

Manipur Governor appreciate Doctors' role in fighting Covid-19 pandemic

IT News
Imphal, Feb 4:

La. Ganesan, Governor of Manipur convened a meeting of religious leaders of Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, ISKCON and Lainingthou Sanamahi Temple Board today at Raj Bhavan pertaining to COVID-19 vaccination. Governor expressed his happiness to know that leaders of different religious groups as well as officials of Health Department were attended the meeting. During the interaction with all the leaders, all the leaders expressed their valuable willingness to extend cooperation at the best level. Governor, in brief, informed them about the dreaded disease and how to prevent it and save our life from the jaws of death of this dreaded disease. The best way is vaccination. Finally, Governor made an



appeal to all of them to extend their invaluable cooperation to get the mission succeeded. Governor reiterated the contributions made by Front line workers, Doctors, Civil Soci-

ety Organizations and also reminded the relentless efforts made by the Government to overcome this pandemic. The dedication for the people of the country will always be re-

membered by all irrespective of caste, religion and creed, Governor said. All the leaders present today in the meeting supported the noble idea of the Governor.

Minister Satyabrata and four others file Nomination in Imphal East

IT News
Imphal, Feb 4:

Thokchom Satyabrata Singh, 47, Minister Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (CAF & PD), Law & Legislative Affairs and Labour and Employment, Manipur of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) filed his nomination from 14-Yaiskul Assembly Constituency for the two-phase Manipur Assembly Elections on today.

Satyabrata whose nomination was supported by one proposer filed his nomination paper at the office of the Returning Officer (RO), 14-Yaiskul AC, Pooja Elangbam.

The fourth day of the filing of nominations in respect of the first phase of polling also witnessed four other candidates filing their nominations in Imphal East District.

Huidrom Vikramjit Singh, 57, of Wangkhei Thangjam Leikai of the National People's Party (NPP) also filed his nominations from 14-Yaiskul AC.

BJP's candidate Khongbantam Ibomcha, 63, of Nongada Makha Leikai,



filed his nomination papers from 8-Lamlai AC. The filing of nomination was held at the office of the RO, Surma Thiyam.

Communist Party of India (CPI) candidate R.K. Amusana Singh (alias Rajkumar Amusana Singh), 57, of Khurai Sajor Leikai Ukhrul Road, filed his nomination from 3-Khurai AC at the office of the RO, Elangbam. Amuthoi Khanganba.

Mohammed Amin Shah,

42, of the Indian National Congress (INC), a resident of Kshetri Bengoon Awang Leikai, filed his nomination from 4-Kshetrigao AC at the office of the RO Subinon Sapam. Amin's nomination was supported by three proposers.

Filing of nominations for the first phase of the upcoming Assembly elections to the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly began on 1st February 2022. Nomination papers

will be received till 8th February and scrutiny of nomination papers will be taken up on 9th February. The last date for withdrawal of candidature will be 11th February.

The first phase of the Two-Phase polling for the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly will be held in 38 Assembly Constituencies on 27th February 2022 and in 22 seats in the second phase on 3rd March. The counting of votes will be on 10th March.

Imphal-Moreh rail line survey on track

IT Correspondent
Guwahati, Feb 4:

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has started a final location survey of the 111 km Imphal-Moreh section for construction of a new broad gauge railway line intending to link India with the neighbouring Myanmar, NFR General Manager Anshul Gupta said.

The NFR General Manager, while talking with the media, said that the final location survey up to Moreh along India-Myanmar border is expected to be completed by July or August this year, following which the budget estimate would be finalised.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, after visiting

Manipur last month, accorded sanction for the final location survey of the 111 km Imphal-Moreh section.

The commercial capital of Manipur and India's gateway to South-East Asia, Moreh is a rapidly developing trade point in India on the border with Myanmar, with the city of Tamu on the other side of the border. The India-Myanmar Friendship Bridge in Moreh connects India to Kalewa in Myanmar's Sagaing Division.

According to the other railway officials, the proposed new broad gauge railway line, once constructed, would be of strategic importance and form an important part of the proposed Trans-

Asian Railway which would connect India with South East Asia on a rail network.

The NFR is now implementing the Rs 14,320 crore broad gauge railway project to connect the Manipur capital Imphal by 2024.

After the completion of the vital 111 km railway line from Jiribam, along the Manipur-Assam border to Imphal by 2024, Imphal would be the fourth capital city in the Northeastern region after Assam's main city of Guwahati, Tripura capital Agartala and Arunachal Pradesh's Nahanagun.

The NFR is also laying new railway tracks to connect the capital cities of two more Northeastern States - Mizoram and Nagaland.

Union Health Ministry postpones NEET-PG 2022 by 6-8 Weeks

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 4:

The Union Health Ministry has postponed the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) PG exam 2022 by six to eight weeks. The ministry said fresh dates will be announced in due course of time.

Dr B Srinivas, Assistant Director General (Medical Education) and Member Secretary of the Medical Counselling Committee, in an order dated Thursday, said, "a lot of representations were being received from medical doctors regarding a request to delay NEET-PG 2022 examination

since it is clashing with the NEET PG 2022 counselling.

Also, many of the interns would not be able to participate in the PG Counselling 2022 by the month of May/June 2022."

He said keeping the above facts in view, the Union Health Minister has taken the decision to postpone NEET PG 2022 by 6-8 weeks or suitably. The exam was scheduled to be held on March 12.

The Supreme Court on Friday is also hearing a plea seeking postponement of the NEET-PG 2022. On January 25, six MBBS graduates had filed a plea in the apex court seek-

ing postponement of the NEET scheduled on March 12 for admissions in postgraduate medical courses, claiming that many MBBS graduates would not be able to take up the examination due to non-completion of the mandatory internship period.

The petitioners claimed that many of them were busy with the Covid duties, their internships were postponed and due to this, they will not be able to meet the internship deadline which is scheduled on May 31, 2022. They sought an extension to this deadline so that the candidates can complete their internships.

One Day Seminar cum Workshop held for Sensitisation of the Scheme

IT News
Imphal, Feb 4:

One day Seminar cum Workshop program was held yesterday at Khurai Salanthong, Imphal.

The seminar cum Workshop program was held under AHVY Scheme for Handicrafts Artisan sensitization of the scheme of DC(H) in cluster

and also under the AHVY , benefits of E-Commerce cum General portal, Mudra Loan and Welfare activities of DC(H). The seminar program is organized by Development Advocacy of Right for Indigenous, Thangmeiband , Manipur and sponsored by O/o The Development Commissioner Handicrafts Ministry of Textile, Govt of India.

W. Birenjit, Assistance Director Handicrafts, Handloom and Textile Govt of Manipur, Yumnam Jagyashwori Devi , Assistance Director Handicrafts O/o The D.C. (H/c), Ministry of Textile Govt of India and Chanam Mani Singh, Retd Handicrafts Promotion Officers, Guwahati were joined in the seminar cum Workshop program.

4984 cases pending against MPs, MLAs of which 1899 cases more than five yrs old: SC told

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 4:

A total of 4,984 cases are pending against Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly/Council out of which 1899 cases are more than five years old, the Supreme Court was told on Thursday.

In his latest report, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appointed as amicus curiae, told the top court that it may be noted that the total number of cases pending as of December 2018 was 4110; and as of October 2020 were 4859.

"Even after disposal of 2775 cases after December 4,

2018, the cases against MPs/MLAs have increased from 4122 to 4984. This shows that more and more persons with criminal antecedents are occupying the seats in the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies. It is of utmost necessity that urgent and stringent steps are taken for expeditious disposal of pending criminal cases", said the report filed through advocate Sneha Kalita.

The top court has been passing a slew of directions time-to-time on the plea filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay for ensuring expeditious trial of cases against lawmakers and speedy inves-

tigation by the CBI and other agencies.

Hansaria said that the status report filed by the High Courts also shows that special courts are constituted in some of the states whereas, in others, the courts of the respective jurisdiction are conducting trials in terms of the directions passed from time to time. "These jurisdictional courts conduct the trial of the cases against MPs/MLAs along with discharging other roster allocated to them. In many of the States, the same judge is a Special Court under various statutes such as SC/ST Act, POCSO Act, etc", the report said.

The amicus pointed out that no response has been filed by the Central Government as per the order dated August 25, 2021, concerning the expeditious investigation/trial of cases, providing of infrastructure facilities to the Courts, and constitution of the Monitoring Committee to evaluate the reasons for the delay of investigation. "It is necessary that all the Courts trying cases against MPs/MLAs are equipped with necessary infrastructure for the conduct of court proceedings through internet facility", he said. Hansaria sought directions from the court that the courts dealing

with cases against MPs/MLAs will exclusively try these cases against lawmakers and other cases would be taken up only after trials of such cases are over. "The trial would be conducted on a day to day basis in terms of section 309 Cr.P.C. Necessary allocation of work would be made by the High Court and/or the Principal Sessions Judges of every district within two weeks", he said.

He further sought direction that both the prosecution and defence shall cooperate with the trial of the case and no adjournment shall be granted in the case, the public prosecutor and/or the

prosecution fail to co-operate in the expeditious trial, the matter shall be reported to the Chief Secretary of the State who will take necessary remedial measures. He added that in case, the accused tries to delay the trial, his bail shall be cancelled.

"The trial court shall send a report on each of the cases where the trial has been pending for more than five years before the respective High Courts, as to the reasons for the delay and suggest remedial measures. The High Court shall consider these reports on the judicial side in the suo motu writ petitions registered in terms of the order dated

September 16, 2020, and pass appropriate orders to remove the stagnation of trial", he said.

Hansaria also sought direction that the Central Government will provide funds for ensuring the smooth functioning of Courts through virtual mode that is by facilitating the availability of video conference facilities.

"The High Courts shall submit a proposal to the law secretary of the Government of India in this regard as to the funds required, which shall be made available by the Central Government within two weeks of the proposal", he said.

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An effort to push Growth with Digital engines

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



There is a lot of emphasis on applying digital technology in the current annual budget. There are plans to push growth in many sectors with the help of digital engines. The Reserve Bank of India will issue a Digital Rupee of its own. A Digital University will be established. Digital banks will be set up across India. An e-portal will be created for skilling and employment purposes. Kisan Drones will be used to make agricultural operations easier and faster. In the budget speech, the Finance Minister said that the digital rupee will work through Blockchain technology and can also be converted into the current currency. The digital rupee will be of two types, retail and wholesale. The general public will get the benefit of retail digital currency and banks will use wholesale digital currency. A digital university will be formed, in which education will be available in regional languages. Under this initiative, One Class, One Channel scheme will be applied. At present, 12 TV channels are engaged in the work of imparting education, whose number will be increased to 200. Through these channels, education from class 1st to 12th will be possible. TV sets will be installed in every classroom.

According to the plan, digital banks will be set up in 75 districts of the country. Through these it will be possible to save time and money. Common consumers will get convenience from the arrival of these banks. In addition, post offices and banks will be interconnected, so that money from post offices can be sent directly to banks. Similarly, a huge digital platform will be created, which will be linked to 16 ministries. The ministries to be brought under one umbrella with the intention of strengthening infrastructure will include roads, railways, power, petroleum and gas, shipping, telecom, civil aviation and industrial parks. The new infrastructure plans will include 109 new airports, 51 heliports, 12 water aerodromes, 2,000,00 kilometer long highways, 200 mega food parks, etc. The length of national highways will be increased by 25,000 km. The expansion of roads will give impetus to the country's economy. An e-portal of the digital ecosystem will be started for skilling and employment. This portal will be used to enhance the skills of youth through digital medium. Digital teachers will be hired to develop digital content. 750 virtual laboratories of mathematics and science are also to be started this year.

Kisan Drones will be used to ease agricultural operations in the country. Startups making drones will be encouraged. Drones will be used as a service. Kisan Drones will be used for identification of crops, land records and spraying of insecticides etc. The use of drones in agriculture can prove to be transformative for Indian agriculture, making farming smart and efficient, but their cost is still very high and this may stop small farm owners from being able to take advantage of the drones. The number of farmers using high technology is currently less than one percent. But it is good that at least a step is being taken to use technology in agriculture. Such plans should be welcomed. Farming has always been far from technology. The use of technology like telecom, internet, social media and drones will certainly usher in a revolutionary change.

Saraswati Puja : The festival of learning

India is the country of religions, faiths and festivals. There are more festivals celebrated in India than anywhere else in the world. Each festival has its own customs, occasions and importance. Saraswati Puja is one of the eminent festivals heralding the arrival of spring season. It is celebrated on Panchami of Magha Shukla Paksh of Indian calendar; hence it is also termed as Vasant Panchami, Sri Panchami, Saraswati Panchami in some parts of the country. The festival usually falls in last January or February month of Gregorian calendar. In south India, Saraswati Puja is also celebrated as "Aayudha Puja" during Navratri festival (which usually falls in October/November).

Saraswati Puja has its own significance as the young children starts their first step in the field of education by writing the letters of alphabet with ritual known as "Akshar Abhyasam", "Vidya Arambham" or "Patti Pujan". On this day, Goddess Saraswati is worshipped in Mandirs, schools, colleges, educational institutions, Musical & cultural houses as well as other public places, particularly by students and teachers.

In Saraswati Puja, yellow and white colours have its own importance. The Goddess is dressed in yellow or white and traditionally people dress up themselves in yellow or white coloured cloths. Actually yellow colour represents energy, knowledge and enlightenment, whereas white colour symbolizes light, knowledge and truth.

Goddess Saraswati is known by several names such as, Vageshwari (Goddess of Speech), Veenapani (Goddess carrying Veena in hands), Pustakdharani (Goddess carrying books), Veenavadini (Goddess playing Veena), Hansavahini (Goddess sitting on swan), Varneshwari (Goddess of letters), Maa Sharade (who loves Sharad i.e. Autumn season),

Bharati (Goddess of history), Vani (melodious speech), etc. by their devotees.

Maa Saraswati holds Pustak (book), Mala (Rosary), Jalpatra (Water pot) and Veena in her four arms, which has symbolic meaning of importance. The book symbolizes Veda or learning, the Rosary represents a meditation and spirituality, the Water pot signifies purifying power to separate right from wrong and the Veena symbolizes all creative arts & sciences. Her four arms denote four sides as well as four aspects of human personality in learning, namely- Manas (mind), Buddhi (intellect), Chitta (alertness), and Ahankar (ego). Her vehicle is Hansa (Swan), a sacred bird, which if offered mixture of milk & water,



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

drink milk alone and thus symbolises the ability to describe between good & evil. Sometimes Mayur (peacock) is also shown sitting near her feet, which symbolizes colourful splendor & prosperity.

Maa Saraswati is a part of Tridevi - Saraswati, Lakshmi, and Parvati, who are associated with almighty Tridev - Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. During Navratri, on seventh day Goddess is worshipped in the form of Maha Saraswati, in honour of Goddess of learning & knowledge.

Goddess Saraswati has mention in Rigved, Upnishad and other Dharmashashtra and remained significant from Vedic period through modern times. In *Shanti Parva* of Mahabharat, She is called mother

of Vedas. Rigved signifies her both as a holy river as well as a deity. As per Rigveda - 2.041.16, "Ambitame Naditame Devitame Saraswati", i.e. Saraswati is the best of mothers, mightiest of rivers, and supreme among Goddesses. Mythologically, she is one of the three holy rivers of Triveni Sangam at Prayag in an invisible form. Shrishti Khand of Padma Puran as well as Skand Puran have detailed mention of Saraswati becoming the river on earth.

The Goddess is referred as Maha Saraswati in Kashmir Shakti Peeth, and as Shardamba in Sringeri. The ancient Sharda Peeth, located in Pak-captured portion of Northern Kashmir on the bank of river Kishanganga (now renamed as *Neelum*), is one of the oldest surviving temple of Saraswati. As one of the ancient Mahashakti Peeths, Sharda Peeth is the spiritual location of fallen right hand of Goddess Sati.

In Jainism faith also, Saraswati is revered as the Goddess of source of learning and responsible for dissemination of Thirnkars. In Buddhism sect, Saraswati is considered as the consort of Manjusree - the knowledge of Bodhisatwa.

Saraswati Puja is celebrated in a large number of countries such as Bharat, Nepal, Bali (Indonesia), Thailand (earlier Siam), Myanmar (earlier Burma or Brahma Desh), Pakistan, Bangala Desh, Bhutan, Mauritius, Surinam, Fiji, Japan, and Tibet as per their own custom.

Maa Saraswati is the deity of language, music and arts. She represents *Sattva Guna* and Gyan Shakti. She is the possessor of knowledge and protector of universe. It is believed that every intellectual endeavor should begin with Saraswati Vandana.

(Author is a technocrat and academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/ Prayagraj)



How to help your teenager kid deal with a negative body image

Our body image is how we perceive and feel about our physical appearance. We all have aspects of ourselves that we wish we could change. It could be due to our body's shape, features, size, and weight. If we don't overlook the aspects of our appearance that we don't like and accept them as they are, we are more likely to have a positive self-image of ourselves. A positive self-image leads to healthy lifestyle choices as well as positive thoughts and behaviours.

Certain teenagers are body shamed at school or by their families, which can change their relationship with their bodies. Teens are frequently influenced by their peers and family members, and they tend to adopt their views on what constitutes an acceptable body image. A person's physical and emotional health can suffer as a result of a negative or distorted body image. It can lead to a variety of mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, OCD, and eating disorders. A poor self-image can lead to frequent mood swings, social isolation, and dysfunctional relationships. Fear of rejection and non-acceptance due to a person's physical appearance can leave deep emotional scars and drive an individual to self-harm and even suicide.

Encourage Open Honest Communication

Teenagers, at times, feel that their parents don't understand them. They feel that either their parents are always lecturing them. Then there is always a feeling of a generation gap.

Teenagers are quick to go into a shell and limit their conversations with parents if they feel unheard, disrespected or misunderstood by their parents. It is important that parents take a neutral stand and give teenagers the space to vent and to share their point of view. Encourage your teens to have an unfiltered conversation with you. Don't interrupt them when they speak and take genuine interest on what they have to say.

Don't focus on looking a certain way

It is important that parents walk the talk and not set expectations from their teenagers to look a certain way. Some teenagers love to shop for branded clothes or certain types of clothes and it becomes a challenge for parents to stop their children from doing so. How do you tell a teen that a certain type of top or dress will not look good on them? How do you prewarn them that if they wore a dress, top or jeans it may open them up for ridicule from their friends or classmates? Talk about the importance of dressing for comfort over dressing for looks.

Stop projecting your own insecurities on your child

If you are a parent who has grown up in an environment where looks have been given a lot of importance then you may unknowingly be transferring your views to your offspring. Beauty is aligned with fair skin. Lean and thin people are more attractive than overweight individuals. It is important that the family is seen as a "fit" and an "attractive" family. It's

imperative to receive compliments on one's looks to feel complete. They all may be things which you may give importance to but it's not healthy or important for your teenagers to share the same views as you on the matter.

Talk about the Importance of Health and Exercise

Teenagers these days have so many tools of distraction like their smart phones, social media, OTT (Netflix) and gaming to keep them occupied and distracted from exercising. It is important to encourage teens to maintain an exercise routine. Encourage them to pick up a



By: Vijay GarG

new sport, to continue with a sport they are familiar with (like cricket, squash or tennis).

Look for signs of BDD-BDD

Body dysmorphic disorder is where a person becomes overly anxious over a physical aspect of themselves. Often, people hyper focus on one area or a perceived defect in their physical appearance, a scar or even a mark on their skin. They then tend to obsess over this defect. At times these thoughts and feelings are so intense that they find it difficult to think of anything else. This can then impact their academics and work performance. Body dysmorphic

disorder is not gender specific. It tends to manifest in teenagers and young adult

Be aware of your words

Be careful of the words you use and the language you are using with your teens. Some parents shame their children by calling them "fat". Stay away from hurtful statement like: "If you don't lose weight then no one will marry you", "Look at your friend, he/she is so fit, why can't you be more like him/her?" or "That dress would look better if you were slim". Statements like these can do further damage to someone who might already have a negative self-image of themselves or have a negative relationship with their body.

Encourage Healthy Food Over Rigorous Dieting

The goal should be very clear.



Certain teenagers are body shamed at school or by their families, which can change their relationship with their bodies.

Ask your teens if their goal is to diet to improve their health or to fit into a certain dress! Healthy choice of food should always be encouraged over experimental dieting. Some teens skip meals and reduce the quantity of their meals drastically in order to lose weight and stay slim. This should not be encouraged. Our mind and body gets nourishment from our meals. Incorrect food habits can result in deficiency of important vitamins and minerals which are crucial for development and maintenance of physical and mental health.

Encourage Self Love

Self acceptance promotes self-love. Teenagers need to be accepted as they are by their parents. They should be encouraged to feel comfortable in their own skin. Use words of encouragement and remind them that your love for them is unconditional. A teen who has a negative self-image needs supportive parents. They don't need judgemental and critical parents. The world may be judging them already for their looks. You as parents need to create a house environment that is safe, warm and accepting of them. Tell your teens to look in the mirror and tell themselves that they love and accept themselves for who they are with all of their flaws.

If a teenager's negative self-image is impeding their growth and negatively impacting their day-to-day life, please consult a mental health professional as soon as possible. Psychotherapy and counseling can be extremely beneficial in assisting your adolescent in dealing with such issues. If they are not treated, it can change their personalities and make them feel less confident and bitter about themselves.

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Omicron in India infected younger population: Govt data on 3rd wave

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 4:

In the Omicron-driven third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in India, a comparatively younger population was more infected, a survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research has revealed. The data has been sourced from 37 hospitals across the country, director general of ICMR, Dr Balram Bhargava said.

The average age of hospitalisation during the third wave was around 44, while earlier the average age was 55. The hospitalisation data between December 16, 2021, and January 17, 2022, was compared with that of November 15 and December 15.

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pandemic in India, a comparatively younger population was more infected, a survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research into hospital data has revealed. The data has been sourced from 37 hospitals across the country, director general of ICMR, Dr Balram Bhargava said.

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Explaining the clinical profile of those who got hospitalised during the third wave in India, Dr Bhargava said that they were comparatively young but with surprisingly high co-morbidities.

"Having said that, the co-morbidities present in this younger population were pretty high. About 46 per cent had co-morbidities, these are the people who are younger...but nearly half of them had some co-morbidities," Dr Bhargava said.

Difference between Delta and Omicron wave in India.

The third wave, which is believed to be waning in India now, has been markedly different from the second wave of the pandemic which witnessed a huge number of deaths. There have been other differences too, the government data pointed out. As doctors treating Omicron patients earlier pointed out, the government data said that all symptoms were in lesser proportions among the hospitalised patients. Sore

throat was the predominant symptom.

Here are the differences between the Delta wave and the Omicron wave

1. Breathing difficulty and loss of smell or taste were not the primary symptoms in the Omicron wave. Sore throat, fever and cough were reported among the patients more predominantly.

2. All symptoms were lesser in the 3rd wave

3. The average age of infected and hospitalised patients in the 3rd wave was 44 years compared to 55 years earlier.

4. The presence of comorbidities was 46% as compared to 66% earlier.

5. Lesser use of drugs were noticed during the third wave and there were lesser complications in the cases.

DEO Bishnupur stresses on peaceful and Covid free election



IT News
Imphal, Feb 4:

Ahead of the forthcoming state assembly election, the District Election Officer, Bishnupur L. Bikram yesterday chaired a joint meeting of political party representatives and media persons of the district at the conference hall of DC Bishnupur. The meeting was held to brief the participants on COVID guidelines, model code of conduct, expenditure monitoring and other election related matters.

L. Bikram informed that 181715 electors from the six assembly constituencies in the district will go to poll on the first phase on 27th February. He stated that altogether 1170

polling personnel will be deployed for poll duty besides 2700 armed personnel and 1200 unarmed personnel. He also stated that 49 women-only polling stations with at least one each in every assembly segments have been planned for the ensuing election. Out of the 234 polling stations, 17 are sensitive while 49 are marked as vulnerable polling stations, he stated.

Stating that paid news disturbed the level playing field among political parties and candidates, L. Bikram appealed to the media fraternity to avoid paid news. Highlighting on the role of MCMC along with media certification, he further urged media persons to conform to ethical media coverage of election by emphasising on

objective and unbiased reporting.

Speaking on COVID protocols during election, L. Bikram informed that all precautionary measures including vaccination, thermal screening on poll day, masking and other COVID guidelines will be enforced. He urged party representatives to engage only fully vaccinated persons for polling and counting duties while also advocating for strict adherence to COVID appropriate behaviours during poll campaigns and on poll day.

The DEO appealed cooperation from all concerned to ensure a peaceful and smooth election in the district. AC to DC Ejaj Hassan and all the ROs from the district also participated in the meeting.

In 1 month, 65% teenagers jabbed with first dose: Mansukh Mandaviya

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 4:

A month after India began vaccinating its teenagers against Covid-19, as many as 65 per cent eligible beneficiaries in the 15-18 age group have received their first shot of a Covid-19 jab, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Friday.

"Young India's historic effort continues. In just one month, 65 per cent of those

aged between 15-18 have been administered their first dose. Under the leadership of Prime Minister @NarendraModi, the world's largest inoculation drive is creating new records," Mandaviya's tweet, translated roughly from Hindi, read.

Since January 3, when the nationwide vaccination drive opened for the 15-18 age group, the number of teenagers inoculated with the first dose stands at nearly 50 million, while the number of those fully

vaccinated (both doses) is at close to 3.5 million, data published by the Union health ministry shows.

At present, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is the only jab being used for the said age group. ZyCoV-D, developed by Ahmedabad-based Zydus Cadila, was the first vaccine to be cleared for those below 18 years (aged 12 and above), after it was granted emergency use authorisation (EUA) from

the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on August 20, 2020.

The nationwide drive began on January 16 last year, with health care workers and frontline workers first in line. The exercise was gradually expanded to include everyone aged 18 and above.

The vaccination for the 15-18 age group was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an address to the nation on December 25 last year.

Uttar Pradesh selected as best state tableau of Republic Day parade 2022; Maharashtra wins in popular choice category

PIB
New Delhi, Feb 4:

Results have been declared for best tableaux and best marching contingents of Republic Day parade 2022. Three panels of judges were appointed for assessing the performance of marching contingents from the three Services, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)/other Auxiliary forces and tableaux from various States/Union Territories (UTs) and Central Ministries/Departments.

On the basis of the assessment of the panels, the Indian Navy marching contingent has been adjudged as the best marching contingent among the three Services.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been named the best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces.

The tableau of Uttar Pradesh has been selected as the best tableau among the 12 States/UTs which participated in the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2022. The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme 'One District One Product and Kashi Vishwanath Dham'.

The second place went to Karnataka for its tableau based on 'Cradle of Traditional Handicrafts'. The third position went to Meghalaya for its tableau on 'Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to



women-led cooperative societies & SHGs'.

The tableaux of Ministry of Education and Ministry of Civil Aviation have been declared as joint winners in the category of Central Ministries/Departments. The theme of the tableau of Ministry of Education & Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship was 'National Education Policy', while the tableau of Ministry of Civil Aviation was based on the theme 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik'. Nine tableaux of Central Ministries/Departments had participated in the parade.

The tableaux of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (CPWD), based on the theme 'Subhash @125' and the 'Vande Bharatam' dance

group have been selected for the special prize category.

Popular Choice Awards

In addition, for the first time, the general public was invited to vote for the best marching contingents and best tableaux in the popular choice category through the MyGov platform. The online poll was conducted between January 25-31, 2022.

As per popular choice, the marching contingent of the Indian Air Force has been picked as the best marching contingent among the three Services.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) received maximum votes on MyGov as the best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces.

Maharashtra was voted as the best Tableau among the States/UTs in the popular choice category. The tableau of Maharashtra was based on the theme 'Biodiversity and State Bio-symbols of Maharashtra'.

The second place went to Uttar Pradesh (popular choice), while the tableau of Jammu and Kashmir, on the theme 'Changing face of Jammu & Kashmir', finished third.

The tableau of Ministry of Communication/Department of Posts was adjudged as the best tableau among Central Ministries/Departments based on people's selection. The theme of this tableau was 'India Post: 75 years @ Resolve - Women Empowerment'.

Yogi Adityanath files nomination from Gorakhpur; Amit Shah says CM established rule of law

Agency
Lucknow, Feb 3:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and firebrand BJP leader Yogi Adityanath filed his nomination papers on Friday from the Gorakhpur Urban Assembly constituency for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh elections 2022. Union Home Minister Amit Shah accompanied CM Yogi to the Election Commission office. Notably, the incumbent BJP CM in UP will be contesting the Assembly elections for the first time in his entire political career. Prior to his appointment as Uttar Pradesh CM, Adityanath was the Lok Sabha MP from Gorakhpur, the seat which he won five times. Besides Shah, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, UP BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh, Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad and Ashish Patel of Apna Dal were also in attendance during the nomination process.

CM Yogi files nomination papers: Top developments

- Yogi Adityanath files nomination from Gorakhpur Urban Assembly constituency with Amit Shah accompanying him to the Election Commission office. Both the leaders flashed victory signs to the media persons and BJP supporters after the nomination process was completed.

- Shah took aim at Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav saying that 'gondra raj' has been contained under Yogi rule and said that people like Mukhtar Ansari, Azam Khan and Atiq Ahmed will be punished for their



wrongdoings.

- While addressing the BJP supporters in Gorakhpur, the Union home minister highlighted the Modi government's social welfare schemes like Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat and COVID-19 vaccination drive that helped the people of UP immensely. Shah further said Adityanath led government in the state ensured that all welfare schemes reached the needy on a timely basis.

- Shah praised CM Adityanath for improving the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh. He said that the home

minister freed Uttar Pradesh of mafias by establishing rule of law. - Amit Shah addresses BJP supporters at Inter College Ground in Gorakhpur. He praises PM Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath for developing Uttar Pradesh in the last five years of BJP rule.

- CM Yogi is currently addressing an event at Inter College Ground in Gorakhpur prior to filing his nomination papers. He thanked Union ministers Amit Shah and Dharmendra Pradhan and other leaders for coming to Gorakhpur to accompany him in filing his nomination papers.

Documents Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, SBI ATM Card, Green Card, Voter Card, Admission Receipt of 5th Semester, Imphal College on the way between Ithai Bazar to Kangshoibi Mapal on February 1, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Keisham Mangjao Singh
Kangshoibi Mapal,
Kha Thunungei, Bishnupur
Manipur - 795133
#8413966712

India Covid-19 cases: Daily caseload drops to 149,394; total deaths top 500,000

Agency
New Delhi, Feb 4:

India has reported 1,49,394 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours, the Union Health Ministry updated data informed on Friday. Additionally, the country's death toll from Covid-19 crossed 500,000 on Friday.

The country witnessed a single day rise of 1,072 Covid-29 deaths, taking the death tally up to 500,055 in the last 24 hours, the updated data stated. The active cases comprise 3.42 per cent of the total infections,

while the national Covid-19 recovery rate improved to 95.39 per cent, the ministry said. A reduction of 98,352 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The country, which has the fourth-highest tally of deaths globally, recorded 400,000 deaths by July last year after the devastating outbreak from the Delta variant of the coronavirus, according to official data. Some experts believe the figures were much higher, as per Reuters report.

"Our study published in the

journal Science estimates 3 million Covid deaths in India until mid-2021 using three different databases," Chinmay Tumbbe, an assistant professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad who co-authored the study, told Reuters.

India's cumulative tally of 500,055 deaths on Friday included 1,072 fatalities reported over the last 24 hours, according to the federal health ministry. Out of this, 335 deaths were reported from the southern state of Kerala that has, for weeks, been updating data with

deaths from last year.

Kerala, with less than 3% of India's 1.35 billion population, accounts for nearly 11% of the total deaths reported in the country.

"Some states such as Kerala are recording their backlog deaths under judicial pressure, although not all states have done that," Menon said.

Meanwhile in Gujarat, authorities have received over 100,000 claims for Covid-19 compensation, of which 87,000 claims have been approved, according to a senior government official.

Scientists develop self-disinfecting, biodegradable face masks to combat COVID-19

PIB
New Delhi, Feb 4:

A team of Indian Scientists in collaboration with an industry partner have developed a self-disinfecting 'Copper-based Nanoparticle-coated Antiviral Face Mask' to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The mask exhibits high performance against the COVID 19 virus as well as several other viral and bacterial infections, is biodegradable, highly breathable and washable.

Public mask wearing is most effective in reducing the spread of the virus COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2, an enveloped positive sense single-stranded RNA virus, where the mode of transmission is via respiratory particles that are mainly airborne.

With the science around the use of masks to impede transmission is advancing rapidly, the Indian market is selling expensive masks that neither exhibit antiviral nor antibacterial properties. Hence, it is very difficult to control the transmission by wearing the conventional mask particularly in densely populated places like hospitals, airports, stations, shopping malls and so on where the virus load is very high. In the present scenario, where mutations in coronavirus causing the COVID-19 pandemic are fast emerging, it is an urgent necessity to develop a low-cost antiviral mask.

To this end, Scientists at International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D

Centre of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, in collaboration with the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and Resil Chemicals, a Bengaluru based company have developed the self-disinfecting 'Copper-based Nanoparticle-coated Antiviral Face Masks' under the DST sponsored Nano-Mission project, to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARCI developed copper-based nanoparticles of around 20 nanometres by a Flame Spray Pyrolysis (FSP) processing facility. FSP process involves conversion of solution precursors into nanoparticles by high temperature pyrolytic decomposition. Stable nanoparticle suspension were obtained by optimizing the solid loading and pH.

CCI imposes Rs. 1,788 crore penalty on five tyre manufacturers for cartelisation

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 4:

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a collective penalty of Rs.1,788 crore on five tyre manufacturers and the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) for indulging in cartelisation.

As per the statement issued by the CCI on Thursday, the order to impose penalty passed by the three member bench of CCI on August 31, 2018 is being implemented following dismissal of the appeals preferred by these companies by the Supreme Court.

The companies include: Apollo Tyres Ltd (Gurugram, Haryana) (penalty- Rs. 425.53 crore), MRF Ltd (Chennai, Tamil Nadu) (Rs.622.09 crore), CEAT Ltd. (Worli, Mumbai, Maharashtra), (Rs. 252.16 crore), JK Tyre and Industries Ltd. (New Delhi) (Rs. 309.95 crore) and Birla Tyres Ltd. (Kolkata, West Bengal) (Rs. 178.33 crore).

In addition, a penalty of Rs. 0.084 crore was imposed on ATMA. The association was also directed to disengage and disassociate itself from collecting wholesale and retail prices through the member tyre companies. Further, certain individuals of these companies and ATMA were held liable for the anticompetitive conduct in terms of the provisions of section 48 of the Competition Act, 2002 Act.

The order was passed under section 27 of the Competition Act, 2002 by the bench comprising members- Augustine Peter, U. C. Nahta and Justice G. P. Mittal while dealing with the case (No. 08 of 2013) filed by the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) under Section 19(1)(b) of the Act based on a representation made

by All India Tyre Dealers Federation (AITDF).

The CCI booked these companies for indulging in cartelisation by acting in concert to increase the prices of cross ply/bias tyres variants sold by each of them in the replacement market and to limit and control production and supply in the market, in contravention of the provisions of Section 3(a) and 3(b) read with Section 3(1) of the Act.

Earlier the CCI order was kept held in abeyance as per the directions of the Madras High Court, in response to the litigation (W.A. No. 529/2018), filed by MRF Limited. Thereafter, the division bench of the Madras High Court by its order dated January 06, dismissed the writ appeal. Then aggrieved tyre companies preferred Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court, which was dismissed by the SC with its order

dated January 28.

The CCI noted that the tyre manufacturers had exchanged price-sensitive data amongst them through the platform of their association-ATMA and had taken collective decisions on the prices of tyres. The Commission also found that ATMA collected and compiled company-wise and segment-wise monthly and cumulative data on production, domestic sales and export of tyres on a real time basis.

Thus, the Commission noted that the sharing of such sensitive information made the coordination easier amongst the tyre manufacturers. Accordingly, the Commission held above five tyre manufacturers and ATMA guilty of contravention of the provisions of Section 3 of the Act, which prohibits anti-competitive agreements including cartels, during 2011-2012.

Contd. from Page 1

4984 cases pending against MPs, MLAs....

He added that a monitoring committee may be constituted, headed by a former Judge of the Supreme Court or Chief Justice of a High Court to monitor the investigation of cases pending before the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation, and National Investigation Agency in terms of submission recorded in the order dated August 25, 2021. "The trial courts may be directed to pass a specific order in all pending cases that the benefit of the Witness Protection Scheme 2018, has been made

available to the witnesses in terms of the order dated November 4, 2020", he said.

On November 24, last year, the top court had asked the Allahabad High Court to issue a fresh notification to set up special magisterial courts to try minor offences involving lawmakers and ensure allocation of cases to sessions or magisterial courts depending upon the gravity of offences, saying the non-setting up of such courts in Uttar Pradesh was "based on an evident misconstruction" of its orders.

The top court had taken

exception to the non-setting up of special magisterial courts in Uttar Pradesh for trying lawmakers in minor offences and said that the notification issued by the high court on August 16, 2019, was based on an "evident misconstruction" of its directions.

The order had come on pleas raising the legal question of whether minor offences, triable by magisterial courts, against lawmakers can be prosecuted before a special court presided over by a sessions judge who is senior to a judicial magistrate.

Sports

ISL: Mumbai City FC and ATKMB share spoils in 1-1 draw

Agency
Fatorda, Feb 4:

Heavyweights Mumbai City FC and ATK Mohun Bagan displayed their full repertoire but were left high and dry in the end with a 1-1 draw in the Indian Super League match at the P. J. Stadium in Fatorda here on Thursday. David Williams opened the scoring for ATKMB in the ninth minute but an own goal from Pritam Kotal in the 24th minute restored parity for Mumbai.

Both teams had their fair share of chances in each half but could not produce a winner. The result means ATKMB could not break into the top-four, remaining fifth with 20 points from 12 games. Mumbai's winless run stretched to seven games as the reigning champions remained sixth in the table with 19 points from 13 outings.

ATKMB looked in control from the off and it did not take them long to nose ahead. The brilliant Liston Colaco was hacked down on the left channel but despite green and maroon shirts' loud appeal, the referee did not give a free-kick. Mourtada Fall then passed the ball to Ahmed Jahouh who dilly-dallied with Hugo Boumous pressing him hard. Williams latched on to the



loose ball, skipped past the keeper and put it past him.

Colaco proved to be a menace for the Mumbai City FC defence as he made constant forays and looked threatening every time he bombed forward. ATKMB kept knocking on the door as Colaco found the wall thrice to underline his dominance. Mumbai tried hard to wrestle back the advantage and saw the ball for a brief period in which Cassio Gabriel's attempt was thwarted

by Tiri but Kotal failed to keep out a Bipin Singh cross, deflecting the ball into his own net.

After the cooling break, Williams had a chance to double his tally but his sharp header from a Liston Colaco free-kick that fell to him after hitting the wall came off the woodwork. Mohamad Nawaz then had a moment to forget when he charged out of his area in an attempt to head the ball clear but could only man-

age to send it as far as Boumous but the Frenchman was closed down by blue shirts.

In the second half, Mumbai took off Diego Mauricio who had a forgettable debut for the Islanders for Igor Angulo. Soon after, Boumous shot wide after Manvir Singh sent in a low cross from the right and Williams sold a cute dummy. At the other side, Angulo headed wide from Jahouh's cross.

China stun Japan in AFC Women's Asian Cup semifinals, face Korea in final

Agency
Pune, Feb 4:

A gritty China fought back from a goal-down twice before stunning two-time defending champions Japan 4-3 in the penalty shootout in the semifinals to book a summit clash against Korea in the AFC Women's Asian Cup here on Thursday.

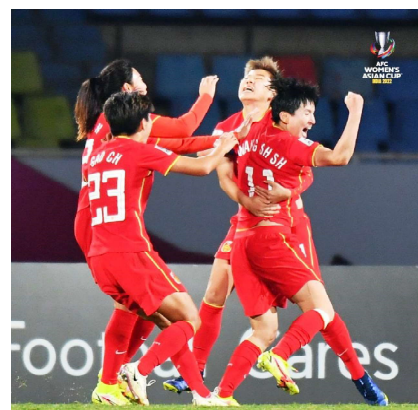
Japan led twice in the match, first in the normal time and second in the extra time but China had answers each time to take the match to the penalty shootout at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex.

As the epic match ended 2-2 after extra time, China prevailed 4-3 in the dramatic penalty shootout to remain on course for a record extending ninth title in the continental showpiece.

The Steel Roses had won seven consecutive titles between 1986 and 1989 before adding another one in 2006.

Japan, who had triumphed in 2014 and 2018, dominated the match but wasted chances to fail in their bid for a hat-trick of titles.

Earlier in the first semifinals at the same venue, Korea defeated Philippines 2-0 to make it to their maiden semifinals.



The summit clash will be played at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Sunday.

Japan made their intentions clear in the first minute with Hinata Miyazawa testing China custodian Yu Zhu from distance, while Riko Ueki missed a golden opportunity to put the defending champions ahead three minutes later from inside the box.

Ueki was a constant threat and almost found the breakthrough after Ruka Norimatsu set her through on goal in the

sixth minute but China goalkeeper Yu Zhu was quick to block the forward's effort.

Japan increased the pressure with Saki Kumagai and Mana Iwabuchi both missing from inside the six-yard-box as China soaked up the pressure.

Japan should have taken the lead in the 21st minute when Hinata Miyazawa sent a delightful through ball but Ueki's effort from close range was saved by an advancing Yu Zhu.