon Viegas and Jovial Dias respectively.

FC Goa looked to be on tempo to start the game and capitalised on their spell dominance. Nemil made the most when the ball got to him at the edge of the box, dispatching their first chance of the match in the 8th minute with much oomph.

The lead resulted in the Gaurs gradually establishing control over the tempo of the game. In the 17th minute, Air Force's Vivek Kumar almost scored against the run of play, when he attempted a long-ranger from over 40 yards out that narrowly missed the target.

Goa kept on creating chances in the first half but the young Gaurs lacked composure in the final third to stretch their lead further.

The game became a scrappy, two to end affair in the second forty-five with a torrential downpour and sombre ground conditions not helping the cause.

FC Goa got their best chance of the half in the 64th minute, when Delton received a ball from Nemil and attempted a shot from the right side. This time, however, Shibinraj in the Air Force goal was quick to react as he carried the ball away for a corner-kick.

Still a goal down, the Indian Air Force eked their way back into the contest and



they threw the kitchen sink in the late stages of the game. They did indeed create a couple of fine chances to draw level, but the Gaurs' shot-stopper Hrithik Tiwari was equal to the task whenever called into

action. The Assam-native made brilliant saves, once each in the 75th minute and in stoppage time to deny their opponents the equaliser. The win helped FC Goa open their ac-

count in the Durand Cup with three points from two games. Next up for them is a clash against Jamshedpur FC, on August 26 at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan.

Delhi's Sudeva FC played

out a draw with Indian Super League (ISL) side Kerala Blasters in a Group D game of the 131st IndianOil Durand Cup, at the Indira Gandhi Athletic stadium in Guwahati.

Md. Ajsal drew first blood for the Delhi-based side, but a stunning strike from Mangku Kuki just three minutes later, ensured that both teams split points in their respective opening game of Asia's oldest tournament.

All 47 games of the 131st Durand Cup are being telecast LIVE on Sports18 1 SD & HD and Sports18 Khel as well as live-streamed on the Over the Top (OTT) platform VOO!

Sudeva coach Chencho Dorji made his attacking intentions clear from get go opting for a four-man midfield and a three-man forward line while the Blasters gaffer had no such illusions going in with a regulation 4-4-2. Sudeva dominated possession in the first half and had the larger share of attacks but could not press home the advantage.

It was then that the Blast-

ers struck against the run of play with barely three minutes to go for the first half to end.

Md. Ajsal received the ball in front of the box and drove in, shooting from near the penalty spot area to beat keeper Kabir Kohli in the Sudeva goal.

The response was immediate. Mangku Kuki received the ball on the right from a quickly taken throw-in in the attacking third, controlled and then cut in to gracefully curl it into the top corner to draw parity. It was a top class finish at any level.

Sudeva continued to dominate possession in the second-half and created more chances but there was a period when both teams sat back and wanted to control possession which might have affected the end result.

The Delhi side threw everyone forward in the final minutes of the game but beyond some set-pieces, nothing fruitful materialized and the stalemate remained for the first draw of the tournament after six games.