

MSPDCL yet to provide information regarding Saubhagya Scheme

Instead of providing information on Saubhagya Scheme, authority tried to negotiate asking to withdraw information sought through RTI Act

IT News
Imphal, August 31:

On suspicion of misappropriation of funds sanctioned and implementation of Saubhagya scheme by MSPDCL, initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Imphal Times sought information regarding this through the Right to Information Act, 2005. However, instead of providing the information the top authority of the MSPDCL invited the editor of this newspaper and bargained for negotiation regarding the issue and assured to fulfill any demand if the information sought in connection with the implementation of the Saubhagya scheme is withdrawn. But Imphal Times editor shrewdly convinced them and escaped from the meeting and kept continued all possible efforts to get the information. If the scheme has been implemented properly, Imphal Times was surprised at why the authority wanted our team to withdraw the RTI application. The MSPDCL still is not providing any information till today and the hearing is going on at the Manipur Information Commission. It was under the Saubhagya Scheme that Prime

Minister announced Manipur Village Leishang of Senapati district as the last village in India to be electrified on April 29, 2018. But later, there were reports of many villages not being electrified in many parts of Manipur. To find out what defied the announcement of the Prime Minister, Imphal Times filed sought information about the Saubhagya scheme through RTI Act 2005.

The Saubhagya scheme, which was launched by Union Power Minister R K Singh and Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on November 28, 2017, has provided electricity connections to 1,02,748 households between October 10, 2017, and March 31, 2019, as per a report given by the Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (MSPDCL).

The Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (MSPDCL) claimed that before the launching of the Saubhagya scheme a total of 1,02,758 unelectrified households were there. After the launching of the Saubhagya scheme, all these unelectrified households are electrified between October 10, 2017 to March 31, 2019, and no house was left out as claimed by the implementing authority



The photo PM Modi tweeted after announcement of Leishang Village as the last electrified village in India.

(MSPDCL). A total of 19,452 households in Senapati District, 5,263 households in Imphal East District, 15,683 households in Churachandpur District, 14,431 households in Thoubal District, 5,665 households in Imphal West District, 5,342 households in Bishnupur District, 13,037 households in Ukhrul District, 12,263 households in Chandel District and 11,612 households in Tamenglong District, altogether 1,02,748 households were reported electrified.

Under the Saubhagya Scheme, the electricity connection to households includes the release of electricity connections by drawing a service cable

from the nearest electricity pole to the household premise, installation of an energy meter, wiring for a single light point with an LED bulb, and a mobile charging point. If an electricity pole is not available near the household for drawing service cable, the scheme will cover the erection of an additional pole, conductor, and associated accessories.

To verify the genuineness of the work done, Team Imphal Times filed an RTI to MSPDCL on April 18, 2022, seeking information on the equipment and materials used in the implementation of the Saubhagya scheme. However, as the

MSPDCL officials failed to respond, team Imphal Times appealed the matter to the first appellate authority. As the attempt went in vain, we filed a second appeal to the Manipur Information Commission (MIC) and the first hearing of the said appeal case started on July 14, 2022.

As per information available with the Imphal Times, a work order amounting to Rs. 199,85,89,291 (One Hundred ninety-nine Crore, eighty-five Lakh, eighty-nine thousand and two hundred ninety-one) was given to four firms for implementation of the said scheme. During the financial year 2018-19, the firms work orders for imple-

mentation of the Saubhagya Scheme were awarded to M/s. Shyama Power India Limited, M/s. T & T Projects Ltd, M/s. Industrial System LLP and M/s. Khagamba Transmission and Construction. The estimated cost of the work programme awarded to the four firms are Rs. 113,35,62,512, Rs. 40,67,43,500, Rs. 44,13,39,248, and Rs. 1,71,24,031 respectively.

During the course of the hearing at Manipur Information Commission on July 14, 2022, the authorities of MSPDCL submitted that the sought information relates to personal information, commercial confidence, trade secrets, or intellectual property and is exempted under the RTI Act, but failed to explain how the information sought relates to personal information. Further, the authorities of the MSPDCL prayed to the Manipur Information Commission to allow him to file a written explanation for the denial of information. The Commission fixed the next hearing for August 9, 2022.

During the hearing on August 9, the authorities of MSPDCL requested the representative of Team Imphal Times for joint inspection of the record in their office, but the

representative strongly denied the request, stating the RTI is filed in the larger interest of the public, so there is no need for private inspection as the information sought is all public documents. Following hearing from both parties, the Commission directs the authority of MSPDCL to positively place all files and records pertaining to the RTI queries before the Commission on August 24, 2022 at 2.00 pm for examination by the Commission and sets September 1, 2022, as the next hearing date.

The information sought by team Imphal Times is public documents and it never relates to personal information, commercial confidence, trade secrets, or intellectual property as submitted by the authorities of MSPDCL. The work to be done by the four firms includes the supply of electric poles, electric wire, distribution transformers, etc., and the erection and commissioning of these items. During the hearing, Team Imphal Times also submitted that how come the supplying of electric poles, electric wire, and distribution transformers and erection of electric poles by drawing a service cable come under trade secret?

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports invites applications for Sports Awards 2022

IT News
Imphal, August 31:

The Sports Ministry on Saturday set September 20 as the deadline for submitting online applications for National Sports Awards 2022. Applications and eligibility of athletes for the awards can be checked and submitted online at www.dbyas-sports.gov.in by September 20, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.

The Directorate of Youth, Affairs and Sports, Govern-

ment of Manipur also released a press statement in connection with the invitation of application for the Sports Award, 2022. In a statement released by the Directorate of Youth, Affairs and Sports, Government, it stated that with reference to the letters from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Department of Sports, vide letter no. K15012/5/2022-SP-IV(i),(ii), (iv), (v) & (vi) dated August 27, 2022, the Department of Youth Affairs and

Sports, Manipur is inviting applications from eligible sportspersons for the awards i) Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award; ii) Arjuna Award; iii) Dronacharya Award; iv) Dronacharya Award; v) Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in sports & games, and vi) Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar. The awards will be given for outstanding achievements or service in the field of sports and games.

Minister Nemcha Kipgen take stock of Industrial Estate & Food Park

IT News
Imphal, August 31:

Textiles, Commerce & Industry Minister, Nemcha Kipgen took stock of the prevailing infrastructure conditions and industrial components at Takel Industrial Estate and Nilakuthi Food Park today.

While visiting the said locations, Industry Minister Nemcha interacted with the entrepreneurs and urged them to fully utilize the infrastructures developed by the government for improving



the industrial sector of the State. Such infrastructure fa-

cilitates the entrepreneurs to establish their business

which will further contribute to give employment opportunities to the unemployed youths of our state, she added.

During the visit, the Minister also inspected the conditions of the roads and surrounding areas and informed that road development is in the pipeline.

The Minister was accompanied by Commissioner, TCI, PK Jha, Director, Commerce and Industry, Yumnam Robita Devi and concerned officers and officials of the Department

YDSO boycotts the family of AK Ibungo

IT News
Imphal, August 31:

The Young Development Sports Organisation (YDSO) and Thoubal Wangmataba Nupi Chaokhat Khongthang Lup has boycotted the family of Akoijam Bungma alias Ibungo, the accused who allegedly raped her own daughter.

It may be mentioned that the 15-year-old girl who was allegedly raped multiple times by her father for the past six years died after she succumbed to injuries after a suicide attempt. The victim consumed poison and suffered multiple organ failures, which led to her death.

409 Crimes Committed Against Children Everyday: NCRB 2021 Data Reveals

New Delhi, August 31:

A quick analysis of the NCRB report 2021 by CRY - Child Rights and You reveals that 1,49,404 cases of crimes against children were recorded last year, which meant that every hour 17 crimes were committed against children - translating to a whopping 409 numbers of crimes being committed every day against children in the country.

There is a worrying rise in number of crimes against children when compared to last year - while NCRB data revealed that 1,28,531 cases of crimes that had

been recorded in 2020, total number of crimes stood at 1,49,404 in 2021 - indicating a remarkable 16.2 per cent increase in crimes reported against children.

A close look at the decadal scenario points to an alarming upward trend where crimes against children increased sharply by 351% between 2011 and 2021.

Further analysis of the NCRB 2021 data suggests that sexual offences against children, especially girls, are steadily on the rise, as one out of every three crimes against children are registered under the POCSO Act

(53,874 out of 1,49,404 - i.e. 36.1 per cent of total crimes against children). More importantly, sexual crimes against children shows very strong gender tilt as adolescent girls within 12 to 16 years are reported to be the victims in more than 99 per cent of the cases registered under the POCSO Act.

State-wise distribution of crimes against children suggests that Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha account for close to half of the crimes committed against children (47.4 per cent) in India.

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National SC-ST Hub Mega Conclave to be held in Churachandpur on September 2

IT News
Imphal, August 31:

The Union Minister of State for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma will chair the National SC/ST Hub Conclave on September 2, 2022 at Churachandpur in the presence of Nemcha Kipgen, Hon'ble Minister for Textiles, Commerce, Industry and Co-operation, Govt. of Manipur, Heikham Dingo Singh, Minister of Social Welfare, Skill, Labour, Employment & Entrepreneurship/Fisheries, Govt. of Manipur, Letpao Haokip, Minister of Tribal Affairs &

Hills/Horticulture and Social Conservation, Govt. of Manipur and other senior dignitaries

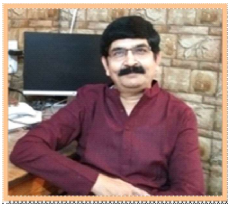
The conclave is organised by the Ministry of MSME to spread awareness of the NSSH Scheme and other schemes of the Ministry. It will also be a time to interact with aspiring or existing SC/ST entrepreneurs, CPSEs, industry associations, and lending institutions to enhance the participation of SC/ST MSEs in public procurement. The MSME sector plays a significant role in terms of job cre-

ation and improving livelihood. Currently, it consists of over 6 crore units employing over 11 crore people, contributing significantly to economic growth with over 30% of the contribution to GDP and over 49% of overall exports from India.

For inclusive growth, the Ministry of MSME implements the National SC/ST Hub Scheme with the objective of creating an ecosystem for SC/STs and helping them participate in the public procurement process to reach at least 4%.

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Lord Ganesha stays our mentor and protector



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Year after year, Ganesh's devotees look forward to his annual coming, "GANESH CHATURTHI". Ganesh Chaturthi falls every year on the fourth day Bhadrpad (August-September). This year Ganesh Chaturthi falls on August 31st.

Who does not know Ganesha? Ganesha, the pot-bellied figure with rounded, childlike limbs and an elephant's head with one tusk broken, has four arms holding a goad, a noose, a broken tusk and a bowl of sweets. He is well-known deity not only because it has been or-

derained that before beginning any puja or worshipping any other God, one must first pray to Him. Apart from Krishna, Ganesha is the only other God in whom we find childlike innocence. A prayer in the Rig Veda invoking Ganesha shows that he has been worshipped since very ancient times. The sacred symbol "Om", as written in Sanskrit is said to represent him. He is praised at the beginning of any ceremony or undertaking and has a thousand names, including Ganesh, Ganapati, Gajendra, Siddhadata, Vinayaka, Ekadanta etc. all of which should recited to avert evil and ensure success and well-being.

Now let us see how Ganesh got his name (title) Ganapati? Once Gods were to select a leader amongst themselves and for this, they had a race. They were to go round the universe thrice and in this race the God who return first would be a winner. The Gods, including Kartikeya (Ganesha's younger brother) set out on their swift mounts and the fat Ganesha was left behind with his vehicle mouse. Ganesha went round his parents Shiva-Parvati thrice and returned to the finishing point and was declared first. All the Gods who had competed agreed that after all Ganesha had been round his universe and thus he deserved to win. Thus Ganesha became 'GANANAYAK', the leader of Shiva's 'GANAS' and it was decreed that people must offer him worship as the remover of all obstacles, before they begin any suspicious work or offer puja to any other God.

Ganesha today is worshipped with prayer and meditation but is rarely the primary deity of devotion, except in Maharashtra where puja is offered to him and colorful procession are taken out. The history of Maharashtra since the last two hundred years is recounted and eminent, Maharashtrian politicians remembered. Ganesha Chaturthi festival has provided that symbol for Hindu regeneration in Maharashtra. Ganesha lends power in the world of action and offers protection, opens doors and given success to other Gods and Goddesses.

Now let us see what Ganesha embodies within his frame and what his name signifies: "Ganesha's potbelly or "lambda" signifies that the entire universe or "Brahma" is within Gnanish. The ever-moving trunk teaches us to be active. In his four hands "Chaturbhuj", Ganesha carries the pasha (rope), ankusha (Curved weapon), the modaka (sweets laddoos) an offering which his devotees must make to him, if they wish to please him. His fourth hand is folded in benediction to his devotees, assuring them of his help and protection. Now, you all might be wondering why Ganesha the all-dynamic Number One God should ride a rat. There is a reason. The rat is traditionally associated with emotions like anger, pride and selfishness. Ganesha's riding rat means, the God keeps these feelings under control.

Lord Ganesha's BIG HEAD inspires us to think big and think profitably, the BIG EARS prompt us to listen patiently to new ideas and suggestions, the NARROW EYES point to deep concentration need to finish tasks in hand well and quickly.

the LONG NOSE tells us to poke around inquisitively to learn more and the SMALL MOUTH reminds us to speak less and listen more.

Today, Lord Ganesha is still with us. He stays with us for complete ten days every year, before his idol is immersed in water with the prayer, "Please come soon next year."

How to boost confidence in your children



By: Vijay GarG

Confidence is a key to living a happy life. Developing confidence in children at a young age is very crucial for their overall growth. Check out these few suggestions which can help to increase confidence level of your children.

A child is like wet clay when they are born; they will adopt the shape you give them. Children who have more self-confidence perform better in a variety of academic and extracurricular activities. It is essential to living a fulfilling life and achieving great things. Children who lack confidence are frequently unwilling to try new things and fall behind their more confident friends in competition. Here are a few ways you may use to encourage your kids to feel more confident about themselves

"Confidence is the greatest gift that parents can gift to their children and it is important to inculcate small habits since childhood that can boost their confidence so that they grow up to be a confident individual. Nowadays many times we see both the parents working due to which child is often spending most of the time at daycare. Which hampers their growth as well as their confidence level. Issues such as anxiety, depression, and emotional burnout are increasing in young children. Parental care plays an important role for young children."

In addition, she shared few tips which can help you to increase confidence level in your children.

1. Appreciate them

You should always recognise a child's effort when they try something new, even if they don't succeed. This will help the kid overcome their fear of doing new things in the future. Your compliments will boost his confidence and motivate him to be more eager to do new tasks. Give them praise for even the smallest accomplishments, such as creating a tidy room, receiving high marks, or reciting a poem. Kids who receive enough praise grow up to be confident people with strong self-esteem. While lack of appreciation and motivation can lead to a complex in kids.

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Great Draught in Europe

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

liters. "In areas upstream, some trout and other freshwater species can take shelter in pools via fish ladders. But such systems aren't available everywhere. Without rain, the river "will continue to empty. And yes, all fish will die. ... They are trapped upstream and downstream, there's no water coming in, so the oxygen level will keep decreasing as the (water) volume goes down," Cousné said. "These are species that will gradually disappear. Jean-Pierre Sonvico, the regional head of the federation, said diverting the fish to other rivers won't help because those waterways also are affected by the drought. "Yes, it's dramatic because what can we do? Nothing," he said. "We're waiting, hoping for storms with rain, but storms are very local so we can't count on it." The European Commission's Joint Research Center warned this week that drought conditions will get worse and potentially affect 47% of the continent. Andrea Toreti, a senior researcher at the European Drought Observatory, said a drought in 2018 was so extreme that there were no similar events for the last 500 years, "but this year, I think, it is really worse. "For the next three months, "we see still a very high risk of dry conditions over Western and Central Europe, as well as the U.K.," Toreti said.

The current situation is the result of long periods of dry weather caused by changes in world weather systems, said meteorologist Peter Hoffmann of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research near Berlin. "It's just that in summer we feel it the most," he said. "But actually the drought builds up across the year. "Climate change has lessened the temperature differences between

regions, sapping the forces that drive the jet stream, which normally brings wet Atlantic weather to Europe, he said. A weaker or unstable jet stream can result in unusually hot air coming to Europe from North Africa, leading to prolonged periods of heat. The reverse is also true; when a polar vortex of cold air from the Arctic can cause freezing conditions far south of where it would normally reach. Hoffmann said observations in recent years have all been at the upper end of what the existing climate models predicted. The drought has caused some European countries to impose restrictions on water usage, and shipping is endangered on the Rhine and the Danube rivers. The Rhine, Germany's biggest waterway, could reach critical low levels in the coming days. Water levels near the town of Kaub are forecast to fall to 35 centimeters (14 inches) by Tuesday, said Bastian Klein of the German Federal Institute of Hydrology. Only small or specially designed ships can navigate in such conditions, he said.

"Industries that depend on inland shipping and transport on the Rhine are of course affected, as there's less transport capacity for raw materials or finished products," said Klein. On the Danube, authorities in Serbia have started dredging to keep vessels moving. In neighboring Hungary, wide parts of Lake Velence near Budapest have turned into patches of dried mud, beaching small boats. Aeration and water circulation equipment have been installed to protect wildlife, but water quality has deteriorated. A ban on swimming was imposed at one beach on weekends. Stretches of the Po, Italy's longest river, are so low

that barges and boats that sank decades ago are resurfacing. The drought also has affected England, which last month had its driest July since 1935, according to the Met Office weather agency. The lack of rain has depleted reservoirs, rivers and groundwater and left grasslands brown and tinder-dry. Millions in the U.K. were already barred from watering lawns and gardens under regional "hosepipe bans," and 15 million more around London will face such a ban shortly. The drought is also hitting U.K. farmers, who face running out of irrigation water and having to use winter feed for animals because of a lack of grass. The Rivers Trust charity said England's chalk streams — which allow underground springs to bubble up through the spongy layer of rock — are drying up, endangering aquatic wildlife like kingfishers and trout. Even countries like Spain and Portugal, which are used to long periods without rain, have seen major consequences. In the Spanish region of Andalusia, some avocado farmers have had to sacrifice hundreds of trees to save others from wilting as the Vinala reservoir in Malaga province dropped to only 13% of capacity. Some European farmers are using water from the tap for their livestock when ponds and streams go dry, using up to 100 litres (26 gallons) a day per cow. In normally green Burgundy, home to the source of Paris' Seine River, the grass has turned yellow-brown and tractors churn up giant clouds of dust. In fact this could be the worst drought in 500 years in Europe as a result of intrusion to nature.

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Ganesh Chaturthi - A festival to be a perfect ruler within

By: Dr. Jayadeba Sahoo

"॥ Tat purushanya vidmahe , Vakratundanya dheemahi , Tanno dhanti prachodayaat ॥"

: "Lord Ganesha is an embodiment of wisdom and bliss."

He is the Lord of Brahmacharins. He is foremost amongst the celibates."

Bharat is well known for festivals. The festivals of this land form the most important link that sustains its cultural heritage. The number of festivals celebrated here is hardly comparable to festivals celebrated by other countries. Twelve months in a year is filled with thirteen big festivals. "Ganesh Chaturthi" has a special importance among them. The cycle of time keeps rotating but its memories remain. To freshen these memories, memorials are made, stories are written, birth days are observed, in which self respects, love, true feelings are imbibed. Unfortunately, a day comes when respects & love cases and rituals remain. It would not be exaggeration to say that festivals nowadays are being celebrated just continue the tradition. The auspicious festival of "Ganesh Chaturthi" had been reduced to an annual ritual hardly reflecting its true significance.

New beginnings are welcomed with enthusiasm, hope, happiness and the pure desire for accomplishment. Around the world, and moreover in India, every milestone of life or fresh venture is encased with a ritual or simply an ardent prayer for everything to go well. These auspicious undertakings fill the aspirant with unending faith and vigour that ensure success. What a beautiful religious practice we follow of invoking the Supreme at every new step we take! How great then must that powerful deity be who is always worshipped during new beginnings: the revered Lord Ganpati.

The deeper significance of this festival has been lost in the loud commercialisation and ritualistic tra-

ditions marking the day. Unknown to many, this festival is rooted in several myths and a spiritual truth of great significance that reflect its purity and power of protection.

Now what is the esoteric meaning of this festival?

Shri Ganesh is by far the most mystical deity, which makes him so intriguing and lovable. Vighna-Vinashak (the Destroyer of Obstacles), Siddhidata (Bestower of Attainments/ Success), the deity to be worshipped before all others in the Hindu pantheon, symbolises good fortune, has an elephant's head and accommodating stomach, carries a rope and axe, rides a mouse Mooshak and is said to be outstandingly wise. These and several other exemplary features cement a place for Ganeshji in the hearts of lakhs of devotees, especially in Maharashtra.

But how ironic that 'devotion' is gradually evaporating from 'religion'... Though we spend exorbitantly

Lord Shree Ganesh is god of Wisdom and the remover of obstacles

Lord Ganesha is worshipped, or at least remembered, in the beginning of any auspicious performance for blessings and auspiciousness. His symbols signifies like Large Ears-Listen more, Big Head-Think big, Axe-To cut off all bonds of attachment, Small Eyes -Concentrate , Small Mouth -Talk less , Blessings-Blesses and protect on spiritual path to supreme , Large stomach-Peacefully digest all good and bad in life , Prasada-The whole world is at your feet and for your asking , Rope-To pull you to the highest god, One Tusk-Retain good throw away bad , Trunk-High Efficiency and Adaptability, Madaka-Rewards of Sadhana, Mouse-Desire. Unless under control can cause havoc. You ride the desire and keep it under control and don't allow it to take you for a ride. A unique combination of his elephant like head and a quick moving tiny mouse vehicle represents tremendous wisdom, intelligence, and presence of mind.

on Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations yearly, do we ever reflect on whether Ganeshji appreciates the pomp, the lavish puja ensembles, the unending, raucous entertainment that usually bear no religious significance, the uncontrolled use of alcohol, the

thumping on the idols during visarjan... We were meant to be honouring a divine being yet Ganeshji is subjected to an atmosphere of grave consequences! Without a doubt honest efforts are being invested to keep tradition alive by camouflaging the Festival with modern paraphernalia. It is commendable and inspiring to witness the unification of families and communities as a result of the celebrations but is the human soul being empowered and coming closer to the Almighty? Can we afford to forsake it?

Festivals are precious for lifting our spirits, binding stronger relationships with family and friends, and carrying forth ancient traditions to new generations and the world. But they serve an infinitely more valuable purpose: as we face the onslaught of natural calamities, corruption, terrorism, illnesses, pollution, and abominable fear and sorrow, the magic of these festivals hold no meaning unless the spiritual significance is realised and emulated. We worship Ganeshji to bring us luck devoid of hindrances and complications but wouldn't it be more advantageous to follow His footsteps?

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India records 7,231 new Covid-19 infections, active caseload dips to 64,667

Agency
New Delhi, August 31:

With 7,231 new infections being reported in a day, India's COVID-19 tally rose to 4,44,28,393, while the number of active cases came down to 64,667, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The toll from the pandemic climbed to 5,27,874 after 45 more fatalities were recorded. The figure includes 10 deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise

0.15 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.67 per cent, the ministry said.

A drop of 1,065 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 case count in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.05 per cent. The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.55 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,38,35,852,

while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 212.39 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

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 one

crore on December 19.

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

The 35 new fatalities include eight from Maharashtra, five each from Delhi and Karnataka, three from Punjab, two each from Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and one each from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Odisha, Sikkim and West Bengal.

Peace talks with HNLC on track, says Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma

Agency
Shillong, August 31:

Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma has informed that the "complicated process" of peace talks with the banned HNLC are on track.

Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma said that the state government will put in efforts to "speed up" the talks process with the HNLC.

"We will try to speed up the process. However, this is a complicated process and everybody needs to be taken into confidence," the Meghalaya chief minister said.

Conrad Sangma made this statement after chairing a meeting of the Meghalaya cabinet on Tuesday evening.

Notably, at least five senior leaders of the proscribed Hynniewtre National Liberation Council (HNLC) were reported to be camping in Meghalaya for peace talks with the government.

The HNLC team comprises its vice chairman - Manbhang Jyrwa, political secretary - Aristerwell Thongni and foreign secretary - Phrangkupar Diengdoh and two of their PSO (personal security officers) - Aiborlem Marbanian and Storgy Lyngdoh.

Earlier, the Meghalaya government had announced that it and the central government had granted "safe passage" to the HNLC leaders to arrive in the state and start

negotiations.

Notably, the HNLC is yet to announce its demands, issues and agendas will be discussed during the talks process.

The HNLC had earlier announced the appointment of Sadon K Blah as its 'representative' to take forward the proposed peace talks.

On the other hand, the Meghalaya government on March 10 had appointed retired IAS officer Peter S Dkhar and AK Mishra, advisor MHA (Northeast), as the two interlocutors for the proposed peace talks with HNLC.

HNYP president Sadon K Blah has been in touch with the two interlocutors to pursue the peace talks.

Assam registered 10% rise in crimes in 2021, Says NCRB report

Agency
Guwahati, August 31:

Number of crimes in Assam increased by nearly 10 per cent to over 1.33 lakh cases in 2021, according to the latest report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Assam recorded 1,33,239 cases of crime last year, up from 1,21,609 cases in 2020, the report stated.

Of these, 1,19,883 were Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes 8,325 more than the year-ago period. Crimes related to Special and Local Laws (SLL) also rose to 13,356 from 10,051 in 2020, the NCRB said in its report.

It further noted that Assam registered 379 crimes per one lakh population last year. During the year, 1,269 people were killed in 1,192 incidents of murder. The state also logged 2,075 cases of assault on women, 688 sexual harassment, 7,580 cases of kidnapping, 149 trafficking, 1,733 cases of rape and 561 attempt to commit rape.

In 2021, Assam recorded 35 offences against the state, including three sedition cases. Besides, 1,292 unlawful assembly, 780 rioting, and 2,150 offences against public tranquility cases have been registered. Apart from that, the state saw

the registration of 17,351 FIRs for theft, 5,010 for burglary, 1,379 for extortion, 1,885 for robbery, 12,950 for cruelty by husband or his relatives and 1,538 for criminal intimidation.

As many 1,926 cases under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) were also recorded in 2021 in Assam, NCRB data showed. Further, authorities lodged 3,840 cases for violation of information technology and intellectual property related acts in the state last year, while 2,464 cases were registered under various liquor and narcotic drugs-related laws.

Delhi CM Kejriwal launches India's first virtual school; claims will be milestone in education sector

Agency
New Delhi, August 31:

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, on Wednesday, announced "country's first virtual school", claiming it as a "revolutionary move, begins today in the national capital." He also said that India cannot become the "number one nation in the world" until every student in the country receives a high-quality education.

The announcement, made during a virtual press conference, comes as the Aam Aadmi Party government continues to face Bharatiya Janata Party allegations of corruption in the education sector. While the party has previously taken pride in all it has done for the sector in Delhi, the BJP has



intensified its attacks, alleging inconsistencies in funding allocation.

"We are launching Delhi's first virtual school today. We announced this last year. Many students are unable to attend school in their villages. There are still apprehensions about female education. The goal of this school would be to reach every student," the

Delhi Chief Minister continued.

Classes for the virtual school, which is affiliated with the Delhi Board of School Education, will be held for students aged 13 to 18. Students from all over India can apply for admission by visiting the official website, www.dmvsa.ac.in.

Students in classes 11 and 12 will be prepared for competi-

tive exams and receive skill-based training. Students could access live and recorded classes and assessments by logging into an online platform.

Chief Minister Kejriwal also listed the city's accomplishments in the virtual meet. "In the field of education, Delhi has taken many revolutionary steps." On the one hand, school infrastructure was improved, as was the quality of education; several new aspects of the school curriculum, such as entrepreneurship classes, were also introduced."

Additionally, he continued, "We are also opening a new special school for children who have been observed seeking alms at traffic signals. Among other special initiatives, there are skill universities."

Contd. from Page 2

Ganesh Chaturthi - A festival to be a perfect....

It is tragic to be beheaded by your own father but this sacrifice by Lord Shiva's son granted him a new, unparalleled life of incredible wisdom and power. Ganeshji renounced his false identity to adopt a persona that out shadowed whatever he was previously. When we stand before God, humility unlocks the door of our mind to imbibe knowledge and develop an unbiased intellect.

There is no scarcity of learned philosophers and mahatmas who have cogitated and presented the symbolism behind Ganeshji's physical features, weapons, consorts, fables etc. However, the eternal truth is that Ganeshji's potency has and never will be a demonstration of physical capabilities.

Ganeshji is the treasure-

store of spiritual powers: discrimination, far-sightedness, maturity, elimination of negative attitudes, letting go of trivial matters, balance of emotional and rational personalities, ability to mentally detach from the physical realm whenever needed and absorb God's love and grace and much more. We too are endowed with said values to varying degrees but rarely do we acknowledge the same.

Why is it more gratifying today to come into sound and action for festivities than engage in refining the soul's virtues and experiencing God's perfection and beauty? Even if the creation is flawed and ineffectual, there is no loss in maintaining faith in our Creator's ocean-like supremacy. Ganeshji attained his glorious status after sincere

endeavour, and wisely secured his powers for eternity so why not we, also children of God, at the least safe-guard our future by taking to his path of enlightenment?

By living through all that Ganeshji upholds in this unique style, his glory will remain with us forever. Newness represents vitality and hidden potential, so just imagine what wonders will be revealed with a positive transformation of the human soul? In the enigmatic, holy presence of Lord Ganesh may each of us unveil a new 'me' and a new destiny.

So, let us all irrespective of different religious faith, celebrate this 'Ganesh Chaturthi' and empower our self through process of Supreme Communion (Raja Yoga) with Supreme Being 'God' - Incorporeal Point of a conscient Eternal

Light to inculcate His Supreme Commands of Universal Values to establish a "Value Based Happy Society of Culture of Peace & Non Violence" - our most cherished desire. The understanding of this eternal truth will usher in religious harmony & world peace. Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University has been engaged in this task for last 82 years since its inception in 1936-37.

The true way of celebrating 'Ganesh Chaturthi' would be to realize the significance of the present auspicious time (Sangam Yuga, which is end of Kaliyuga - Iron Age and the beginning of Satyuga - Golden Age) and by pledging to discard all negative traits such as anger, greed, ego and lust and by leading a life filled of love, compassion, respect,

humility, cooperation, responsibility, divinity to establish a "Value Based Happy Society of Culture of Peace & Non Violence".

On this auspicious occasion of 'Ganesh Chaturthi', 2022, take a moment for deep spiritual introspection and free yourselves from the bondage of greed, the lust for power and a slave of promiscuity and make God your eternal companion for true peace, happiness and prosperity.

Happy greetings on the auspicious festival of 'Ganesh Chaturthi'.

(The author is Faculty, Brahma Kumaris, Professor (Ex-Dean & Head), Faculty of Education, R.G.U., Rajiv Gandhi (Central) University, Janagar. Cell: 9436042658, E-mail: driyadeb12@gmail.com)

LOST OF DOCUMENTS

The under mentioned certificates bearing in the name of the undersigned has been lost on the way to Ukhrul from Yaingangpokpi on August 30, 2022.

The finders are requested to handover the documents.

The details of certificate are as follows:

1. Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination 2007 (Meghalaya Board of School Education) bearing Roll Number 54406 in the name of Y. Pamthing Shimray.
2. Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination, 2010 (Meghalaya Board of School Education) bearing Roll No. 156592 of St. Peter's Higher Secondary School, Shillong.
3. Bachelor of Arts (Honours) 2013, bearing Roll No. A1100868, Registration No. 10003 of 2010-11.

Sd/-

Y. Pamthing Shimray
New Canaan Village,
Ukhrul District

IN THE COURT OF SUB-DEPUTY COLLECTOR IRONG CHESABA, THOUBAL DISTRICT

NOTICE

Ref. Mutation Case No. 23/SCD/I.Ch. Dt. 23/8/2022

Applicant: Syed Ahamed, S/o (Late) Abdul Salam of Heibong Makhong

-Vs-

O.P. Co-pattadar No. 1 (Late) Abdul Salam, S/o (L) Moulana Muffiyuddin of Heibong Makhong

According to M.L.R. & L.R. Act, 1960 (3) that the land under Patta No. 606, Dag No. 1101, area .3037 (point three zero three seven) Ingkhoh Class Village No. 4-Maibam Konjil was expired.

Whereas, the son of the deceased pattadar Syed Ahamed was filed an application for mutation of the said pattadar, therefore notice as issued to all the concerned who are willing to argue should be submit written application within seven days notice was issued. Further any objection will not be entertained. Case will be continued.

Sd/-

Sub-Deputy Collector,
Irong Chesaba

B.C. to SDC
Irong Chesaba

How to boost confidence in your....

2. Never compare

As each person in the world has unique talents and limitations, never compare a youngster to his siblings or friends. When the child is compared to others, his self-esteem suffers, which causes him to develop an inferiority complex over time. Developing a sense of healthy competition in your children is good but encouraging them to be better than others could prove to be counterproductive.

Children may develop anger, emotional stress, and anxiety as a result, which could be harmful to their development.

3. Set an example

Parents serve as the best role models for kids because the family is their first classroom and they often pick up habits from parents. Young kids frequently make an effort to mimic their parents. For instance, if parents make their beds every morning, kids will

want to adopt the same behaviour. Additionally, developing positive behaviour boosts their confidence. As children learn from you quickly try to be conscious in your habits and behaviour.

4. Give small responsibilities

Assign your kids little tasks like arranging their toys after playing, making their beds, eating on their own, finishing a puzzle, etc. They will become autonomous and responsible as a result, and finishing even minor tasks will help build their confidence. Mothers frequently forbid their kids from working out of concern that they will make a mess or add to their workload, but if you always have everything ready for them, they won't learn the value of working hard, and they'll grow up to be more dependent and less confident.

Nowadays, kids as young as 5 or 6 years of age also like to wear the dress of their choice, but often parents do not pay attention to their words and impose their choices on them, which lowers their self-confidence. If you do not agree with any of your child's decisions, then instead of forcing your choice let them learn from their experience and then make them understand in a kind and rational manner.

5. Let them make a decision

G23 is figment of imagination, says Jairam Ramesh. But it is Congress that needs a reality check

Agency
New Delhi, August 31:

If a string of electoral losses were not enough, now an open revolt in the party among its national leaders down to factionalism in state units should make the Congress wake up and smell the coffee. A group of change seekers in the grand old party (dubbed G-23) have been trying for the last two years to get the Congress to introduce democratic reforms within the organisation to improve its chances against the election winning behemoth BJP. But veteran Congress leader, and someone close to the Nehru-Gandhi family, Jairam Ramesh has said that the G-23 is only a figment of the media's imagination, "it never existed."

It can only be extrapolated then that if the group of dissenters did not exist, then dissent did not exist and if there is no dissent then that means there is no problem with the Congress party losing a state of elections, even ceding ground in its bastions – like the North East. There is no problem even with the party's top leadership (Rahul Gandhi) losing his family seat of Amethi in a shock defeat in 2019 to BJP's Smriti Irani. He held on to his place in the parliament by being elected from another safe seat of Wayanad in Kerala.

If the G-23 is but a figment of imagination and the upheavals in the party's fortunes since 2014 are ignored then it is the Congress that needs a reality check.

Meanwhile, the G-23 leaders whom Ramesh dismissed had a very real meeting on Tuesday at the residence of former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who recently quit the party and wrote a scathing resignation letter to seal the end



of his 50 year long relationship with the party.

Senior Congress leaders Anand Sharma, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Prithviraj Chavan, despite still being a part of the Congress, paid Azad a visit calling it a "courtesy call" on their "old friend".

The Economic times, quoting a source reported that the four leaders agreed at the meeting that the Congress high command had not honoured any of the commitments given to the change seekers that they had raised in their 2020 letter. After many delays, the Congress is now set to conduct elections to the president post of the party on October 17. Rahul Gandhi, who resigned as president post the 2019 general election drubbing, is reportedly not keen on leading the party. Considering Sonia Gandhi's ill health, there is speculation that someone favourable to the Gandhis may contest the election. This, even as it is word that G-23 member and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor may also throw his hat in the ring. The dissenters have demanded free and fair elections. To them, a president

deemed close to the Gandhis would be eyewash for internal democracy. A president from the G-23 ranks could tear apart the party with the struggle for supremacy that will be unleashed between the two power centres in the Congress.

For some two decades, Sonia Gandhi steered the party after overcoming revolts in the 1990s that challenged her leadership. It was expected and accepted by the party that she would pass the mantle to her son Rahul Gandhi who has at best been a reluctant politician.

G-23 leaders like Kapil Sibal, who quit the Congress earlier this year and Ghulam Nabi Azad have both blamed the leadership for the party's losses and the disarray in the ranks. Azad in a rather uncharacteristic way did not mince his words when he criticised Rahul Gandhi in his five page resignation letter. Former Rahul aide, Jitin Prasad, who quit Congress last year and was also a member of the G-23 suggested that he left the party because it was "getting difficult to work" in it. He had said in a TV interview, "I thought the people are with Narendra Modi (and) I can

serve them by moving."

While Sonia Gandhi engaged with the dissenters in 2020, the family's clique slammed the G-23 as being hand in glove with the BJP-RSS. That has been the growing rhetoric amongst those perceived to be close to the Gandhis – that the dissenters are promoting the BJP's agenda when they demand a non-Gandhi leadership.

However, it is also true that the "family-run party" jibe is BJP's favourite weapon against the Congress and the one it uses most often to draw a distinction between itself and its rival. If the Congress were to have a truly democratic overhaul, and if that still held the party together, the BJP would lose its main ammunition.

If twenty three senior members of a party have a problem, the Congress leadership would have done well to address it rather than suggest a conspiracy hatched by the BJP. The party cannot bury its head in the sand any longer if it wants to put up a serious fight against the BJP in the general elections that are now less than two years away.

Tripura RS bypolls for seat vacated by CM Manik Saha to be held on Sep 22: ECI

Agency
New Delhi, August 31:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday announced that the bypolls for the Rajya Sabha seat, which was vacated by the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Manik Saha after he became the chief minister of Tripura, will be held on September 22.

The last date for nomination for the polls is September 12, an ECI notification said adding that the counting of votes will take place post 5pm on the election day.

The poll body also said that Covid-19 guidelines will be followed and should be implemented by the chief secretary of the state.

In May, Rajya Sabha MP Manik Saha was appointed as the chief minister of Tripura after Biplab Kumar Deb's sudden resignation from the post. As per rules, Saha had to resign from the Rajya Sabha seat and win an assembly seat to continue as the chief minister. He quit Rajya Sabha on July 4, and, on June 26, won the assembly bypolls from the Town Bardowali seat by 6,104 votes against his nearest rival Asish Kumar Saha of the Congress party.

Saha's six-year term as a member of the Upper House was to end on April 2, 2028.

Contd. from Page 1

National SC-ST Hub Mega....

Given the impact of MSMEs on our economy, it is imperative that focused efforts are given to promote entrepreneurship amongst the youth and create a conducive ecosystem where they play an integral role in the development of the

Indian economy to realise the 5 trillion USD economy.

Nurturing the MSME sector is important for the economic well-being of the nation. MoMSME is consistently working to empower MSMEs for sustainable growth and to

become competitive in the global value chain. State level conclaves will help the SC/ST MSMEs expand their horizons by incorporating new ideas as they become aware of the various interventions given by the government.

409 Crimes Committed Against...

Commenting on the trends, Puja Marwaha, the CEO of CRY – Child Rights and You said, "While it's heartening to see that there is increased public awareness which possibly translates into higher reporting of cases, it should also be kept in mind that in our country many cases often go unrecorded, especially in the remote areas – hence the actual scale of crimes committed against children may be higher than the numbers apparently reflect. And it proves beyond doubt that, in spite of many Government measures having been taken, our children are nowhere close to a safe and protected childhood."

"The fear was that in all likelihood the COVID pandemic may have left children far more exposed and vulnerable when it came to issues related to child protection and may have increased risks for children manifold at multiple levels; and the current NCRB data has proved it right," Puja added.

POCSO ACT VICTIMS AGE PROFILE 2021					
	Below 6	6-12 years	12-16 years	16-18 years	Total
Total child Victims	675	3297	13256	16275	33503
Girls	650	3157	13173	16206	33186
Boys	25	140	83	69	317
% of girl victims	96.30	95.75	99.37	99.58	99.05

Commenting on the way forward, Puja suggested that "It's time, more than ever, that urgent measures are needed to strengthen India's child protection systems and ensure that efforts during humanitarian crises are swift, well-planned and responsive to children's and families' priorities. Such a system would enable following of due processes within stipulated timelines and adequately utilise the strengths of a dedicated cadre of child protection officials. But to ensure all these, it needs to have more resources – at both systemic and financial levels, and is not attainable without adequate budget allocations for

child protection and safety."

Focusing on strengthening community-based child-protection mechanisms Puja said, "CRY believes that the Village Level Child Protection Committees can play a critical role as the first ports of call to link with the formal system, and can go a long way in maintaining vigilance, identify vulnerable children and families at the community levels."

"Also, Legal Services Clinics of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) at the village levels and the Legal Literacy Club of NALSA at the high school levels should be fully functional to ensure access to Justice for children," Puja highlighted.

Sports

Durand Cup 2022:

Hyderabad FC book quarterfinals berth with 3-0 win over Neroca FC; FC Goa finish campaign with 2-2 draw against Bengaluru FC

Agency
Imphal/Kolkata, August 31:

Reigning Indian Super League (ISL) champions Hyderabad FC (HFC) qualified for the quarterfinals of the 13th IndianOil Durand Cup, blowing away Neroca FC 3-0 at the Khuman Lampak Stadium here on Tuesday.

In what was another highly impressive and professional display by HFC in Group C, the Manolo Marquez-managed side now has three wins from three games and their top striker Bartholomew Ogbeche, who had his second brace of the tournament, also climbed on top of the highest scorer's chart, with four goals now against his name. Australian Joel Chianese scored the third for the ISL champs in a dominating display.

The Nigerian Bart Ogbeche's prowess in front of goal is something perhaps Indian football has rarely seen from their grounds. His sense of presence, timing and power inside the box and the quality of his finishing have been giv-

ing nightmares to defenders in India for the past few years. Even on the day, he had a hand in all three goals, scoring two himself.

The first goal came early for the Nawabs after Akash Mishra, on the charge from his customary left, drove inside the box and crossed it back in, for Ogbeche to meet it at the right place as usual. He took a strike on the turn with his left, towards goal, but it took a couple of deflections in the crowd and the loose ball fell invitingly for Joel Chianese to slot home from close.

Thereafter the HFC midfield, led by Borja Herrera, began taking control of the game and chances were coming thick and fast for Hyderabad.

In the 17th, the Spaniard played a quick one-two with Lalchungnunga Chhangte while penetrating down the left, to deliver a cross to find Ogbeche at the right place again. The Nigerian made no mistake with the header.

Chianese had his golden chance for a second for him-



self when Chhangte played him in beautifully on the right, but the Australian hit the side netting with only the keeper to beat.

The half ended 2-0 but it was clear that there was going to be no way back for Neroca in this game.

It soon turned out to be true as HFC came out of the break in the same relentless mood. Neroca coach Khogen Singh's introduction of

Tangva Ragui and Lumminlal Haokip, two of his best players in the tournament, did add a bit of more purpose to the Neroca fightback and their forays forward did increase, but HFC were too solid overall to be too bothered by them.

Ogbeche finally made the home supporters begin to leave the ground when in the 82nd minute, Hitesh Sharma showed great determination

down the right flank to keep a ball in play. His cut back on the slide found none other than Ogbeche on the edge of the box and his measured right footer beat keeper Soram Porei for the third time in the match.

In another match, Champions FC Goa (FCG) finished their Durand Cup 2022 campaign with a 2-2 draw against the Sunil Chhetri-led Bengaluru FC (BFC) in a Group A encounter at the

Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK), here on Tuesday.

The Gaurs came from behind in the second half to share the spoils with Phrangki Buam and Lesly Rebello scoring to cancel out first-half goals by Sunil Chhetri and N Siva Sakthi.

The Blues dominated the game from the start and had the majority of the possession in the first half. They did not give the Gaurs any chance to settle down in the game. They were creating openings in the Gaur's half and putting pressure on the youngsters.

The first goal came in the 24th minute from a free-kick, after Rohit Kumar was fouled just outside the box. Sunil Chhetri curled one delightfully into the top right corner to give BFC a deserving lead. It was the talisman's third goal of the tournament.

BFC continued to dominate in the middle with Bruno Ramires in particular, who was winging accurate balls to theingers Udanta Singh and Namgyal Bhutia. The pair

were always willing to run into the open spaces left by the Goa defence.

One such ball from Bruno Udanta who headed it across the six-yard box for N Siva Sakthi to score his second of the tournament and double BFC's lead.

BFC began the second half brightly but FCG showed more vigour and hunger to come back in the game. They started to press higher up the pitch and started to create more chances. The BFC midfield and defence came under pressure and the first goal came from a mistake by them.

A weak header to the keeper by Rohit Kumar was poached by Buam, who rounded off keeper Amrit Gope, to finish with consummate ease.

The Gaurs ended their Durand Cup campaign with four points while Bengaluru have seven points from three games. Bengaluru FC will play Mohammedan SC on September 2 to decide the Winners of Group A.