

## Chief Minister calls for judicious consumption of Electricity

IT News  
Imphal, July 30:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh appealed to the public to consume electricity and water judiciously and added that keeping such a habit of using only the required amount of electricity and water would help in preserving our valuable energy resource.

The Chief Minister was addressing the gathering at the State Level Grand Finale Event of Ujjwal Bharat, Ujjwal Bhavishya, Power @ 2047 (Bijli Mahotsav & Ujala Diwas) held today at City Convention Centre, Imphal as a part of the celebration of 75 years of Indian Independence. The programme was organised by the Power Department, Government of Manipur.

N. Biren Singh informed that the State Government purchased electricity from Power companies at Rs. 10 per unit for supply of electricity to the State. However, the State Government has been providing electricity to the public at the subsidised rate ranging from Rs. 5.50 to 6.50 per unit and as such an amount of around Rs. 350 crore is spent every year in subsidy, he added. The Chief Minister, therefore, appealed to the public not to waste electricity as a large amount of State's revenue, an important factor for taking up development works, is drained out in purchasing electricity.

He maintained that the State Government had been putting in every effort to cover far flung areas of the State in all its infrastructure development programmes. He informed that those areas with-



out electricity connection are provided power supply through off-grid power system adding that 68 Health Care Centres in Churachandpur, Chandel and Tamenglong had been facilitated with 24/7 power supply through solar power system.

Expressing satisfaction on learning that 4.10 out of 5.06 lakh power consumers had been brought under the prepaid meter system, N. Biren congratulated the Power Minister and the employees of the Power Department for such an achievement. He further informed that procurement of another 2 lakh prepaid meters is in process and the installation would be done by the year end.

Power Minister Thangam Biswajit Singh, while delivering his presidential speech, stated the Grand Finale Event was organised in four places of the State at Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Thoubal and the one at City Convention Centre, Imphal.

He continued that the achievement of the Power Department was the result of tireless and dedicated efforts of its employees. Informing that the Central Government had come up with Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme with the objective to improve the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply to consumers, he expressed hopefulness that the Power Department would be able to maintain 24/7 quality power supply by improving the power system in the State under the Scheme.

Stating that interrupted power supply is very much necessary for the State to become socio-economically viable, the Minister informed that the stringing line for Imphal-Mariani had been completed and added the State can now bring in power supply from different states. As such, there would be no shortage of power supply in the State, he maintained.

It may be mentioned that

today is the Grand Finale of the weeklong celebration of Ujjwal Bharat, Ujjwal Bhavishya, Power @ 2047 (Bijli Mahotsav & Ujala Diwas), which had been carried on across the Country in 761 districts including 16 districts of Manipur. The celebration is to reminisce about the progress made in the power sector over the last many years and how it has impacted the life of the people across the Country.

PHED Minister Leishangthem Susindro Meitei, Social Welfare Minister Heikham Dingo, MLA of Kumbi AC Sanasam Premchandra Singh, MLA of Patsoi AC Sapam Kunjakeswor Singh, MLA of Lamlai AC Khongbantabam Ibomcha Singh, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Principal Secretary (Power) Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Senior Government Officials, employees of the Power Department and beneficiaries also attended the programme among others.

## 3,38,742 Inner Line Permits issued during the period of January 2020 to June 2022

IT News  
Imphal, July 30:

Leader of the House N. Biren Singh today informed the House that a total number of 3,38,742 Inner Line Permits have been issued during the period of January 2020 to June 2022. Replying to a question raised by Congress MLA Surjakumar Okram during the sixth sitting of the second session of the ongoing 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, Biren stated that 37,153 permits have been renewed. He also informed the House that the Monitoring Committee has been keeping vigil for secured regulation of ILP. Two Apps will also be launched to monitor and track the transit of the outsiders, he informed.

Replying to MLA K. Ranjit Singh regarding the three hovercrafts procured in the year 2010, Leader of the House N. Biren Singh informed that the three hovercrafts are in the custody of the Superintendent of Police, Bishnupur. The government will take up necessary steps to utilize these hovercrafts in tourism and other revenue generating purposes, he added.

Answering the question of



MLA L.M. Khaute, Works Minister Govindas Konhoujam informed that the works department has notified for eligible contractors for the construction of Jiri-Tipaimukh roadearlier. But due to unavailability of eligible bidders, the tender process could not be completed and remained cancelled. The department will soon try to notify for a new tender for starting the construction of the Jiri-Tipaimukhroad. Regarding the expansion of Tiddim Road particularly in Churachandpur/Lamka town, Minister informed that 78 percent of the work progress has been completed.

Replying to a question raised by L.M. Khaute, RD & PR Minister Y. Khemchand Singh said that there are 6 (six) ongoing projects under

PMGSY in Churachandpur District including 3 (three) roads and another 3 (three) bridges. The abovementioned ongoing works are targeted for completion within September, 2022. A three-tier quality control mechanism is envisaged under PMGSY i.e., 1st Tier Programme Implementation Unit (PIU), 2nd Tier State Quality Monitors (SQM) and 3rd Tier National State Quality Monitors (NSQM).

Agriculture Minister Th. Biswajit Singh replying to a query raised by MLA Surjakumar Okram, said that the total allocation of urea for kharif 2022 is 22,000 MT. The total quantity of urea transported to the state as on July 28, 2022 is 11,634.84 MT and the remaining allocated urea will be brought soon.

## Weightlifter Sanket Sargar wins silver, India's first medal at Commonwealth Games 2022; Mirabai Chanu eyes Gold tonight at 8PM

Birmingham, July 30:

Maharashtra's Sanket Sargar scripted history on Saturday, July 30 by becoming the first athlete from India to win a medal at Commonwealth Games 2022. The 21-year-old won the silver medal in the men's 55kg weightlifting event in Birmingham.

Sanket Sargar won a silver medal in the men's 55kg event with a total of 248kg (113kg in snatch, 135 in clean and jerk) to finish behind Malaysia's Aniq Mohamad, who took gold with a total of 249 kg (107kg in snatch, 142kg in clean and jerk).

It was a thrilling finish to the final as Aniq Mohamad needed a Commonwealth record of 142kg in clean and jerk to win the gold.

Sanket Sargar picked up an elbow injury when he tried to lift 139kg in his second clean and jerk attempt. He pushed on for a final attempt, braving the injury he suffered. However, Sargar was not able to lift 139 and finished with the silver medal. Sri Lanka's Dilanka Yadage won the bronze medal with a total of 225kg.

Indian Weightlifting icon Mirabai Chanu has a GOLDEN



DATE tonight at 8PM. With Tokyo Olympics Silver medal already in her kitty, Gold shower at the Commonwealth Games is almost a foregone conclusion for Mirabai. The top lifters from China and Korea doesn't play CWG. This will make Chanu undoubtedly the favourite today for the 49kg gold around her neck.

**India Today in CWG 2022**  
– Check Complete Schedule for DAY 2 of the GAMES for India

**Badminton: 1:30 PM:** India vs Sri Lanka in Mixed Team Event – Group Play Stage – Group A

**Athletics: 1:30 PM:** Men's Marathon Final (Nitendra Singh Rawat)

**Weightlifting: 1:30 PM:** Men's 55kg Final (Sanket Mahadev Sargar)

**Table Tennis: 2 PM:** India

vs Guyana in Women's Team – Group 2

**Cycling: 2:32 PM:** Women's Sprint Qualifying (Triyasha Paul, Mayuri Lute)

**Swimming: 3:06 PM:** Men's 200m Freestyle – Heat 3 (Kushagra Rawat)

**Cycling: 3:11 PM:** Women's 3000m Individual Pursuit Qualifying (Meenakshi)

**Weightlifting: 4:15 PM:** Men's 61kg Final (Gururaja)

**Table Tennis: 4:30 PM:** India vs Northern Ireland in Men's Team – Group 3

**Cycling: 4:52 PM:** Men's 4000m Individual Pursuit Qualifying (Dinesh Kumar, Vishajeet Singh)

**Boxing: 5 PM:** Hussamuddin Mohammed vs Amzolele Dyei in Over 54Kg-57kg (Featherweight) Round of 32

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## Bishnupur and CCpur celebrates Grand Finale of the Ujjwal Bharat, Ujjwal Bhavishya

IT News  
Bishnupur, July 29:

Bishnupur district joined the nation today in celebrating the Grand Finale of the Ujjwal Bharat, Ujjwal Bhavishya Power @2047 (Bijli Mahotsav & Ujala Diwas) at Kyamba Ningshing Shanglein, Bishnupur.

Tongbram Robindro Singh, MLA Thanga AC and Chairperson of Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited, MSPDCL graced the function as the Chief Guest and interacted with beneficiaries of electrification schemes.

Lourembam Bikram, Deputy Commissioner, Bishnupur, Laishram Maniyama Singh, Caretaker Chairperson, Bishnupur Municipal Council, Nongmaithem Jadu Singh, Pradhan, Nachou Gram Panchayat (GP), Moirangthem Bala Devi, Pradhan, Ngaikhong Khullen



GP, Ngangom Sovana Devi, Pradhan, Keinou GP, Thokchom Nanaobi Devi, Pradhan, Toubul GP also attended the function as Guests of Honour.

Beneficiaries of various electrification schemes shared their testimonials during the interactive session. Short films on some of the key achievements in the power sector were also screened

during the function.

Following a district level observance, the district also joined the national grand finale celebration through virtual mode wherein the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi digitally launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme. He also dedicated and laid the foundation stone of various green energy projects of

NTPC. He also launched the National Solar rooftop portal.

Bijli Mahotsav & Ujala Diwas celebration is to highlight the progress in the power sector under "Ujjawal Bharat, Ujjawal Bhavishya–Power @ 2047" as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which was organized by Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India in association with Government of Manipur.

H. Bobby Sharma, ADM Bishnupur, Satyam Takhellambam, Additional SP, Bishnupur, SDOs/BDOs, Dr. Thokchom Jayshree, General Manager, NHPC, Loktak Power Station and District Nodal Officer, Bishnupur, Laishram Joykumar Singh, Deputy General Manager, MSPDCL, Bishnupur Sub Division, DLOs, villagers, officials concerned and staff of the Bishnupur District Administration and MSPDCL attended today's celebration.

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# ★ Editorial

## Is the Govt. leaving RIMS into trouble water again?

From 2014 till the month of August 2018, news reports about corruption and mismanagement plagued almost all front page newspapers published not only in the state of Manipur but also in some national newspapers. A news report about a Director of RIMS refusing to leave the post after the expiry of his tenure in 2015 was headlines in almost all newspapers in the state. From 2015 until 2018, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare could not appoint a regular director to look after the one and only premier Medical Institute in North East India. Leaving no choice, the Government of Manipur in consultation with the Central Ministry, even appointed an IAS officer as Director in charge of RIMS on deputation.

In between these 4 years, RIMS shows at least 3 in-charge directors. Reports about medical achievement were almost nil as the political fight over the post of director overshadowed.

In September 2017, a postgraduate student from RIMS had written to the Prime Minister of India stating that the institute was the most corrupt hospital in the country.

The Post-Graduate Student even mentioned that sometimes he, along with other medical practitioners, treated patients without proper investigation as the Institute does not have any facilities for investigation and because the patient party can't afford to do tests outside the institute.

He wrote to the Prime Minister that the MRI machine installed did not work since he came to the Institute, CT scan was down for nearly a month, and there is no ICU which is just a ward named SICU, no ventilators, no monitor, but a bed and a cupboard, Neonatal ICU was just for namesake by putting a fake sign in some forsaken rooms, for the whole hospital only one USG machine is working, there is no USG machine in the labour room which is the most important thing during delivery, above these patients have to buy all the medication including Iron and folic acid with their money, there are no defibrillators in casualty, toilet are the worst.

Besides, the PG student also wrote that funds sanctioned for the improvement of the institution are pocketed by the authority for their own good.

A visit by this reporter on July 29, 2022 show many changes at RIMS. The OPD, the x-ray machines, the MRI etc. all were workable and treated patients in need. The OPD room was no lesser than the one at AIIMS Hospital New Delhi.

Today, Imphal Times brings our esteem readers about these issues that have been frequently occurring in the state of Manipur. Until 2017, the people of the nation, particularly those staying in the state of Manipur have been hearing disturbing news from inside the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS).

May be because of the various unwanted happenings, the post of Director of RIMS remained vacant for years. The Ministry of Family Welfare keeps appointing in-charge directors until April 2018. A new chapter at RIMS opened on that day. But then issues that are non-related to the treatment of patients and providing better teaching facilities for students at RIMS, started plaguing RIMS again.

Those people playing parts in the construction of the hospital infrastructures started a senseless war for the replacement of the newly appointed director Dr. A. Shanta, as he was always a taught administrator besides being a doctor, in the maintenance of quality control. Those people living with the sanctioned amount of money for RIMS started spreading rumours as the Dr. A. Shanta never compromised in procuring medical equipment and while appointing qualified doctors or nurses.

Scores of letters and memorandums against Dr. Shanta were sent to the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry for his replacement. Source with the Imphal Times revealed even the top post in the Government of Manipur complained about Dr. A. Shanta.

Now as per an official order dated 18/07/2022, by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (NEC), Dr. Shanta is repatriated prematurely and is sent back to NEIGHMS, Shilong with effect from October 12, 2022. And unlike other Director appointed Dr. A. Shanta seems no problem with the decision of the Union Health Ministry. He was more worried about completing the left out task for improvement of the hospital facilities instead of making an effort to continue as Director RIMS.

Imphal Times has no problem with the transfer and posting of government officials. Maybe someone better than Dr. Shanta replaces him. But if one recounted the series of incidents that indirectly affect the people in need of medical treatment, one question left is - why the government of Manipur is not urging the center to let Dr. A. Shanta completes his term as Director RIMS.

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## Tigers, their Survival is in Our Hands



By: N. Munal Meitei

Global Tiger Day is celebrated on 29th July every year since 2010 to protect the natural habitats of tigers, raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues and to show our collective support to save for this magnificent but endangered animal. This day is observed with much fervor and enthusiasm to build and develop a stronger bond between human and wildlife. "Doubling tigers is about tigers, about the whole of nature - and it's also about us" - Marco Lambertini, the Director General WWF said.

The WWF commit to TX2 - 'Tigers times two' the global goal to double the number of wild tigers, say 6000 in 13 tiger range countries by 2022 but could reach 4500 tigers only as of now. It seems that the whole world has ignored the fact and they even forgot to set the theme for 2022 also.

We must protect tigers from extinction because our planet's future depends on it. Tiger is a symbol of beauty, bravery, strength, and nationality. So to save the tiger means save the national pride. The beautiful, awe-inspiring tiger is one of

the planet's most iconic animals. Tiger, the royal animal revered in various cultures is also called the 'Umbrella Species' and by conserving this majestic species, we also conserve the pristine Eco-system and thousands of other species in the same habitat.

Manipur is at present not included in the global tiger map but not so long back, there were many instances where tigers were found in the state. We have heard of the word 'Keichanba,' which itself prove we had abundant tigers. Tigers are incredibly adaptable animals and can survive in extreme temperatures ---40°C to +50°C. A tiger's roar can be heard up to 3 km. Tigers are the largest of all big cats weighing up to 300 kg.

Tigers live in some of the most important but also most highly threatened habitats on the planet, where many of the most exceptional species thrive. Left with just 5% of the range where they used to roam, tigers are losing their homes to deforestation, infrastructure and other anthropogenic factors, forcing them into rapidly diminishing pockets of nature. According to WWF, globally 95% of the tiger population got extinct since the beginning of the 20th century.

As per the latest census reports of 2018-19, India's tiger population is 2967 tigers. This is about 70%, the highest number of tigers so far a country has globally. Because of the planned efforts under Project Tiger, India could attain the achievement after the country launched the initiative on 1st April 1973. It has been one of the most

successful ventures in recent times to protect the striped predator. The tiger population declined from 3642 in 1990 to just over 1411 in 2006. Since then, the government has undertaken several steps to reduce the destruction of the Bengal tiger's natural habitat in the country. This project had the excellent recovery to increase the tiger population, almost in 53 tiger reserves across 20 Indian states. The Government also launched an anti-poaching force comprising of police, forest officials and other agencies.

The challenges for decline in tiger population are habitat loss - humans have cut down the forest areas for purposes like agricultural land, timber and create enough living spaces leading to a loss of 93% tiger's natural habitat. Poaching & illegal trade of tigers happen as there is a huge demand for each body parts of tiger from whiskers to its tail. Man animals' conflict, the climate change-rising sea levels of Sunder bans etc. are also wiping out the tiger population. None of the tiger conservation landscapes in India within the Bengal's tiger range are large enough to support an effective population size of 25.

Manipur being in the boarder state with Myanmar is in a strategic route for wildlife crime. Wild life crime is the second largest crime after drugs and atop the arms in terms of volume and number in present world. The illicit demand for bones and other body parts of tiger for use in traditional Chinese medicine is another reason for the unrelenting poaching pressure in the country.

The mandate for project tiger is the hope to conserve tigers in a holistic manner. At present the dynamics of forest management and wildlife conservation have been distorted due to need of income, lack of manpower, lack of awareness, lack of land use policy and population pressure. A regional development approach in landscapes having Tiger Reserves is of utmost importance in the country. It should be viewed as a mosaic of different land use patterns, viz, tiger conservation, forestry, sustainable use and development, besides socio-economic growth.

Tiger habitats exist in environments of thousands of indigenous communities which depend on them and the traditional use systems of people in these landscapes are neither static nor benign. Therefore we cannot view these protected areas in isolation from the surrounding socio-economic realities and developmental priorities of the government. This call for a cross-sectorial and cross-disciplinary approach.

Tigers now need a 'preservationist' approach. Regional management planning is important all over the country to foster ecological connectivity between protected areas through a restorative input with integrated land use planning. Though, we have the Acts and Rules, unless the acceptance from all sections of the society that our national animal is in a tipping point, we will be too late for tomorrow to save the National Animal, the iconic, royal, majestic and the king of the forests.

(Environmentalist, Email: [nmunall@yahoo.in](mailto:nmunall@yahoo.in))

## Neem for Hair Care during monsoon – Different Ways to Use



By: Shahnaz Husain

In more than 90% of people, hair fall increases by almost 40% during the monsoons due to increased humidity in the atmosphere, dry scalp, dandruff, and contact with acidic rainwater.

The humidity that comes with the monsoon season robs the scalp of the natural oils leading to a dry scalp and weaker roots. The high percentage of moisture in the environment around us causes the hair to absorb the hydrogen and swell, leading the brittle and frizzy hairs that are prone to easy breakage.

So, you're likely to experience more hair fall during monsoon due to weak hair follicles strength causing the hair to appear lifeless and dull and worst it leads to tangled hair and thus hair loss.

Frizz, dandruff, and dull hair are a major concern in the monsoon season. Hair trouble become more frequent during the rainy season especially if you're dealing with dandruff.

There might be a number of solutions to eliminate dandruff, but did you know that using neem is one of the most effective remedies one could try. Neem is a very important part of ayurvedic medicine and is being used for ages. It is used to treat health issues, skin and hair problems.

Over centuries Neem has been highly valued in India for its healing and purifying properties and is probably the most widely used among plant products. It was used as a preventive in epidemics and was also used to treat bronchial ailments, asthma, jaundice and various digestive problems. It is

also commonly used in homes for skin and hair problems like prickly heat, boils, rashes, dandruff, itching scalp, etc.

The characteristic bitter-sweet aroma of Neem is due to its organic (natural) sulphur compounds, which have been found to have powerful and versatile healing actions, especially when applied on the skin and scalp. In fact, I would say that Neem is Nature's Antibiotic. It has powerful antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal and antiseptic properties. It is also a powerful antioxidant, which reverses the damage caused by free radicals, leading to degeneration of the human body and the immune system. Neem not only cures, but protects, soothes and purifies. Its cooling and soothing action has been invaluable in skin and scalp problems, including dandruff and hair loss.

As far as the hair is concerned, due to its sulphur compounds and its versatile healing actions, neem extracts and oil have been used in protective, preventive, and corrective care of the scalp and hair. It has a healing and soothing effect on inflammatory and eruptive scalp conditions. The cooling and soothing action of neem has made it invaluable for the care of seborrhea and dandruff.

During hot and humid weather, like the skin, the scalp is also more prone to

rashes and eruptive conditions. The hair also attracts more dirt and pollutants during humid weather. Neem can easily be used as a home remedy for hair care, not only to prevent problems but also to soothe and cure.

Neem leaf infusions can be used to wash the hair. First, boil water and add the neem leaves to it, when it is hot. Do not boil the leaves, but cover them and let them stand in the water overnight. The next day, strain the water and use it to wash the hair. In fact, the water can also be poured as a last rinse after shampoo. In cases of boils and eruptions on the scalp, neem leaf infusion will help. In cases of dandruff and itching of the scalp, neem leaf infusions are very helpful. Use the infusion as the last rinse, after washing the hair. Neem leaves can also be used to treat fungal infections of the scalp. A paste of the neem leaves may be applied to the scalp.

Neem can also be used with oil for head massage. First heat about 200 gms of pure coconut or oil. Take a handful of neem leaves and add them to the oil. Let it stand in the oil for about ten days, allowing it to remain in the sun during this time. Then strain the leaves and keep the oil for use. This is a preventive treatment for rashes, itching, and other scalp conditions, including dandruff. It relieves itching and prevents

scalp infections.

During humid weather, people with oily skins suffer from increased oiliness of the scalp, which can lead to sticky dandruff or rashy conditions of the scalp. Sweat deposits remain on the skin, leading to rashy conditions. Soak in hot water overnight. The next day make a paste of the neem leaves and apply to the scalp. Wash off after 20 minutes.

For dandruff, add a few drops of lemon juice to neem leaf infusion and apply on the scalp. Part the hair in sections and apply. Wash it off after 20 minutes. This also helps to reduce the oiliness of the scalp.

The hair actually attracts more grime and pollutants from the environment. These pollutants must be removed regularly and Neem is ideal, as it not only helps the elimination of toxins but restores the normal balance of the scalp. That is why Neem is an important ingredient in hair oils, hair cleansers, hair rinses, and hair tonics. The curative, preventive, and protective properties of Neem have prompted cosmetic companies to develop a Neem range of skin and hair care products, based on Ayurveda.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)



# India logs 20,408 fresh COVID cases, 44 deaths: Govt

Agency  
New Delhi, July 30:

India logged a single day rise of 20,408 new coronavirus infections, pushing India's total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,40,00,138, as the active cases declined to 1,43,384, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The death toll has climbed to 5,26,312 with 44 new fatalities, the data updated by the government at 8 am said.

The active cases comprise 0.33 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.48 per cent, the health ministry said.

A decrease of 604 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 5.05 per cent. The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 4.92 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who recovered from the infection surged to 4,33,30,442, and the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.20 per cent.

According to the ministry,

203.94 crore doses of COVID vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, 2021, three crore on June 23, and four crore on January 25 this year.

The 44 new fatalities include six each from Maharashtra and West Bengal, four each from Haryana and Karnataka, three each from Gujarat, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh, two each from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Madhya Pradesh and one each from Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha and Sikkim.

A total of 5,26,312 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,48,097 from Maharashtra, 70,451 from Kerala, 40,143 from Karnataka, 38,032 from Tamil Nadu, 26,308 from Delhi, 23,565 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,352 from West Bengal.

The health ministry has stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that the state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

India's vaccination coverage has reached 203.94 crore-mark - out of which 8.74 crore are precaution (booster) doses. In the last 24 hours, 33,87,173 people have been administered with the vaccine doses.

According to the health ministry data, the Centre has provided 195.08 crore vaccine doses to states and union territories. Over 7.09 crore balance and unutilized vaccine doses are still available with them, it said.

Meanwhile, as the Covid-19 cases are seeing an upward trend in the country, the Himachal Pradesh government on Friday made wearing masks mandatory in educational institutions, offices, and outdoor as well as indoor gatherings.

# Over 22,000 Infant Deaths in the Past 17 Months in Maharashtra



Alarming rise in infant deaths in Maharashtra.

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, July 30:

Nearly 22,751 infant deaths reportedly due to malnutrition have been registered in the last 17 months in different districts including Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Aurangabad and Nashik of Maharashtra.

22,751 infants in the age group-0-05 years died between January 2021 and May 2022 as per the RTI reply dated July 01, furnished by the Maharashtra State Family Welfare Department, Pune, to an NGO "Samarthan". They deaths include 19,673 foetocides and 3078 child deaths.

Summarily the death figures are: Mumbai-1,898, Nagpur-1,741, Aurangabad-

1,349, Nashik-1,127, Pune-1,181, Akola-1,049, Nandurbar-1,026 and Thane-Nandurbar-1,015.

Barring Nandurbar and Akola, all other districts are considered developed districts. Yet the rate of child deaths is nearly 43 % in these districts. Comparatively 64 child deaths were reported from Sindhudurg (Konkan), Washin-89 (Marathwada), and Latur (Marathwada)-125.

The detailed death figures are: Akola- infant deaths (0-01 year)-1033, child deaths (1-5 year)-61, Amravati- infant deaths (0-01 year)-711, child deaths (1-5 year)-126, Aurangabad- infant deaths (0-01 year)-1187, child deaths (1-5 year)-162, Mumbai city- infant deaths (0-01 year)-1170, child deaths (1-5 year)-147,

Mumbai suburbs- infant deaths (0-01 year)-536, child deaths (1-5 year)-45, Nagpur- infant deaths (0-01 year)-1440 and child deaths (1-5 year)-301.

Sangli- infant deaths (0-01 year)-827, child deaths (1-5 year)-49, Dhule- infant deaths (0-01 year)-807, child deaths (1-5 year)-102, Nashik- infant deaths (0-01 year)-975, child deaths (1-5 year)-152, Pune- infant deaths (0-01 year)-912, child deaths (1-5 year)-169, Solapur- infant deaths (0-01 year)-836, child deaths (1-5 year)-163 and Thane- infant deaths (0-01 year)-887, child deaths (1-5 year)-128.

Ironically Maharashtra Government implements nearly 12 schemes to prevent malnutrition leading to child death. However, most of the

schemes seem to have remained on paper without beneficiaries getting any benefit.

Some time back, Dr. Vijay Kelkar Committee had stated that in Maharashtra one in every ten children are born with low weight, and one in every three mothers of under two years old children record a Body Mass Index (BMI) of less than 18.5, which increases the risk of low birth weight babies. Child survival indicators remain the last mile issue in tribal areas and urban slums.

"Besides, despite the State's wealth, there are disparities in children's development outcomes. The poorest 20 percent of children are twice as likely as the richest 20 percent to be stunted by poor nutrition and to die before their fifth birthday. The infant mortality rate of tribal areas in Maharashtra is 60-70 percent higher than the state average" the Kelkar Committee had surmised.

However, the statistic given by the Maharashtra State Family Welfare Department indicates that infant and child deaths encompass all segments, and child deaths are not restricted only to tribal areas.

Samarthan has suggested that a Taskforce be set up to take stock of child death vis-à-vis implementation of various welfare schemes. The urban and rural areas should be divided for this work so that proper solutions can be worked out.

# Japanese Encephalitis in Assam: Three more deaths reported, toll rises to 47

Agency  
Guwahati, July 30:

Three more people lost their lives due to Japanese Encephalitis in Assam on Friday, taking the death toll to 47. Meanwhile, seven new cases were reported in the northeastern state in the past 24 hours. As per the National Health Mission, till now, 294 cases of the viral infection have been detected in the state.

Among the latest fatalities, one death each was reported in Barpeta, Chirang and Darrang, reported PTI. Two fresh cases of Japanese Encephalitis were reported

from Jorhat district, while one each was detected in Bongaigaon, Charaideo, Darrang, Dibrugarh and Kokrajhar districts.

Out of 35 districts of Assam, only three districts - South Salmara, Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong - are not affected by the disease. Most numbers of 44 cases have been detected in Nagaon, followed by Jorhat with 39 cases. A total of 34 cases have also been reported from Golaghat so far.

In the wake of rising cases of Japanese Encephalitis, all the nine medical colleges, and 10 district hospitals across Assam have been

kept ready with ICU and laboratory test facilities, reported PTI.

Japanese Encephalitis is a viral brain infection caused by mosquitoes, especially during the monsoon flood season which starts in May and extends till October. Every year many people die due to the infection and malaria during this period in the state.

This year, around 20 lakh people were affected due to floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains in Assam. Nearly 200 people also lost their lives in flood and landslide-related incidents.

# SC directs Nagaland Election Commission to complete local body election process by January, 2023

Agency  
New Delhi, July 30:

The Supreme Court has directed the Nagaland State Election Commission to conduct the local body elections and declare the result by the end of January 2023.

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MM Sundaresh also asked the poll panel to file a report in this regard by the second week of February 2023.

The court was hearing a plea by PUCL and Rosemay Dzuvichu, challenging a

resolution passed by the Nagaland Assembly exempting operation of Part IX-A of the Indian Constitution which enforces 33% women reservation in the local bodies.

Despite the resolution having been withdrawn in 2016, the reservation still remains unimplemented.

On the last date of the hearing, the court pulled up the Nagaland government for non-implementation of the notification for 33% reservation for women.

The Court asked the State Election Commission

to file an affidavit informing the bench about the exact date when the Election will be notified.

When the matter came up for hearing today, the SEC informed the court that they have filed an affidavit.

It was submitted that the SEC requires the permission of the State to conduct the election.

Court, however, made it clear that they had kept the case for hearing today only for the purpose of being apprised of the dates of the election.

## Career Guidance

## Multiple career options in the English Language



By: Vijay Garg

If you have completed or are planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in English, then this subject offers a lot of options in your career. Some students have many misconceptions about this subject like only academic career can be made with the help of this subject but if you have obtained degree in English language then you can easily step into any industry. A number of career options open up after earning a degree in English, the main ones being:

**Journalism and Mass Communication**

By getting a degree in this subject, you can easily make your career in journalism. Media is considered to be the fourth pillar of democracy, due to which people are interested in it. Students with a bachelor's degree in English literature have read and analyzed many works. Doing this not only increases the level of their understanding but also develops the creative aspect in the students. Such students analyze situations by evaluating them properly, which expands their working capacity. Media career includes blogging, dialogue and text writing and many other tasks.

**Publication work**

Students pursuing a degree in English must not let the nature of the work of writing lose sight of what they have acquired through liter-

ary studies. After the students write difficult articles about various novels under this course, the art of writing naturally develops. Publishing is a great option for those who can present their ideas with their own pen and work their way around words. You can also work for magazines, newspapers, journalists and columnists.

**Research and teaching**

It is very common for students with a bachelor's degree in English to pursue a career in research and teaching methodology. All institutions have always needed good teachers. If you will do well in this subject then you can get a good source of income. If you have cleared higher level exams like SET, NET or JRF then you can easily make a successful career in the field of teaching.

**Public Relations and Advertising**  
Why waste the communi-

cation skills you have acquired while earning your degree? With this skill, you can work as a Creative Head, Event Manager and PR Manager. Therefore it is important that you use your writing skills, creativity, reasoning power properly. The advertising industry always looks for individuals who have some creative thinking. There is always a need for creative work in the public relations and advertising industry and it is also appreciated.

**Free writing**

We are seeing a rapid change in recent trends, showing a steady increase in the number of freelance writers. This may be the best theme for those who can create content for other people. Freelance means the freelance writing industry is huge and you can easily establish yourself in this industry with a little patience and a good grasp on words.

**Editor/translator**

There are many better job options available in this field. Various journals and news agencies require deputy editors. Apart from this, embassies of different countries are hiring translators who know and understand English language and can translate it. The pay scale / honorarium is much better in the translation sector. For the youth who wish to make a career in this creative field, becoming a translator can prove to be a better career option.

Students pursuing a degree in English can also pursue a career in library science. The post of Librarian is a very honorable post. There are many career options for students holding a degree in English language literature and if the student wants to take advantage of them, then he can make his career very good.

## Marksheet Lost

I have lost my Marksheet of B.A. 6th Semester in the year 2017, bearing Roll No. 4210722, issued by Manipur University, Chanchipur to Babupara Imphal on 28th July, 2022.

Finders are requested to handover the same undersigned. Sd/-

**Sanjrambam Renuka Devi**  
Yumnam Patlou Angw Leikai,  
Imphal East.  
Contact No. 8730071372

## Document Lost

I have lost my Original Certificate cum Marksheet of HSLC Examination, bearing Roll No. 17378, issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur in the year 2015 on the way between my residence and Keishampat on 25th July, 2022.

Finders are requested to handover the same undersigned. Sd/-

**Angom Elizabeth Devi**  
Khab Mayai Leikai, Nambol  
Contact No. 8730071372

# BJP sweeps District Panchayat Elections in Madhya Pradesh

Congress alleges misuse of Power and Rigging by Officials

By L S Herdenia  
Bhopal, July 30:

Congress has alleged use of Police and administration in the election of office bearers of district Panchayat. It was adoption of these tactics that the BJP could capture 41 district Panchayats out of 51 for which elections were held. Congress could capture only 9. The final results were out on July 29 evening.

Election to Bhopal district Panchayat was very dramatic. The Congress candidate was forcibly made to defect by a group of ministers. This was opposed but top Congress leaders including Digvijaya Singh. BJP leaders alleged that Digvijaya Singh lost his cool and raised hand on a police constable.

After the elections were over Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan hailed what he described BJP's one sided win in panchayat polls. The ruling BJP has swept the recent panchayat elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister said adding that "Congress has been wiped out at the ground level".

BJP said it has won the district panchayat president and vice-president election in 41 districts out of 51 where elections were held. Congress sources say they won in 9 districts and Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) in 1 district.

Chouhan and BJP state president VD Sharma said the party has won more than 80% posts in panchayat elections - from gram panchayat to district panchayat level.

"This is a historic victory. In the district panchayat elections Congress was reduced to single digit and couldn't even reach the tens. The BJP organisation has been successful in taking the works of the government to

the people". Chouhan tweeted, hailing the "one sided victory".

In the elections for the post of president and vice-president of district panchayats, BJP-supported candidates won 41 of the 51 districts, Chouhan said, adding that of the 23,000 panchayats, BJP-supported candidates won sarpanch post in 90% seats and 625 won unopposed. In 312 janpad panchayats, BJP-supported candidates won the post of president and vice-president in 227, while 20 others affiliated to party won, he said. Congress backed candidates won in 64.

Congress, which says it performed fairly well at gram panchayat and janpad panchayat level, accused BJP of using administration, police, money and other unfair means to win the president and vice-president election at the district level.

PCC president Kamal Nath said Congress-supported candidates have won at several places but were defeated at many places "because of BJP's deceit and use of unfair means". He didn't specify the number of places where Congress won.

Among the districts where Congress supported candidates have won include Chhindwara and Rajgarh, the bastion of former CMs Kama lath and Digvijaya Singh.

According to sources, at Umaria and Dhar, Congress and BJP-backed candidates won the same number of votes for district president and the winner was elected through a draw. BJP-supported candidates won at both the places.

Elections to Bhopal district panchayat was marked by direct confrontation between Digvijaya Singh and a state minister. Both were involved in a public face off with police struggling to keep supporters of the two parties

away from each other.

Things got volatile during the election of the Bhopal district panchayat president and vice-president when minister Bhupendra Singh brought poll winner Ramkunwar Gurjar, a Congress leader, in his car. Digvijaya objected to this and it led to a run in with him, and later with Sarang.

In a viral video, Sarang the medical education minister, is seen in his car while Congress leaders shouted that the vehicle can't be allowed any further (the 'prohibited area' they called it). Sarang jumped out of his car and asked the policemen to "drive the Congress leaders away". "Hatao in sab ko, hatao, aisa thodi chalega" he is heard saying, while an agitated Digvijaya is kept at a distance by police. Digvijaya also made a point to Bhupendra, who was seen smiling.

A close aide of Digvijaya said he was asking how minister Bhupendra Singh could bring voters in his car. Ramkunwar went on to be elected Bhopal district panchayat president and Mohan Singh Jat, the vice president.

When the election process began in the morning, Congress MLA Arif Masod alleged that BJP had lured away four Congress-supported members of the panchayat promising each that they would be made the president or vice-president. This delayed the nomination process by 45 minutes to allow BJP resolve the issue.

Both BJP and Congress workers were present in full strength when elected district panchayat members, who were to vote for the president and vice president, started arriving at the district panchayat office. BJP leaders Bhupendra Singh,

Rameshwar Sharma, Shaitan Singh Pal, Vishnu Khatri and later Vishwas Sarang arrived to take them into the building skirting Congress leaders and workers who shouted slogans against the BJP and accused police and administration of working as "BJP agents".

Congress alleged that the collector allowed proxy/tender votes for four of the 10 district panchayat members - someone else voted on their behalf - despite the fact that none of them is illiterate or ailing so as to be unable to cast their vote. Besides it was not their blood relatives who cast the vote on their behalf as is the norm, but BJP workers, they alleged.

After the high-voltage election, there was a barrage of tweets with pictures from both camps. While Congress accused BJP of stealing the mandate, BJP accused Congress leaders of manhandling police.

Digvijaya Singh called it arm twisting by the administration and criticised the 'arrogance' of the government. PCC chief Kamal Nath said: "our candidates were defeated by abuse of power".

CM Shviraj Singh Chouhan tweeted "Such indecent behaviour doesn't suit an ex-CM. He holds a policeman by the collar, shouts and tries to breach the district panchayat office gate. It's disrespectful". Sarang tweeted that Digvijaya has a "habit of raising hand on uniformed personnel". "This is the true face of Congress" he alleged.

The state BJP has got a big boost after the latest phase of elections. The Congress has also fought by mobilizing its organization in full strength under Kamal Nath. Both the parties are now preparing for the next battle the assembly elections in 2023. (IPAServe)

Contd. from Page 1

Bishnupur and CCpur celebrates....



Meanwhile, the culmination programme of Bijli Diwas (Ujjwala Bharat, Ujjwala Bhavishya) was jointly organised by Churachandpur District Administration and MSPDCL Churachandpur Division as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Power@2047' here today at Mini-Secretariat Multipurpose Hall, Tuibong. The event was organized under the auspices of MoP& MNRE, Government of India in association with government of Manipur.

VungzaginValte, Hon'ble MLA, Thanlon AC was the Chief guest of the function. It

was also attended by and ShriChinlunthang, Hon'ble MLA, Singnat AC; ShriSharath Chandra Arjoju, DC, Churachandpur; ShriRajeev Thakur, General Manager, NHPC Loktak, SDO/ BDOs of different blocks, Chief Executive Officer of ADCC, Divisional Forest Officer and other DLOs, CSO leaders and beneficiaries.

In his address, the Chief Guest highlighted how far the Power department has progressed within a decade.

Round the clock power supply to far flung areas of the district itself bears testimony to

the government's achievements recorded in the power sector, he said. He also emphasized the realization of "One Nation, One Grid, One Rate" ambition, promising uniform pricing and facilitation of efficiency and renewable energy integration.

Screening of key achievements under the power sector, presentation of cultural items, staging of play were important highlights of today's programme.

Later, PM's launching of RDSS scheme and national portal for solar rooftop, his speech and interactions with

## Weightlifter Sanket Sargar wins silver, India's first medal....

**Squash: 5 PM:** Ramit Tandon vs Christopher Binnie in Men's Singles Round of 32

**Squash: 5:45 PM:** Sunayna Sara Kuruvilla vs Aifa Azman in Women's Singles - Round of 32

Joshana Chinappa vs Meagan Best in Women's Singles - Round of 32

**Squash: 6:15 PM:** Saurav Ghosal vs Shamil Wakeel in Men's Singles - Round of 32

**Lawn Bowls: 7:30 PM:** India vs Cook Islands in Men's Pairs - Section C - Round 3

**Weightlifting: 8 PM:** Women's 49kg Final (Mirabai Chanu)

**Cycling: 8:32 PM:** Men's Keirin - First Round (David Beckham Elkatochoongo, Esow Alben)

**Artistic Gymnastics: 9 PM:** Women's Team Final and Individual Qualification - (Ruthuja Nataraj, Protistha Samanta and Praniti Naik)

**Lawn Bowls: 10:30 PM:** India vs Canada in Women's Fours - Section D - Round 4

**Badminton: 11:30 PM:** In-

dia vs Australia in Mixed Team Event - Group Play Stage - Group A

**Hockey: 11:30 PM:** India vs Wales in Women - Pool A

**Boxing: 12 AM:** Lovlina Borgohain vs Ariane Nicholson in Over 66kg-70kg (Light Middle) - Round of 16

**Weightlifting: 12:30 AM:** Women's 55kg Final (S Bindyarani Devi)

**Boxing: 1 AM:** Sanjeet vs Ato Leau Plodizicki-Faoagali in Over 86kg-92kg (Heavyweight) - Round of 16.

## Sports

## Indian women's hockey team defeats Ghana 5-0 in Commonwealth Games 2022 opener

Agency  
Birmingham, July 30:

The Indian Women's Hockey Team opened their campaign at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham with a solid 5-0 win against Ghana on Friday.

Gurjit Kaur (3', 39") scored a brace in the match while Neha (28'), Sangita Kumari (36'), and Salima Tete (56') also scored a goal each in the Pool A contest to help their team pick up the all-important win.

India started the match on the front foot with Jyoti creating an early chance from the right flanks, passing the ball to Navneet Kaur inside the circle. Navneet's shot on target was saved by Ghana goalkeeper Boye Abigail. But India's wait to get on the scoreboard was short-lived as Gurjit Kaur scored a minute later from the first Penalty Corner of the match, helping India to a 1-0 lead. India continued to maintain possession, keeping the pressure on Ghana's defence as the first quarter came to a close.

India continued to make circle penetrations in the early minutes of the second quarter.



Sharmila Devi and Sonika pressed deeper from the right flanks but Ghana's defence was quick to avert the danger. Savita rose to India's rescue when Ghana's Elizabeth Opoku took a shot on target. Minutes later, Savita also saved a Penalty Corner as India maintained their lead. Neha extended India's lead to 2-0 just at the stroke of halftime with a brilliant move from the left flanks.

India earned an early Penalty Corner in the second half but Ghana's Adizatu Sulemana made a sensational save to deny India and she started a quick counter-attack. But Savita stood tall and strong on the other end and cleared away the danger. A move created by Monika and Lalremsiami from the left flanks allowed Sangita Kumari to hit the ball into the nets and India extended their

lead to 3-0. Minutes later, Gurjit Kaur converted from a penalty stroke as India took their lead to 4-0, taking complete control of the match before the final quarter.

With a 4-0 lead, India kept hold of the possession in the final quarter, ensuring to keep the ball away from Ghana players. With only a few minutes left in the game, Ghana showcased urgency

as they tried to get a goal back in the contest. Monika continued to threaten Ghana's defence in the final quarter, creating Penalty Corner opportunities for her team. But Ghana kept India at bay until Neha created an opportunity in the final few minutes, finding Salima Tete inside the circle. Salima struck the ball towards the net to extend India's lead to 5-0.

## Ultimate goal is Paris Olympics but focus on winning CWG medal right now: PV Sindhu aims for gold at Birmingham

Agency  
Birmingham, July 30:

Star Indian shuttler and two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu has set her eyes on the Paris Olympics in 2024 while saying that currently her full focus is on the ongoing Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022. Sindhu, who is coming into the multi-sport event on the back of a maiden Singapore Open title, is hopeful of gold this time around.

Sindhu won the silver in 2018 at Gold Coast where she was beaten by her compatriot Saina Nehwal in an intense women's singles final by 18-21, 21-23. However, she hopes that she can finish the CWG well, which will keep her in good stead ahead of the World Championships in August.

Speaking to the news agency PTI, Sindhu said, "The ultimate goal is the Paris Olympics in 2024. But the fo-

cus right now is winning a CWG medal and then the World Championships.

"Winning at the Commonwealth Games is a big achievement, it happens every four years. And representing our country at the biggest certainly gives a lot of pride. Hoping for the gold this time."

The 27-year-old started her campaign in Birmingham with an easy win over her Pakistani counterpart Mahoor Shahzad 21-7, 21-6 as part of the mixed team event.

"It depends on the day" - Sindhu said when asked about she finding difficult to crack the world champions including the likes of Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu-ying, Spain's Carolina Marin and Korea's An Se Young. Tzu-ying, in particular, has been a tough nut to crack as it has been almost three years since she beat the World No. 2 in the 2019 World Championships.