

Of the 19,68,476 voters, 5,09,641 gets 2nd doses Covid vaccine; Polling day is just 42 days left

IT News
Imphal, Jan 16:

The total Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the state from January 16, 2021, till January 15, 2022, has reached 23,86,700. Of these number of people who got first dose vaccination is 10,19,282 people and the number of people who got second dose vaccine stands at 10,19,282. That means a total of 5,09,641 people have got the double dose vaccination at a time when the Prime Minister of India has appealed for booster dose in the wake of the Covid 3rd wave.

As per the report available on the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer of Manipur, the total number of voters of the state is 19,68,476. Of these 8,55,657 are male voters and 10,12,655 are female voters. The number of transgender voters is 164.

Polling will be conducted in two-phase for the state of Manipur. The first phase will be held on February 27 while the 2nd phase will be held on



March 3. That means it is just 42 days left to go for polling. Whether the state Health department authority will be able to vaccinate all the eligible voters or not before the upcoming election is a big question for the state.

On the other hand, a total of 16,171 youths between the age of 15 to 17 years have been given Covaxin vaccine first dose within a span of 13

(Thirteen) days in Manipur, a government report said. The Covid-19 vaccination of youths between 15 years to 17 years started on January 3.

As per the report, the total number of youths in this age group vaccinated in Imphal West district alone is 5,232, while the total number of youths in this age group in Imphal East district was 2935 till 7.30 pm yesterday. In

Kamjong district only 34 youths were vaccinated while in Ukhrul district the number of youths vaccinated the first dose was only 75. Among the hill district, Churachandpur recorded 1520 youths between 15 to 17 years as vaccinated.

The State health department targeted to vaccinate 1,74,000 youths between 15 years and 17 years of age.

81st Birth Anniversary of Oja Heisnam Kanhailal

IT News
Imphal, Jan 16:

The Kalakshetra Manipur is observing the 81st Birth Anniversary of Oja Heisnam Kanhailal, entitled as "Celebrating Oja Heisnam Kanhailal", on the January 17 and 18.

The observation will include unveiling of Oja Kanhailal's bust at the Langol Laimanai Imphal premises of Kalakshetra Manipur, on the January 17 morning, to be unveiled by theatre maestro, Oja Ratan Thiyam. It will be followed by book release and staging of plays till the January 18.

'Maintain SOP while conducting Pre Board exam'

IT News
Imphal, Jan 16:

The All Manipur Recognised Private School Welfare Association has appealed to all private schools to maintain Covid-19 appropriate behaviour while conducting the Pre Board Examination -2022 which is scheduled to conduct from Jan 19.

A statement of the private schools' body said that all private schools should follow the Covid-19 guideline provided by the Association. It said that the distance between two students appearing for the exam should be 6 feet. As the students appearing will be only from the class x exam the school authority should provide adequate space.

Reactions pour in as India marks 1 year of COVID-19 vaccination drive, PM Modi says 'let's overcome the pandemic'

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 16:

As India completed one year of its COVID-19 vaccination drive on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the programme added great strength to the fight against COVID-19 saving lives and thus protecting livelihoods.

I salute each and every individual who is associated with the vaccination drive, the PM said.

"When the COVID-19 pandemic first struck, we did not know much about the virus. However, our scientists and innovators immersed themselves in developing vaccines. India feels proud that our nation has been able to contribute to fighting the pandemic through vaccines," he tweeted.

The PM also called the role played by doctors, nurses and healthcare workers "exceptional" and said that India's approach to fighting the pandemic will always remain science-based.

Let us keep following all COVID-19 related protocols and overcome the pandemic, he added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the nation saying "with unity, we can achieve any target".

India, compared to other countries, is at a different level in terms of vaccine doses administered in the first 365 days, the BJP said.

Lauding PM Modi, Kiren Rijiju said that under his lead-



ership, India is not only securing its citizens but also has shown global leadership.

MoS MEA and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi said that vaccination numbers are a testament to the country's spirit of Jan Bhagidari and the determination and resilience of 'New India'.

As of today, India's cumulative COVID-19 vaccination coverage has exceeded 156.76 crores in a span of a year.

India commenced its nationwide COVID vaccination drive on January 16, 2021, by inoculating vaccinees to

healthcare workers. Later, it was expanded to frontline workers, followed by people above 60 years of age and those above 45 years with comorbidities.

Later it was also expanded to all above 45 years of age and then those above 18 years of age.

The vaccination drive for those between the age group 15-18 opened on January 3, 2022, with precautionary doses to healthcare workers, frontline workers and 60+ individuals from January 10.

State BJP may deny ticket to sitting MLA, likely to announce the first list of candidates before Jan 25

IT News
Imphal, Jan 16:

As done in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP may drop party tickets to some of the sitting MLAs in the state of Manipur, a reliable source said. It is likely that the BJP may field new face candidates at some of the Assembly constituencies where there are sitting BJP MLAs.

The BJP announced its first list of 111 candidates for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The BJP deny party ticket to 20 sitting MLAs. One of the ground is that some of them have crossed 75 years of age. And the another is to counter anti-incumbency factor. This formula is likely to apply in the state of Manipur too.

The first list of candidates may be announced on or before January 25, as the Ticket committee comprising of BJP Manipur Pradesh President A. Sarda Devi, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Minister Th. Biswajit, former Minister Th. Radheshyam, National leader of BJP in-charge of Manipur Abey Giri and Dr. Sambit Patra, former Union Th. Chaoba among others had already completed



preparing the first list, a source close to Imphal Times said.

The expected constituencies where the BJP may announce their candidates are Heingang, Thongju, Keirao, Nambol, Mayang Imphal, Singamei, Langthabal, Lamshang, Saitu, Saikot, Thoubal, Wangjing Thentha, Mayang Imphal, and Hiyanglam Assembly constituencies.

Election for the first phase poll is scheduled on February 27. The first phase election will be held at 1-Khumdrakpam, 2-Heingang, 3-Khurai, 4-Khetrigao, 5-Thongju, 6-Keirao, 7-Andro, 8-Lamlai, 9-Thangmeiband, 10-Uripok, 11-Sagolband, 12-Keisamthong, 13-Singamei, 14-Yaiskul, 15-Wangkhel, 16-Sekmai (SC), 17-Lamsang, 18-Konthoujam, 19-Patsoi, 20-Langthabal, 21-Naoria Pakhanglakpa, 22-wangoi, 23-Mayang Imphal, 24-Nambol, 25-Oinam, 26-Bishenpur,

27-Moirang, 28-Thanga, 29-Kumbi, 46-Saikul (ST), 50-Kangpokpi, 51-Saitu (ST), 55-Tpaimukh (ST), 56-Thanol (ST), 57-Hengle (ST), 58 Churachandpur (ST), 59-Saikot (ST), and 60-Singhat (ST).

Notification for the election will be issued on February 1.

For the second phase poll scheduled on March 3, the election will be held at 30-Lilong, 31-Thoubal, 32-Wangkhem, 33-Heirok, 34-Wangjing Thentha, 35-Khangabok, 36-Wabgai, 37-Kacheking, 38-Hiyanglam, 39-Sugnoo, 40-Jiribam, 41-Chandel (ST), 42-Tengnoupal (ST), 43-Phungyar (ST), 44-Ukhrul (ST), 45-Chingai (ST), 47-Karong (ST), 48-Mao (ST), 49-Tadubi (ST), 52-Tamei (ST), 53-Tamenglong (ST) and 54-Nungba (ST) assembly constituencies.

ZUF enrage over the killing of its cadre by NSCN-IM

IT News
Imphal, Jan 16:

The Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) has expressed anger to the killing of its Lance Corporal, Pouluanthai Gangmei terming it as cold-blooded killing by NSCN-IM.

Lance Corporal, Pouluanthai Gangmei of Reangpang Village, Noney District, Manipur was killed on the evening of 12th January 2022 allegedly by NSCN-IM.

A statement by ZUF said that late Pouluanthai Gangmei was said to have napped and torture to death and thrown at a site frequented by public. The out-

fit said that the Cadre had been on leave for medical treatment and was open with the public in confident that he would be safe to go free as he had been relieved from the fold on medical ground. However, the NSCN-IM hunted him and got him killed in cold blooded manner, the ZUF/ZTF said and added that such act as utter cowardice and unbecoming for Naga Army to behave cowardly.

"While expressing our deep resentment over the killing, we also convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved family and relatives who in such a time and

manner had their loved one taken away from them. The Front had also paid a revolutionary salute and moments of homage to our well-disciplined cadre at his departure from our midst. We also convey our appreciation and gratitude to the Leaders, youths and loved ones who had volunteered to transport and served the mortal body to his native home Village. May your benevolence service rendered in such a critically hard time and place be richly rewarded by our heavenly Father", the statement released by KD.Gangmei, Information & Publicity Secretary, Zeliangrong United Front said.

JD(U) condoles the demise of Azizul Haque Khan

IT News
Imphal, Jan 16:

The Janata Dal (United) National President Rajeev Ranjan Singh Alias Lalan Singh MP (Leader Lok Sabha) held a virtual condolence meeting today on the demise of Janab Azizul Haque Khan, Ex. Working President of Janata Dal United Manipur State. The General Secretary In-charge North East Afaqque Ahmad

Khan, General Secretary Harshvardhan Singh, JD(U) NEEC Convenor NSN Lotha, Anil Hegde, Manipur JD(U) State unit President Hangkhanpao Taithul, Dorendro Singh, Rabikant Meitei were Present.

Speaking on the occasion, JD(U) National President talked about his contribution to the party and people of Manipur and expressed heartfelt condolences to his grieving family.

The honorable Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar remembered him as his class fellow in NIT Patna. He then joined the department of water resources, Government of Manipur State and retired as the Chief Engineer, after his retirement, he joined Janata Dal (United) Manipur state unit and worked for the development of Manipur state. He expressed his heartfelt condolences to his grieving family.

Ideas come to mind like butterflies and fireflies

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Recently I had the opportunity to participate in an important panel discussion related to innovative thinking and entrepreneurship. The program was organised by Meerut College, associated

with Meerut University. In this program organised under the 'Innovation Week' of the Government of India, Dr Neeraj Kumar emphasised that the possibilities exist in every field and the youth should make efforts towards becoming entrepreneurs. I am also of the opinion that new ideas come to our mind randomly, they are like butterflies and fireflies (jugu), which strike for a moment and can disappear in the blink of an eye. If attention is given to new ideas by being alert, then the foundation of new startups can be laid and innovative solutions can be found for many problems of our day to day life. Participating in the discussion, Anant Srivastava, Founder, Home Textile Exporters Welfare Association (HEWA) and its director Vikas Singh Chauhan, said that it is not necessary that only science students pursuing Technology, Mathematics or Engineering should focus on innovative ideas, students of any discipline can think of starting their own entrepreneur venture. Anyone having bright ideas and a positive approach to life can be an innovator. Students can become entrepreneurs with new thinking. The Government of India has declared January 16 as National Startup Day and is considering startups as the backbone of New India.

There are currently more than 60,000 startups in India. The central government is paying a lot of attention to new thinking, innovation and entrepreneurship to realise the dream of New India. Youth are being encouraged both financially and ideologically, so that they can generate more and more jobs by putting up their projects and presenting solutions to the problems present in the country. If we look at the figures, the difference is clearly visible, as compared to 4,000 patents in the year 2013-14, around 28,000 patents were granted last year, and 2.5 lakh trademarks were registered against 70,000 trademark registrations. India's position in the Global Innovation Ranking is improving as the emphasis is on innovation in the country. Six years ago India was ranked 81 on this list and now it is at 46th position. Startups are proving to be game changers.

Indian startups raised \$42 billion in 2021, up from \$11.5 billion in 2020. Top startups in India include ShareChat, Cred, Meesho, Nazara, Moglix, MPL, Grofers (Blinkit), upGrad, Mamaearth, GlobalBees, Acko and Spinny. New thinking and better solutions are needed in the field of agriculture, mental health, tourism, and health services in the country. If the Prime Minister is to be believed, then the golden era of India's startups is starting now. Each of the 625 districts of the country has at least one startup. More than half of the startups are from tier 2 and tier 3 cities. Half of the country's population is online, so startups should focus on rural India and rural problems. The aspirations of the people and youth living in the villages are rising and the rural and semi-urban areas await a new wave of expansion. Today, the need of the hour is that the youth think in a new way and present new solutions to the existing problems. Innovative ideas will help build a new India.

It is necessary that kids have free time to play. Because of hectic routines, time schedules, and lots of other responsibilities and demands, it becomes very important that children have sufficient time to play. Let's go through some reasons why children should have sufficient play time.

As per clinical research, playing is very important for the development of children because it helps in the physical, emotional, social, and cognitive health of the children. Playing is essential to help out children in the development of social skills. Playing helps the children in healthy development as it permits them to convey their conscious as well as unconscious experiences about their feelings of life and also things which are happening around them.

Playing is very important for neurological development of the child. Through play, children's brains get developed and playing strengthens a lot of neuronal connections, which might fade away or deteriorate, if not utilized.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, the play is the right of every child due to its significance in child development.

Playing helps the children to adjust with the school and also improves their eagerness to learn. If children are permitted to play the way they like to, their concentration improves with superior attention spans, and develop their educational skills.

Over-scheduled family life generally leads to lesser time for good parent-child relations. Many families are benefitted from less rushed routines which allow the children to play freely. Your child's behaviour and your family life both will improve if more play time is given to your child on regular basis. When the

Children and Play Time



By: Vijay GarG

parents play with their children, they get a chance to be with their children and interact with them at their level. As a result, the parent-child relationship and your family life will improve.

Children find out how to make decisions, share, solve conflicts, be self-confident, and work with groups through unstructured play. While a few children quickly get these skills, most children can develop these social skills by playing with the other children. Playing alone will also help child gaining self-confidence, boldness, decision making expertise, and more.

Play helps children to express, identify, and think about feelings. Children usually follow what their mother or father do or what their friends do. Because of these daily life experiences, children certainly have feelings regarding these events. Children have become more responsible for their own as well as others' feelings, how to handle feelings by conveying them, and also work through the emotions, because of play.

Children can enjoy life experiences with free play. Children can't see things in the same way as we adults do, therefore they can utilize play to have a better understanding of definite life experiences.

Parents can support children, who experience a broad range of problems through learning, how to have fun with them through any particular way, using chosen toys. These problems include emotional problems, speech problems, persistent developmental disorders, paren-

tal separation, mental retardation, relocation, at-risk situations, abuse/neglect, immigration, chronic illness, mental health analysis, social difficulties, foster/adoption issues, disabilities, hyperactivity, adjustment difficulties, learning difficulties, and detection of violence. Parents can help out their children with these kinds of problems using particular toys and particular kinds of interactions. Nevertheless, there are therapeutic interventions also that any therapist can help parents for best suited child's situation like filial treatment, parent-child communication therapy, and involvements in play therapy.

Parents can considerably develop relationships with the children through discovering how to take part in children play with a particular way using chosen toys. When the parents become children with their kinds and concentrate on them, their association with children will improve immensely. It's not necessary that the playing time should be fixed at some particular time in the day. It could be only a few minutes, however, doing these kinds of play daily or almost on the everyday basis can be very helpful for the parent-child relationships.

It is clear that with growing competition every day, you want to see your child success ding everywhere. In the past, playtime of children was only involved in playing different kinds of indoor as well as outdoor games. Indoor games like Snakes & Ladders, Ludo, Carom, and different types of board and card games are accessible to them. There are many games available which can develop their minds like Scrabble, Monopoly,

Battleship, Pelmanism, Chess, and Chinese checkers.

If you are fed up with the indoor games, there are many outdoor games which are thrilling. Hopscotch, Jump rope, Hide-and-Seek, and Frisbee are some of the examples. Other enormously popular games include playing Pitthoo, Marbles, Kite Flying, and Gilli Danda. Cycling, Cricket, football, and Badminton are all-time favourites.

Importance of Playing

Both indoor, as well as outdoor games, significantly contribute to the general development of a child. Indoor games improve psychomotor coordination, reasoning, and analytical skills. They help in building vocabulary and memory. Outdoor games help children in boosting their body strength and stamina. These games also inspire them with the spirit of strong teamwork and competition. At times, kids spend time in the free play and playing some unique games. This normally improves their creative thinking and ability.

Games of Today

Today, the idea of games has drastically changed. Digital devices have replaced the indoor-outdoor games. Now children get pleasure and satisfaction through T.V., computers, laptops, mobiles and gaming consoles. Children are also magnetized by different cartoon shows on television and games accessible on mobile phones and the Internet.

For a few parents, playtime is a headache whereas, for some, it means of improving the mental and physical capabilities of children. However, playing is necessary for a child's development. So what can you do about that? Here are some steps that you may take for managing your child's playtime:

Everyday Activity: Make sure that playing becomes a primary part of a child's everyday routine. The good option is to have playtime in everyday routine for your child no matter he is kid or youngster. Make the play time, a fundamental part of the routine and stick to it. Study the kinds of games that your child loves to play if he is attached with indoor/outdoor games? Examine if he likes to spend time playing mind challenging games or physical endurance testing games? Does he favour playing cricket over chess etc. Support him for playing games that he loves. Take some time out from your busy schedule and energetically take part in games that your child loves to play.

Quality Time: Playtime needs to be fun for your children. Do not push your child for playing games of your liking. Playtime is very important part of child's growth. Allow him to choose the game he wants to play. Just observe that they use a definite time period for play.

Advantages of Playing

Counter Dullness and Depression: Play is the finest escape from dullness and monotony. Many children spoil their time by not doing anything at home. Some children waste time watching television and playing different video games. Those children generally suffer from problems like depression, obesity, and dullness. Cleverly tell your children about risky effects of using too much T.V. and digital games. As an alternative, persuade your children to use their extra time for playing indoor and outdoor games. This is the best way to counter monotony and depression.

Career in Sports: Sports may prove to be a booming career option. It might sound odd; however the sports your child loves to play, can prove to be a flourishing career option. It is observed many times that well-known sports persons have made their wonderful career with the games that they played when they were children.

Children's playtime is a serious subject. As parents, we should think that playtime is an essential part of children's life.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee: Synonyms to Sushasana

By: Arjun Ram Meghwal

The Good Governance or Sushasana is an imbibed inheritance of India's ancient culture and ethos. The democratic values retrieved through the GanSangha of Buddhism, Anubhav Mantap system of 11th Century AD established by Lord Basveshwar, Chankya's Arth Shastra, Civic Planning during the Indus Valley civilization, Legacy of Mauryan Emperor Ashoka, among others, are inherited wisdom towards better Governance. On the occasion of Good Governance Day to mark the Birth Anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, It is imperative to throw light and contextualize his remarkable role in institutionalizing the excellent Governance measures in independent India.

After independence, Good Governance remained a focal point of the governance reforms, but in discourses only. In Constitution Assembly debates or institutions like Planning Commission, the duly crafted policy discussion remained on paper with poor implementation measures. With the visionary leadership & Statesmanship of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the nation witnessed historic good-governance efforts that brought fortunes to the lives of the masses.

A long stint as a parliamentarian having ten terms as a member of Lok Sabha, two terms as Rajya Sabha Member Atal Bihari Vajpayee, kept on throwing light on good Governance's nuances. As an opposition member, his reasoned argument and constructive criticisms carried much gravity to aspire for a welfare-centric governance system. During his prime ministerial tenures,

the people-centric initiatives emerged as milestones in India's transformational journey. The improving farmers live by introducing Kisan Credit Cards, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, Infrastructural boost by Golden Quadrilateral scheme, the conceptualization of River interlinking & National Rural Health program, Educational reforms through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Constituting a separate Tribal Affairs Ministry, among others, are a few measures that have touched every section of societies. The quasi-judicial Central Electricity Regulatory Commission was set up, and the age-old electricity act was amended in the Power sector to improve the regulatory framework.

In May 1998, conducting nuclear tests at Pokhran Rajasthan catapulted India's Status to Nuclear weapon state as part of his national governance Agenda. The famous Vajpayee doctrine towards solving the complex Kashmir problem echoed the popular wisdom of 'Insaniyat, Jamhuriyat & Kashmiriyat' meant for humanity, peace, and sanctity of Kashmiri People. His foreign affairs-related insights that 'You can change friends, not neighbors' continuous source of engagement at all platforms. Atalji's government had allowed bringing bodies of martyrs to their homes to enable the people to honor the soldiers who were given supreme sacrifices in the service of the nation. He was a man of consensus and pragmatism reflected from the fact that in 2000 three new states of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand were formed by carving

out from Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand & Bihar respectively in a very peaceful manner. It was a well-thought-out move towards establishing good-governance by bringing government closer to the people.

He was deeply influenced by the futuristic insights of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's thoughts and his role in nation-building. It was the insistence of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishan Advani Ji that VP Singh government, supported by BJP, honored Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar with Bharat Ratna on March 31, 1990. AB Vajpayee's will to develop the pious premises of 26 Alipore Road, Delhi where Maharaja of Sirohi, Rajasthan invited Dr. Ambedkar to stay after resigning from the Union Cabinet (1951), transpired to create it as a museum that would inspire the people for social equality. Dr. Ambedkar Breathed last at this place only. The Ministry of Urban Development signed the exchange deed of this private property on October 14, 2003, under Vajpayee's supervision & development works were inaugurated in December 2003. Later during the UPA regime, this project was kept at bay. The Modi government developed it with the cost of INR 100 crores as Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial and dedicated it to the nation on April 13, 2018.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee walked the talk of Good Governance by undertaking several initiatives at the dawn of the 21st century. Now taking that baton forward, PM Narendra Modi has increased the speed & scale of these measures to realize his goals and make 'New India a 21st-century global leader. Technological interventions like DBT, JAM trinity, Faceless taxation, among other measures, led to minimizing the discretionary power, and it has strengthened the

people's confidence in institutions. The ambit of Kisan credit cards has been increased, and Agriculture allied activities have been incorporated. A big boost to the infrastructure sector is undertaken through the Bharatmala, Sagarmala, National Asset Monetisation Pipeline, Agriculture Infrastructure fund, an extension to PMGSY phase-III.

The repeal of article 370, i.e., the special status of J&K, has added a new dimension to the effective & efficient services delivery mechanism for the J&K. Now, people from every section are brought into the mainstream development agenda. Atal Bhujal Yojana has for sustainable ground water management. Recently, on 8th December Union Cabinet Approved the Ken-Betwa interlinking project, has become the first major center-driven project to carry water from areas with surpluses to drought-prone and water deficit areas to relapse the vision of Atalji.

The Mantra of 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance' facilitating the ease of lives of citizens. Breaking governance silos through better coordination among various ministries & departments with initiatives like PM Gatishakti, PRAGATI, capacity building through Mission Karmayogi, focused emphasis on simplifying procedures and reducing the compliance burden on businesses, individuals, and other stakeholders are ensuring better service delivery. The implementation of GST, Labor codes, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, New Education Policy, Mudra, PM Awas Schemes, PM Kisan, and seamless resolution of tax disputes are other several aspects, strengthening the transparency, responsiveness, and other dimensions of good Governance. It is testimony

to such measures that India has improved on Ease of Doing Business ranking to 79 positions from 145 in 2015 to 63 in 2020. Similarly, the Global Innovation Index ranking increased from 81st (2015) to 46th rank (2021).

Societies co-evolve with scientific & technological developments, and so does parity required for the governance reforms to accommodate the emerging transformation for the betterment of all stakeholders. Modi Government measures implemented in a time-bound manner are genuinely remarkable, and many historic milestones have been achieved so far. As the saying goes, there is always room for improvement; many significant reforms are in pipelines. PM has raised the concern for holding simultaneous elections, Single Electoral roll, Judicial Reform in the form of All India Judicial Services on many platforms for the nation's best interest. Appropriate consultations are being held at federal & political levels among relevant stakeholders to expedite the reform process.

Good Governance is a means to essentially serve the people, having its end towards fulfilling their aspirations through the well-established constitutional framework. Atalji's vision, leadership, guidance, and invaluable insights will always remain an inspiration for present and future generations. As the nation witnessing the Good Governance Day during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, lets us introspect and pledge to act in the spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' for Building a 'New India.

(The writer is a Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India, representing Bikaner constituency in Lok Sabha)

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Precautionary dose will help protect vulnerable: experts

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 16:

The massive drive launched by the government to provide the third "precautionary dose" of the Covid-19 vaccine to the people who are most vulnerable to getting infected seems to be progressing satisfactorily, experts say.

The third dose is being currently given to those above 60 years with comorbidities, healthcare workers, and frontline workers.

The new Covid variant, Omicron, has been found to be the most transmissible of all the mutants of the virus. A large number of doctors and paramedics in Delhi have tested positive in the Omicron-led third wave, though most are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.

Experts feel that as the disease spreads, it may severely affect the more vulnerable,

such as the elderly. A "precautionary dose" will help boost immunity among these people.

The vaccines, which have so far been given in India, are two-dose vaccines: Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Serum Institute of India's Covishield, and Gamaleya's Sputnik V.

While the two doses of Covaxin are given at a 28-day interval, Covishield's are administered at a 16-weeks gap. Sputnik's two doses are given 21 days apart. These two doses provide a good degree of protection against severe disease.

However, experts say the immunity generated through vaccines fades a bit after a few months of inoculation. "The third dose will help generate a stronger immune response in people who are at a higher risk of developing severe disease, or mortality. This will also help in reducing hospitalisation," says Dr. Arun

Sharma, a community medicine specialist.

The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) has recommended the administration of the homologous vaccine to healthcare workers, frontline workers, and the elderly (more than 60 years of age with comorbidities), which means that the same vaccine that has been administered for the first two doses would be given as the precautionary dose to the eligible beneficiaries.

"Those who have received Covaxin will receive Covaxin and those who have received the primary two doses of Covishield will receive Covishield", said Dr. V K Paul, Member, Niti Ayog.

India has administered over 150 crore doses of vaccines to people above 18. More than 65 per cent of the population has been

fully vaccinated and 90 per cent has received its first dose.

On 3 January, the government began vaccination for children between 15 to 18 years of age. Out of 7.5 crore children between this age group, over 2 crores have already received their first dose. "Large-scale vaccination will help protect our people against severe disease. Most vaccinated people who catch infection will recover fast and are unlikely to require hospitalisation," says Dr. Arvind Rajawanshi, Executive Director, AIIMS, Raibareilly.

Along with vaccination, experts say, following Covid Appropriate Behaviour is very important. Wearing a mask properly is highly effective in preventing infection. Besides washing hands regularly and avoiding crowded spaces help prevent the spread of the disease.

Nadda lauds PM Modi's 'stellar leadership' on vaccine anniversary

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 16:

With India's Covid vaccination drive completing one year on Sunday, BJP president J P Nadda said the task of jabbing the country's huge population seemed impossible but was made possible under the "stellar leadership" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with over 92 per cent of population having

received the first dose. "The world stood up and applauded us," Nadda said.

Over the past year, India has come together in this fight against COVID-19, he said, extending gratitude to health and frontline workers besides the masses for their concerted efforts to make this massive vaccination drive a success.

He tweeted, "India has so far administered 156 crore vac-

cine doses, of which 99 crore doses have been given in rural India. 70% of our adult population is fully vaccinated. More than 3 crore children have got their first dose since the program began. India has led the fight against COVID-19."

The countrywide vaccination drive against COVID-19 on Sunday completed one year, during which over 156.76 crore vaccine doses were adminis-

tered. The drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2.

The next phase of the COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions.

Indian Army Felicitates Needy Widows and Distressed Ex-servicemen on 74 th Army Day



By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Jan 16:

The needy widows and disabled Ex-Servicemen were felicitated in the functions organised at eight locations, by Headquarters, North Maharashtra and Gujarat sub area, Nagpur on the occasion of 74 th Army Day on Saturday. The functions were organised at Bhusawal, Nagpur, Pulgaon, Devlali (Maharashtra) and Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Dharangdhara and Bhuj (Gujarat).

On the occasion a total of 21 needy widows and one disabled Ex-Serviceman were felicitated and given a financial assistance of Rs 50,000/- each. Similar aid was extended to 44 widows/ Veer Naris (brave women) and disabled Ex-Servicemen in January last year.

Speaking at the felicitation function, Maj Gen Dinesh Hooda, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Sub Area, highlighted the importance of looking after the welfare of needy and disabled Ex-Servicemen and also widows who are in financial distress and find it difficult to sustain their living

with the limited pensionary benefits.

The 74th Army Day was marked also at the War Memorial in Pune, with the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, Lieutenant General J S Nain laying a wreath and paying homage to those who made the supreme sacrifice while safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation.

Army Day is celebrated every year in India, in recognition of the role of the Indian Army. Army Day also marks a day to salute and honour the valiant soldier who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens.

Attestation parade
In another development on the Army Day, a Passing out parade and attestation was carried for the recruits of 131st Course and Rakshaks (DSC) at Guards Regimental Centre, Kamptee, in Nagpur (Maharashtra).

A wreath laying ceremony was also carried out to pay respect to brave soldiers. In the

program, the recruits of the 131st Course at the Guards Regimental Centre, Kamptee were attested as soldiers of the Indian Army. In the parade, they took the solemn oath to protect the nation even at the peril of life.

The parade was reviewed by Colonel Vivek Sharma, Officiating Commandant, Brigade of the Guards Regimental Centre. The Reviewing Officer impressed upon the recruits that becoming a soldier is a matter of pride and also an onerous responsibility. He exhorted the recruits to commit themselves to the service of the Nation physically, mentally and in all dimensions. He gave away medals to the outstanding performers of the course. Recruit Rohit Kumar, hailing from Panipat (Haryana), was adjudged the Best Recruit.

Rear Admiral K P Arvindan takes over as ASD

In yet another development, Rear Admiral K P Arvindan took over as Admiral Superintendent, Naval Dockyard, Mumbai in an impressive ceremony held at the dockyard on Friday.

Rear Admiral KP Arvindan, an alumnus of Naval College of

Engineering, INS Shivaji, Lonavla, is from the first batch of the Naval Engineering Course and was commissioned into the Indian Navy in November 1987. The Admiral holds a B-Tech degree in Marine Engineering and a M-Tech degree in Industrial Engineering from NITIE, Mumbai.

A recipient of the Vishisht Seva Medal, the Admiral was serving as Chief Staff Officer (Technical) at Headquarters, Western Naval Command, Mumbai, prior to taking over as the Admiral Superintendent, Naval Dockyard.

In a career spanning over 34 years of service, the Admiral served in various capacities, including at command headquarters, training establishments, the marine gas turbine overhaul centre, INS Eksila (Andhra Pradesh), and Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. He has served onboard a Petya class patrol vessel, the missile corvette Kirpan and guided missile destroyers Rajput and Ranjit.

His recent appointments include being the Commanding Officer of the premier training establishment, INS Shivaji, Lonavla near Pune (Maharashtra) and Commodore (Fleet Maintenance), Mumbai, an assignment he handled for a period of four years, handling issues related to maintenance and repair support for the aircraft carrier, "Vikramaditya", and the submarine fleet of the Indian Navy. On promotion to the flag rank, the officer was appointed as Admiral Superintendent, Naval Ship Repair Yard, "Karwar" (Karnataka).

VIP culture not acceptable in today's Assam: CM Himanta Biswa Sarma reprimands Nagaon DC for traffic jam



Agency
Guwahati, Jan 16:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday reprimanded police officials after they halted traffic for him. Videos show Sarma enquiring with police officials about a traffic jam and rebuking them for halting traffic.

"I reprimanded officials concerned for halting traffic for me, despite clear direction not to create inconvenience for

people during my visit. For over 15 mins, the National Highway was blocked including ambulances. This VIP culture is not acceptable in today's Assam," the Chief Minister was quoted as saying later.

The CM had been in the area to lay the foundation stone of a road connecting Gumutha Gaon and Maha Mrityunjay Temple with NH 37, earlier on Saturday.

Attempting to clear the snarl, Sarma had to bus

drivers to continue traffic movement on the road. Following the incident he had reportedly said that the state government wished to "change the babu mindset" and achieve the goal of "janta hi janardhan".

"In our state, we want to create a culture where DC, SP or any government servant, public rep-irrespective of background, intellectual capacity or popularity will work only for the people," he added.

Assam Rifles foils cross border smuggling of Contrabands

IT News
Imphal, Jan 16:

In two separate operations, Moreh and Tengnoupal Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (S) foiled cross border smuggling of contrabands in Kulyang and

Holenphai village, Tengnoupal District on January 14.

During border domination patrol, troops of Assam Rifles intercepted four vehicles carrying illegal areca nuts and timbers from across Indo Myanmar Border.

The recovered timbers and

areca nuts were assessed to be worth Rs 50.24 lakhs and Rs 35.32 lakhs respectively.

The recovered items along with vehicles and drivers were handed over to Forest department and Customs Preventive Force, Tengnoupal district for further legal action.

AR distributes Solar Lamps



IT News
Imphal, Jan 16:

Shangshak Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(S) distributed

Solar Lamps to Namlee, Wanglee & K Ashangkhuellen villages of Kamjong district yesterday.

As part of Assam Rifles Civic Action Program, 128 So-

lar Lamps were distributed to three villages. The initiative by Assam Rifles has solved the long pending need of provision of solar lamp facility to these villages.

Assam: 3390 new COVID cases detected at nearly 10% positivity rate

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 16:

Assam's COVID-19 woes are on the rise.

On Saturday, Assam logged as many as 3390 new COVID-19 cases.

These new cases in Assam have been detected after con-

ducting tests

of 34,355 samples. Assam's COVID-19 positivity rate on Saturday stood at 9.87%.

Out of the new 3390 COVID-19 cases in Assam, 919 were detected from in and around Guwahati city.

The number of cases de-

tected in Assam on Saturday is over 1000 more than what was logged on Friday.

On Friday, Assam reported 2348 cases at a positivity rate of 7.80%.

Moreover, at least four persons lost their lives to the deadly virus in the last 24 hours.

India logs 2.71 lakh COVID-19 cases in 24 hours, 314 deaths; Omicron tally rises to 7,743

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 16:

India registered 2,71,202 new Covid-19 cases on Sunday morning, taking the overall tally to 3,71,22,164 since the pandemic began in the country in January 2020. The number of new infections was marginally higher than Saturday's count of 2,68,833 cases.

The toll increased to 4,86,066 after 314 patients died in the last 24 hours.

Total 7,743 cases of the Omicron variant. The country saw 1,702 new cases of Omicron variant, the highest in a single day so far, and an increase of 28.17 percent since Saturday.

India currently has 15,50,377 active cases, and the number of active infections increased by 1,32,557 in the past day. In the past 24 hours, 1,38,331 persons have recovered from the

coronavirus, taking the total to 3,50,85,721.

The nationwide recovery rate is currently 94.51%, the Union health ministry stated.

The daily test positivity rate has decreased to 16.28% from 16.66%.

As many as 66,21,396 Covid-19 vaccine doses were administered in the country in the past day. The total number of vaccine doses administered in the country since the vaccination drive began on January 16 last year is 1,56,76,15,454.

Out of these, 3,38,50,912 vaccine shots have been administered to children between 15 and 18 years of age. Further, 43,19,278 precautionary doses of the vaccine have been administered to healthcare workers, frontline workers and senior citizens with co-morbidities.

Over 14.13 crore

(14,13,44,641) vaccine doses are currently available with states and union territories, according to the Union government.

The country has registered 7,743 new cases of the Omicron variant till now, constituting an increase of 28.17% since Saturday.

Amid the rising Covid-19 cases, the Election Commission on Saturday extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows in the five poll-bound states till January 22. The poll panel, however, allowed political parties to hold indoor meetings of up to 300 people or 50% of the venue's capacity or the limit set by the state disaster management authority.

The directive applies to Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur.

Meanwhile, the Jharkhand government on Saturday extended the coronavirus-related restric-

tions currently in place till January 31, ANI reported.

Under the curbs, all educational institutes are to remain closed, but official work is permitted at 50% capacity. Stadiums, parks, gyms and tourist spots are to remain closed.

Markets are allowed to remain open till 8 pm. Up to 100 people are permitted to attend weddings and funerals.

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Arvind Kejriwal joins AAP candidates' door-to-door campaign in Goa

Agency
Goa, Jan 16:

With Assembly elections just a month away and multiple coalitions vying for power, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday campaigned door-to-door for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Goa. The AAP has announced 25 candidates for Goa's 40-member Assembly.

Kejriwal, who arrived in Goa on Saturday afternoon, paid visits to the residents of St André, Cortalim, and Shiroda.

During his door-to-door campaign, Arvind Kejriwal urged people to vote for the 'broom' symbol if they want a corrupt-free government in Goa.

"For years, Goans have voted for both the BJP and the Congress, but neither has done anything to benefit the state. We get to hear news of MLAs changing parities for money. We want people to vote for a government that is free of corruption," Kejriwal said.

Asked about the split of non-BJP votes between AAP, TMC, and Congress, Arvind Kejriwal said, "Who do the people of Goa trust? They have no faith in Congress or the TMC. They are aware of the work we have done in Delhi."

Many residents of St André whom Arvind Kejriwal met stated that they will vote for change.

"The TMC and AAP are in the spotlight." We hear about MLAs switching parties all the time. This time, we will give new people a chance. "I believe that is in Goa's best interests," said Shashikant Veluskar, a local.

Another local, Sushani

Palkar, agreed that change is required.

"The government has announced aid to women through various schemes, but it does not reach the ground. We want better road and water infrastructure in Goa. We'll cast our votes for new faces," he said.

On Sunday, Arvind Kejriwal is scheduled to meet with party officials and candidates before

holding a press conference. As of now, the AAP has made six poll promises in Goa, including free electricity up to 300 units per month, free pilgrimages, job guarantees for locals, and financial assistance schemes for women over the age of 18. In addition, Kejriwal has promised to raise the 'Griha Aadhar Allowance' in Goa from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500 per month.

Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, **Tekcham Nandini Devi**, have lost my original certificate for Class X examination bearing Roll No. 21145 of 2015 issued by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur on the way between Andro Parking Wangkhei to Keishampat on December 20, 2021.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Tekcham Nandini Devi
D/o T. Samananda Singh

Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, **Nongmaithem Sonali Devi** have lost my original certificate for Class X examination bearing Roll No. 9094 of 2012 issued by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur on the way between Palace Compound, Imphal to Paona Bazar, Imphal on December 25, 2021.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Nongmaithem Sonali Devi
D/o N. Kumar Singh

Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, **Martina Thokchom**, have lost my original certificate for my Secondary School Examination conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education, Delhi bearing Roll No. 3141705 of 2012-14 on the way between Palace Compound, Imphal to Paona Bazar, Imphal on December 21, 2021.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Martina Thokchom
D/o, Thokchom Ibomcha Singh

Let's talk stress-free exams: PM Narendra Modi on 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 16:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged students, parents and teachers to sign up for this year's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', an annual event where he interacts with the student fraternity on ways to tackle exam stress.

"Exams are approaching and so is 'Pariksha Pe

Charcha 2022'. Let's talk stress-free exams and once again support our brave #ExamWarriors, their parents and teachers. I urge you all to register for this year's #PPC2022," Modi tweeted.

In another tweet, the PM said the annual event is a learning experience for him as he gets to connect with the youth and understand their challenges and aspirations

better. "It also gives the opportunity to discover the emerging trends in the world of education," he tweeted.

The first edition of the programme was held at the Talkatora Stadium on February 16, 2018. In 2021, owing to Covid, the programme shifted to the online mode, which will be the case this year as well.

To select students be-

tween classes 9-12 who can participate in the event, an online creative writing competition is being held. Entries have been invited on the themes of exam stress management strategies during Covid-19, azadi ka amrit mahotsav, self-reliant school for self-reliant India, clean India, digital collaboration in classrooms and environmental conservation.

Sports

India Open: Lakshya Sen, Chirag-Satwik enter final; PV Sindhu out of title race

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 16:

World championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles summit clash with a thrilling win but it was curtains for two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open here on Saturday. The 20-year-old Sen rallied his way to a 19-21 21-16 21-12 win over world number 60 Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong to enter his maiden World Tour Super 500 summit clash.

However, there was disappointment in store in women's singles as top seed and home favourite Sindhu lost 14-21 21-13 10-21 to sixth seeded Thai Supanida Katethong. Young Aakarshi Kashyap too had a golden chance but she squandered five game points in the opening game to allow Busanan register a 26-24 19-21 win in the other women's singles semifinal.

Sen, seeded third, will face reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the summit clash on Sunday in a repeat of Dutch Open final last year. "It is a good feeling to play my first super 500 final at my home country," said Sen, who had won two Super 100 titles — Dutch Open and SaarLorLux Open — besides three international challenge at Belgium, Scotland and Bangladesh in 2019.



World championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen

"The first game was pretty close, I did some errors which cost me. But I kept my calm in the second and third game and managed to pull off," Loh, seeded fifth, was given a walkover in the other semi-finals by Canada's Brian Yang after developing a sore throat and headache.

In the men's doubles, world number 10 pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy cruised to a 21-10 21-18 win over France duo of William Vileger and Fabien Delrue to make it to the finals. Chirag and Satwik will square off against three-time world champion Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan from Indonesia on Sunday.

In other results, Indian women's doubles pair of Haritha Manazhiyil Harinarayan and

Ashna Roy lost 12-21 9-21 to fourth seeded Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard of Thailand. On Sunday, Sen will be itching to set the record straight after losing the Dutch Open final to Loh. Overall, the duo has a 2-2 head-to-head record with Sen losing two of the last three meetings.

"Both of us are playing well, it will be a good match tomorrow and I am really looking forward to playing him," Sen said about his final clash. In the men's singles semifinals, both shuttlers showed their attacking prowess during the last-four clash.

Sen made his opponent move across the court with his returns and used his smashes to good effect to open up a four-point lead at 10-6 after being 2-4

down initially. The Indian entered the interval at 11-8 after Yong went wide.

After the break, Sen came up with some stiff smashes to bother the Malaysian but he couldn't sustain the pressure as Yong made it 14-14. The Malaysian left Sen wrong-footed with a precise net shot to take the lead.

Yong then won a video referral to take a two-point lead at 16-14. Sen controlled the proceeding thereafter to claw back at 17-17. However, Yong grabbed two game points when a return of serve from Sen went wide and sealed it comfortably.

Yong carried the momentum in the second game, opening up a 4-1 advantage. Sen did well to erase the deficit but Yong ensured he had his nose ahead at the break.

Resuming at 9-11, Sen continued his pursuit to turn things around. He drew parity at 13-13 and crafted his way to a 19-16 lead with a powerful drive away from the forehead of his opponent. A net error from Yong gave Sen four game points and he sealed it when Yong again erred at the net. In the decider, Sen made a confident start, leading 4-1 and then reached 9-5 with another cross court jump smash. He played another precision shot at the baseline and with Yong going wide, Sen entered the interval with a massive six-point advantage.

Virat Kohli steps down as India Test captain



Agency
New Delhi, Jan 16:

Virat Kohli has announced that he is stepping down from Test captaincy of the Indian team after the recently-concluded South Africa series. The 33-year-old took to social media on Saturday, January 15 and said that his 7-year-journey as the Test captain of India has come to a halt.

The unforeseen decision comes a day after India lost a 3-Test series 1-2 to South Africa in South Africa. Virat Kohli led India in 68 Tests between 2014 and 2022 and won 40 out of them. The skipper finishes as India's most successful Test captain with a win percentage of 58.82.

Virat Kohli had been one of India's longest-serving skippers in the longest format of the game, having successfully led the team in whites for close to 8 years. Kohli took over from MS Dhoni as India's Test captain in the middle of a high-profile series in Australia in 2014 and never looked back from there.

Kohli led India to a historic Test series victory in Australia in 2018-19 and dominated England in England last year. However, Kohli's last assignment as Test captain ended in disappointment as India failed to conquer what was being looked at as the final frontier — win a Test series in South Africa.

Kohli's decision comes months after he quit T20I cap-

taincy. He was sacked as India's ODI captain before India departed to South Africa earlier this year.

Notably, Kohli had said in September that he would want to continue as ODI and Test captain.

"It's been 7 years of hard work, toil and relentless perseverance every day to take the team in the right direction. I have done the job with absolute honesty and left nothing out there. Everything has to come to a halt at some stage and for me as Test captain of India. It's now. There have been many ups and also some downs along the journey, but never has there been a lack of effort or lack of belief," Virat Kohli said in his post.