

Prime Minister dedicates 75 Digital Banking Units across 75 districts including Kakching district

IT News
Imphal, Oct 16:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh congratulated the State Bank of India authorities and the people of Kakching District on the District being included amongst the 75 Digital Banking Units across 75 districts dedicated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Nation today.

The Chief Minister was attending the programme of "Dedication of 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) across 75 Districts" by the Prime Minister through video conferencing at State Bank of India Branch, Chumnam Leikai, Kakching District.

Speaking at the formal function, after the video conferencing, N. Biren Singh continued Kakching District had been included amongst the 75 districts as a credit for

the district's achievement of Banking Digitisation in October, 2020. Recalling the hardship faced in accessing banking services and loans by the public earlier, he maintained the public can now avail banking services at their doorsteps as different from earlier times. Banks are now providing loans to various farmers, entrepreneurs and other individuals, without hesitation, to enlarge their businesses and improve their earnings, he added.

The Chief Minister appreciated the Prime Minister for his far-sighted vision to ensure welfare of his people. The Prime Minister's initiatives of Digital India and Direct Benefit Transfer schemes had been successful in minimising corruption in the Country. This has also ensured that the benefits of welfare schemes reached its targeted beneficia-



ries without middlemen, he added. He mentioned that the Government has been working in coordination with certain banks to improve the rural

economy at grassroots level. Stating that Kakching District had already achieved full digitisation in banking transactions, he informed that the

Government is targeting to achieve the same for Noney District by 2023.

N. Biren further stated that many entrepreneurs and

start-ups had been benefited with bank loans to expand their operations and contribute to the development of the economy. As such, many outside products are being substituted by local products produced by various local firms and enterprises. He also mentioned that the State Government had been putting in every effort to improve the earnings of every household of the State and to ensure at least one member of every household got employment for earning their livelihood.

The Chief Minister, while finishing his speech, endorsed the suggestion of the Prime Minister for every bank to get connected with 100 businesses or shops with the objective to achieve digitisation in business transactions.

The Nationwide programme

was attended through video conferencing by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Governor, Reserve Bank of India Shaktikanta Das, Central Government officials and Bankers from across the Country.

From the State, the programme was also attended by Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Leishemba Sanajaoba, Chairman, Manipur Pollution Control Board Usham Deben, MLA of Hiyanglam AC Dr. Yumnam Radheshyam Singh, MLA of Kakching AC Mayanglam Rameshwar Singh, President, BJP Manipur Pradesh Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi, General Manager, State Bank of India (SBI), North Eastern Circle Lunkim Thangboi, Deputy Commissioner, Kakching Somorjit Salam and employees of SBI among others.

Insurgency brought down in NE, law and order improved significantly: Rajnath

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 16:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the law and order situation in the Northeast improved significantly after the insurgency in the region was brought under control by the Modi government.

Singh said this after inaugurating 'The Conclave 2022', a two-day interactive session jointly organised by the 'Asomiya Pratidin', a popular Assamese daily, and 'Pratidin Time', an Assamese channel based in Guwahati.

During our reign, the insurgency has been brought under control and the law and order situation in the region has improved significantly, he said.

The defence minister, however, admitted that even though the situation has not improved 100 per cent but it was significant progress in



that direction.

He said the Northeast was earlier isolated in terms of development and it was not in the best interest of the country.

I can assure you that our government is working to do everything possible to bring progress to the Northeast, he said.

Singh also said that it was the NDA government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee that took the initiative for the development of the Northeast

and created a separate ministry DoNER for the region.

In his address, Union Minister of Ports, Waterways and Shipping Sarbananda Sonowal hailed the NDA government's initiative of PM Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy, saying these will fasten the pace of development in the Northeast.

Among several important projects, Sonowal said a township will be built at Pandu in Guwahati.

He said this would bring down the time taken for repair of ships as earlier ships from the Northeast had to be taken to Kolkata for repairs and used to take around six months for the entire process.

Sonowal highlighted river cruise and coastal cruise, and announced the construction of a floating jetty at Maguri Beel in a bid to boost water tourism. The former Assam chief minister also spoke about the construction of a river port near Bogibee bridge in Dibrugarh.

Earlier, the defence minister was felicitated by Chairman of Pratidin Media group Jayanta Baruah.

The Pratidin Media Group publishes the Assamese daily Asomiya Pratidin and runs the Pratidin Time news channel. The group started digital editions of Asomiya Pratidin and Pratidin Time in 2015.

Jiribam District Police destroys seized liquor



IT Correspondent
Jiribam, 16 Oct:

Jiribam District Police have destroyed large quantities of beers and Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) seized during routine checking in the district.

Jiri Police destroyed the seized liquor by disposed

down at Excise Station Complex, Gularthol, Jiribam on Saturday.

RK. Rakesh, OC in-Charge Excise Station Jiribam said that the seized beers and liquors were destroyed as per an order issued by the Excise Commissioner, Manipur.

He conveyed that around 2275 litres of Beer and 158

litres of Indian Made Foreign Liquor and 60 litres of DIC, with market value of around Rs. 7,82,500 were destroyed.

Jiribam District Additional SP (Operation), Excise and police officers Jiribam and volunteers of CADA Jiribam also took part in destroying the liquor.

Tension erupts as organizer of competition fails to turn up

IT News
Imphal, Oct 16:

A state-level Mathematics and Science competition organized by one Manipur Women Foundation was deferred as the organizer failed to turn up on the day of the competition today. The organizer collected Rs. 10 for the application form and Rs. 450 for examination fees from the students. The examination centre for the competition was fixed at Johnstone Higher Secondary School, Imphal.

Students and parents started gathering at the examination centre 30 minutes before the examination at around 9:30 am today morning. However, as no organizer was seen at the examination venue, chaos ensued at the spot.

After some time, the Secretary of Manipur Women Foundation, Akojiam Nirupama, wife of Akojiam Narjit from Yairipok Bishnunaha, came to the spot, and an understanding was reached between the organizer and the parents/guardians assembled at the examination venue. It was agreed to

return all the application forms and examination fees to the students as the organizer was unable to organize the competition in the presence of Imphal City Police OC.

A guardian present at the spot said it is very unfortunate that such an incident has happened, and it will demoralize the students. Such an organization should be banned from organizing such competitions in the future. Also, relevant authorities and student organization of the state should look into the matter seriously.

Indian Army signs agreement with 11 banks for Agniveer salary package

New Delhi, Oct 16:

The Indian Army has signed agreements with 11 banks, including the private sector banks like HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, for providing banking facilities to Agniveers on enrolment, the Ministry of Defence said on Saturday.

The memoranda of understandings (MoUs) were signed by Lt Gen V Sreehari, DG (MP & PS) and senior officials of Banks in a ceremony presided over by Lt Gen C Bansu Ponappa, the Adjutant General of the Indian Army on 14 October 2022, the ministry said.

Eleven banks with which the Indian Army has signed the agreement include State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IDFC First Bank and Bandhan Bank.

The features and benefits offered under Agniveer salary package are similar to the Defence Salary Package. In addition, the banks have offered soft loans to exiting Agniveers to promote and enhance their entrepreneurial skills. The first batch of Agniveers under "Agnipath Scheme" will be joining Training Centres by January 2023, the Ministry of Defence said

in a statement.

This is a major defence policy reform introduced by the Government to usher in a new era in the human resource policy of the Army, Air Force and Navy. The policy, which comes into immediate effect, will hereafter govern the recruitment of personnel below officer rank (PBOR) in the three services, according to the Ministry of Defence.

The Agniveers will form a distinct rank in the three services, and will also wear a distinct insignia as part of their uniform. AGNIPATH scheme allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years. Soldiers

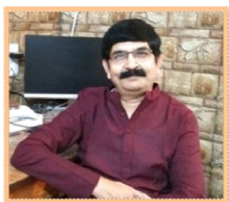
who are recruited under this scheme will be known as Agniveers.

The AGNIPATH Scheme has been designed to enable a youthful profile of the Armed Forces and provide a fresh lease of 'Josh' and 'Jazba' whilst at the same time bring about a transformational shift towards a more tech-savvy Armed Forces – which is indeed the need of the hour, the defence ministry highlighted.

It is envisaged that the average age profile of the Indian Armed forces would come down by about 4-5 years with the implementation of this scheme.

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Our actions are our future



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

World Food Day is celebrated all over the world on October 16. This global event marks a day calling for worldwide awareness and collective action to combat the issue of hunger and ensure healthy diets for all. World Food Day was established in November 1979, as suggested by former Hungarian minister of agriculture and food Dr Pal Romany. All sorts of solutions basically rely on agriculture since it is the main source of food and also a source of income to many. Food is one of the basic needs of human life. One is able to survive without the other basic needs like shelter and clothing but one cannot go without food. This is the reason as to why many countries take measures to ensure food security. Food is also of utter importance to us as it helps our bodies grow and develop. Without eating food, our bodies would not grow and our organs would not develop. Food releases nutrients that help our bodies grow in size and weight. Malnutrition, under nutrition and over nutrition are the causes of hunger. Both malnutrition and under nutrition refer to the effects on people of not having enough food.

The human body is just like a machine. Like an engine burning up fuel, in order to generate the required energy, the human body uses the consumed food in order to generate the driving forces to keep the heart beating, the lungs breathing and the limbs functioning. Healthy food is one of the most important part in leading a healthy life. Combined with physical activity, a balanced food can help us to reach and maintain a healthy weight. Healthy food habits can reduce the risk of chronic diseases. It can also improve our concentration and promotes our overall health.

The famous proverb 'Health is wealth' reminds us about the importance of good health. Healthy eating habits is one of the vital part in achieving good health. We should always try to take a balanced diet that contains the correct proportions of carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals, and water. We should include more vegetables and fruits in our daily life as vegetables can provide nutrients vital for health and maintenance of your body. Food is essential to drive away hunger and malnutrition. Our body needs sufficient food to survive through. It gives us the required energy and sufficient nutrients to grow and develop to be healthy and energetic, to move around, work, exercise, play, think and learn.

Eradicating hunger and malnutrition is one of the vital issue of in this society. Not only do the consequences of not enough or lack of food cause suffering in hunger and detrimental health, they are also slow in progress in many other areas of development like education and employment. Food safety is the important things of to describe food handling, preparation, and the storage of the food in ways that food borne illness. Food can be transmitted from a person to a person as well as servers as the growth medium of the bacteria that can cause of the food poisoning. The food is either spoiled during production or transport or thrown into the waste bins of households, retailers or restaurants. Further area of concern is generation of greenhouse gas like methane by food waste which is filling up the world's landfills. Food is a very basic necessity for every human body to survive and to be healthy.

World Food Day 2022 and our Environment



By: N. Munal Meitei

World Food Day is observed on 16 October every year since 1979 with this year's theme 'Leave no one behind.' The primary focus is to tackle global hunger, malnutrition, obesity to hunger and strive to educate people about the right to safe, hygienic and nutritious food as the basic necessities for all humans and to reduce food wastage and unfair allocation of resources to ensure healthy diets for the future generations.

Our globalized world is one where our economies, cultures and populations are becoming increasingly interconnected. When someone is left behind, the chain is broken. This impacts not only the life of that person, but also others. The world today faces two major problems. One is the issue of providing a healthy diet causing lifestyle issues such as obesity, diabetes. On the other hand, there is the issue of hunger which leads to malnutrition, death and abnormal growth in children.

There are about 821 million people chronically undernourished and nearly 99% of them live in developing countries. About 60% of the hungry people in world are women and nearly 20 million infants are born each year with low birth weight, of them, 97% are in under developed countries and that also one in every five births happens without a skilled birth attendant. Thus, about 50% of all deaths in children are under 5 years due to under-nutrition.

Every year there are more global deaths due to hunger than those

caused by AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined together. Each day, 25000 people, including about 10000 children die from hunger and related causes. It's also true that more than half of the world's hungry population lives in areas with conflict as it interferes with food production.

India ranks 102 out of 117 countries in the 2019 Global Hunger Index. The world's second most populous country and the 5th largest economy is the home to a quarter of the world's undernourished people. Around 21.25% of the population still lives on less than Rs. 152 a day. Despite so much economic growth, India still is grappling with high levels of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

Article 47 of the Constitution states that it is the 'Duty of the state to maintain the standards of nutrition in the country'. However, after 75 years of Independence, hunger and malnutrition in India is abysmal. The National Family Health Survey reports the shocking statistics for over 34.3% children in India are stunted. Close to three fourth of them are anemic and one out of every three undernourished children in the world, is from India.

India was an agricultural economy for many decades but now, it is a service economy; still agriculture takes critical roll. Of India's 1.36 billion populations, more than 248 million people were known to suffer from malnutrition. This makes India home to the maximum number of hungry people in the world. About 25% of the world's hungry population resides in India and 42% children in our country are undernourished while 18% do not have access to safe drinking water.

The country, in 2013, had enacted the National Food Security Act which ensured food grains at subsidised rates to approximately two-thirds of the population. However, implementation to end hunger is far from being over.

When we link between the grow-

ing rate of hungry stomachs in India and meeting the same with the help of the annual produce, climate change enters in the picture. Climate change may add 50 million poor people in India by 2040 due to falling wages, rising food prices and slower economic growth.

According to FAO, by 2050 we will need to produce 70% more food to feed the world population of 9.3 billion. But scientists put the limit on how many people the earth can feed are 10 billion at the maximum. To meet the food demand and other requirements, rich forests to the size of a football ground are cut and cleared for every second which amount to 15 billion trees per year griming our survival. It's also a fact that by 2030, mankind will require 2 earths to meet our requirements.

Food production is responsible for one-quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. At the global level, agriculture contributes to climate change through emission of greenhouse gases and reduction of carbon storage in vegetation and soil. Locally, agriculture reduces biodiversity and affects natural habitats through land conversion, eutrophication, pesticide inputs, irrigation and drainage. What we eat and how we grow it also effect to our environment and the planet.

Pesticides and fertilizers deemed to use for more food production, effects the natural world. Forests and habitats are destroyed for farmland and agriculture and when trees are cut, the habitats of the local wildlife are damaged and major carbon sinks are blocked.

Once farmland is created, heavy artificial herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers are used. The herbicides intend to prevent the growth of unwanted plants that would 'steal' nutrients from the crop, and the fertilizers increase the nutrients available in the soil so that the crop's yield is maximized. As a result soil toxicity increases and kills organisms and ultimately enhancing the bio-accumulation in our body.

The chemicals are more absorbed by the simple organisms, like algae which when eaten by larger animals causes genetic damages and killing populations. Production of fertilizers and pesticides consume large quantities of fossil fuels emitting greenhouse gases enhancing climate change. Transportation of food is also influences the global warming.

Food waste is a big challenge to our environment, right from crop growing, to market and final household consumption. One third of the food produced globally is wasted every year which is worth more than one trillion US dollars' worth. An area larger than China and 25% of the world's fresh water supply is used to grow food that is never eaten. Per capita food waste in the world is between 95-115 kg per year. Food waste produces 3.3 billion tons of CO₂, that contributes to climate change.

More than enough food is produced to feed 7 billion people globally but as many as 811 million people still go hungry. About 8.9% of the world's population - 690 million people - goes to bed on an empty stomach each night.

About 70% of all water use goes towards agriculture. Growing, production and transportation of food can create a long list of environmental pollution that can have adverse effects on our health and ecosystem.

Governments, private sector, academia, civil society and individuals need to work together to prioritize the rights of people to food, nutrition, peace and equality. The main cause of hunger worldwide is poverty. The food you choose and the way you consume, affects our health and that of the planet. Therefore with the coming of World Food Day, 2022, let's consume food judiciously and save from wastages for the sake of the mother earth and for those children sleeping without food.

(The author is an Environmentalist, email- nmunall@yahoo.in)

INTERPOL – Reality beats the fiction



By: Jürgen Stock

A terrorist arrested attempting to cross a border while using a stolen passport. A child abuse victim rescued after being identified through images posted online. Millions of stolen dollars intercepted from a phishing scam targeting victims worldwide.

Not the storylines from a blockbuster movie, but the everyday work of INTERPOL supporting its 195 member countries.

The threats we face today are fast, mobile, self-reinforcing and interconnected. Indeed, we are witnessing unprecedented complexity in the criminal threat landscape.

To address these global threats, INTERPOL's activities are based around three programmes that reflect the policing concerns of our membership: counter-terrorism, cybercrime, and organized and emerging crime.

And, in response to an increasing convergence of criminal flows across the world, earlier this year

INTERPOL established its financial crime and anti-corruption centre.

With less than one per cent of global illicit financial flows intercepted and recovered, and the global economy under increasing pressure, a key area for increased action is the tracing, seizure and confiscation of criminal assets.

It is with this backdrop that our global membership will be gathering in New Delhi from 18 to 21 October for our 90th General Assembly, the Organization's supreme governing body.

INTERPOL was created in 1923 to address a pressing need for regional and global policing coordination. Nearly a century later, that need continues to grow as the criminal landscape evolves at ever increasing speeds. What was then a ground-breaking initiative to establish parameters for cross-border information exchange, is now the standard.

Back then telegrams, telephone and postal services dictated the limits for law enforcement cooperation.

Today, with the click of a button, police anywhere in the world can instantly check against INTERPOL's 19 global databases containing 126 million records including DNA profiles and facial recognition images.

Our databases are searched more than 20 million times each day – which equates to around 250 searches per second.

By its very nature, law enforcement is traditionally reactive. How-

ever as we approach the dawn of a new century of police cooperation, the global law enforcement community is taking concrete steps to future-proof its systems.

Technological advances must be embedded in police work to be an active agent of international law enforcement cooperation.

However, the human connection remains essential to global security - no machine can replace a handshake. No database can replace a conversation.

This is why our General Assembly remains fundamentally important to INTERPOL's mission – connecting police for a safer world.

Police leaders from around the world come together to address global security issues through the unique platform which is INTERPOL.

They will share best practices from the lessons learned in adapting to a new technological landscape, including the need for frameworks which ensure a balance between security and privacy.

They will hear about successes – from an operation targeting illicit drugs resulting in seizures worth nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars, to a crackdown on criminal groups leading to the rescue of nearly 700 victims of human trafficking.

How global cooperation via INTERPOL brings real results at the national level. A recent example was India's participation in Operation Lionfish targeting drug trafficking.

Indian authorities made the largest single seizure of heroin during the operation with 75.3 kg of the drug intercepted in the Port of Mumbai.

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How schools can help kids in tackling with learning problems



By: Vijay GarG

Auditory and visual processing disorders: Sensory disabilities in which a person has normal vision and hearing but has difficulty understanding language.

Nonverbal learning disabilities: A neurological disorder that causes problems with visual-spatial, organizational, evaluative, intuitive, and holistic processing functions.

When searching for methods to help children with learning problems, remember that these methods should help children help themselves. As teachers, we should give children who have learning problems the social and emotional tools they need to work through these challenges. Over a while, facing and overcoming a challenge such as a learning disability can help children grow resilient and stronger.

Lessons in schools can be adapted to accommodate the needs of students with learning disabilities such as dyslexia. These methods can be used to modify lessons in most subject areas to improve students' understanding of tasks. They can also be helpful for most students

who prefer a clear, structured educational program. Teachers should initiate open and honest communication with children. When children get a judgement-free space to express themselves, they feel safe and heard.

i. Auditory learner- A person who learns best by listening to sounds, music, and audio. They may love to draw, read, and write and are often good at spelling.

ii. Kinesthetic learner- A person who learns best by engaging in a movement like art and craft, sports, and games. They may like sports, dance, drama, and arts and crafts.

iii. Visual learner- A person who learns best through visual aids, flashcards, highlighted content, videos, and pictures. They may like music, languages, and performing on stage.

2. Help them achieve their goals with perseverance and hard work

Usually, children may find certain parts of their academics difficult even after putting in a lot of effort. It is important to understand that it may take time, hard work, and perseverance for children to get through these challenges. Teachers should help children set realistic and attainable short-term and long-term goals.

3. Let children repeat instructions

Teachers must rectify any kind of miscommunication before a child begins doing the work. Teachers must check and guide the student as he/she works to ensure that the work is being done correctly. Whatever they learn in schools should

include specific, step-by-step instructions that are stated by the teacher and repeated by the student to avoid confusion and distress.

4. Reward children and use positive reinforcement

Schools should have a reward and positive reinforcement system in place that can help children stay motivated. This system can help in tracking their academic progress. Rewards and reinforcements should be catered to each child's needs and differ according to their grade levels. This system should be maintained and required adjustments should be made from time to time.

5. Make use of assistive learning technology

Introduce modes of assistive technology in schools, especially for children who have learning problems. Audiobooks, graphic tools, word tools, tape recorders, talking calculators, optical character recognition software, text-to-speech, and speech-to-text software, and software to help with subjects like math can assist children who face learning challenges. These modes can help children become independent and also cope with their challenges.

It is vital to nurture and develop a good teacher-student relationship to help children with learning difficulties. Children should not be discouraged or reprimanded, instead they should be made aware of their potential and capability. Teachers must be open-minded, positive, balanced, and flexible. This will help and guide them through challenges in academics and their everyday life.

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Aadhaar enrolment for newborns with birth certificates to be expanded to all States in few months

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 16:

Aadhaar enrollment for newborns along with birth certificates is expected to be available in all states in the next few months, expanding beyond 16 states currently offering the facility, government sources said. At present, 16 states have Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration. The process began more than one year ago, with various states getting added over time.

Work is on in remaining states and Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) — the government agency that issues Aadhaar numbers — expects that over the next

few months all states will be able to offer the facility, bringing added convenience to new parents. For children up to 5 years, no biometrics is captured. Their UID is processed on the basis of demographic information and facial photograph linked with the UID of their parents. Hence, biometric update is required (ten fingers, iris and facial photograph) once the child turns 5 and 15.

More than 1,000 state and central government schemes today leverage Aadhaar for identification and authentication of beneficiaries, transfer of benefits, and ensuring de-duplication. Of these, nearly 650 schemes are of state gov-

ernments and 315 central government-run schemes — all of which use Aadhaar ecosystem and its biometric authentication. As many as 134 crore Aadhaars have been issued till date. Last year, updates and enrollments for this 12-digit biometric identifier added to nearly 20 crore. Of this, 4 crore were new enrollments, a number that includes newborn babies and children up to 18 years. Only 30 lakh were related to new adult enrollments.

The sources said the aim is now to ensure that at the time of birth along with the birth certificate, Aadhaar is issued. UIDAI is working with the Registrar General of India regarding the same. The pro-

cess requires computerised system of birth registration, and such states that had full computerisation have been onboarded. The full list of states with Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration was not immediately available.

Sources said that in 16 states whenever a birth certificate is issued, a message pings to the UIDAI system, following which enrollment ID number is generated. Aadhaar is generated as soon as details such as photo and address of the child is captured in the system. Birth Registrars, in many cases, are Aadhaar enrollment agents also, so they will be able to enrol for Aadhaar, sources said.

2,401 fresh Covid cases in India, 21 virus-related deaths in 24 hours

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 16:

With 2,401 fresh cases, India's COVID-19 tally has climbed to 4,46,28,828, while the number of active cases of the infection has gone up to 26,625, the Union health ministry said on Sunday.

The death count due to the viral disease has risen to 5,28,895 with 21 more fatalities, including 16 reconciled by Kerala, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The active cases account for 0.06 per cent of the total caseload, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has gone up to 98.76 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of seven cases was recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours, it added.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.04 per cent. The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.05 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has gone up to 4,40,73,308, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 219.32 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been administered to beneficiaries across the country so far.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on

August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 2020, 40 lakh on September 5, 2020 and 50 lakh on September 16, 2020.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 2020, 70 lakh on October 11, 2020, 80 lakh on October 29, 2020, 90 lakh on November 20, 2020 and the one-crore mark on December 19, 2020.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore Covid cases on May 4, 2021, the three-crore mark on June 23, 2021 and four crore cases on January 25 this year.

Of the five fresh fatalities, two were reported from Chhattisgarh and one each was recorded in Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

FIR lodged against Wipro on money laundering, letter sent to Premji

IT Correspondent
Guwahati, Oct 16:

The main petitioner in the Supreme Court of India with the demand to update the 1951 National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam has lodged a police complaint against information technology firm Wipro alleging the misappropriation of a huge amount of public money in process.

Assam Public Works (APW), which continues raising voices against the ethnic militant outfits along with religious terrorists and illegal migrants in the region, filed a first information report at Paltanbazar PS, Guwahati-781024 on Friday, where the influential civil rights group has made the NRC Directorate also a party.

The non-government organisation, which has also been working for the welfare as well as protection of civil rights and liberties of the residents of Assam narrated in the FIR that a massive corruption had taken place in the process of updation of NRC Assam with the active role of the concerned top officials, where a huge volume of money was misappropriated for personal gain.

According to the complaint, Wipro Limited was entrusted as one of the prime software installation companies by the NRC Directorate and as the system integrator it submitted bills from time to time for software installation and other system-oriented

works. Out of those, a bill was submitted by it amounting to Rupees 1.27 crore for procurement of Oracle Standard One Edition and Oracle Intelligence Server Enterprise Edition. The said amount was also paid during February to August 2017.

"However, as per the ground report of National Institute of Smart Governance (which was submitted to the Accountant General), no such system was installed and used in the concerned process. The amount was cleared by the NRC Directorate, by indulging in conspiracy and mutual understanding with M/s Wipro Limited, as revealed in the report," said Aabhiyeet Sharma, who signed the FIR as APW president.

The FIR also highlighted the incidents of submitting false bills (against the purchase of generators supposedly installed in 2500 NRC Seva Kendras) before the auditor. An amount of Rs 34.76 crore was released to Wipro Limited for installation of 3700 generators (each amounting Rs 93,964). But in many NSKs, the generators were not installed (but hired for the time being). Moreover, the market price of those generators is found to be Rs 35,000 each only.

Meanwhile, a city based scribe has sent a letter to the management of Wipro Technologies in Bangalore highlighting the issue of at least six thousands deprived part-time workers (data entry operators) in NRC Assam updation process (where the NRC author-

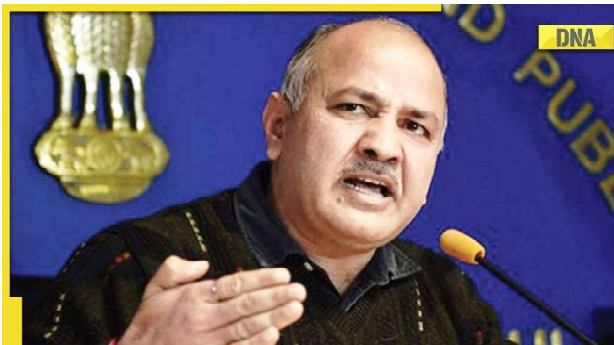
ity spent a sum of Rs 1600 crore) and urged its chairman Padma Bhushan Azim Hashim Premji to look into the matter so that those DEOs get their legal dues.

Biswajit Nath, who appreciated Premji as an icon for thousands of Indian businessmen for a highly ethical entrepreneurship and a source of inspiration to the budding entrepreneurs in India, however stated that the probable involvement of Wipro in the NRC Assam updation scam during 2015 to 2019 has raised many questions among the conscious people.

The outspoken scribe, while citing the immediate past NRC Assam coordinator Hitesh Devsarma's official complaints about the use of a faulty software to include millions of illegal citizens in the draft NRC and also the occurrence of a scam during the process, highlighted that the Wipro officials in Assam illegally engaged many sub-contractors (including some Assamese television journalists).

"Wipro was sanctioned Rs 14,500 (to 17,500) per DEO per month by the NRC authority, but the subcontractors paid only Rs 5,500 (to 9,100) to each DEO every month. It is shocking that around 6000 DEOs were denied even the minimum amount as per the country's basic minimum wage," stated the letter adding that the DEOs are yet to get their full payments (which may be Rs 100 crore in total).

'Manish Sisodia will be arrested tomorrow...': AAP slams BJP as CBI summons Delhi Deputy CM in excise policy scam



Agency
New Delhi, Oct 16:

The Aam Aadmi Party on Sunday lashed out at the BJP over the ongoing CBI investigation into the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. Party spokesperson Saurabh Bhargava linked the probe to the upcoming Gujarat Assembly elections,

contending that the Deputy Chief Minister would be arrested on Monday after being called to the CBI headquarters.

"The Central government's CBI will arrest Manish Sisodia tomorrow. The CBI and ED have raided at least 500 different places and found nothing. Everyone can understand...it has nothing to do with Excise Policy,

but with Gujarat elections," he alleged.

"CBI raid was conducted at my house for 14 hours, nothing came out. Searched my bank locker, nothing came out in it. They did not find anything in my village. Now they have called me to CBI Headquarters at 11 am tomorrow. I will go and give my full cooperation. Satyameva

Jayate," Sisodia tweeted in Hindi.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has summoned Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to join the probe in the excise policy scam at its Headquarters on Monday by 11 am. The CBI has made Sisodia the accused number one in its FIR.

The FIR was lodged under sections 120-B (Criminal Conspiracy) and 477-A (Falsification of accounts) of the IPC. The allegation against Sisodia is that liquor businessmen were allegedly given an exemption of Rs 30 crore. The licence holders were allegedly given extension according to their own will. New policy rules were made by violating the excise rules.

It also said that Sisodia and a few liquor barons were actively involved in managing and diverting the undue pecuniary advantage collected from the liquor licences to the public servants, who also have been accused in the case.

Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra completes 1,000 km; Rahul flays BJP, RSS

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 16:

The Bharat Jodo Yatra undertaken by the Congress party under the leadership of former party president Rahul

Gandhi has completed 1,000 km on Saturday.

The rally is currently passing through Karnataka's Ballary district.

On Saturday, Rahul Gandhi addressed a convention in

Ballary, where he launched scathing attack on the ruling BJP government in Karnataka.

Addressing a huge gathering, Rahul Gandhi slammed the ideology of the BJP and the RSS.

"By this (their ideology) the country is being divided. This is an attack on Hindustan. This is not patriotism, this is anti-national," he said.

"Through the Bharat Jodo Yatra, we are passing from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. This is a 3,500 km journey. It started from Kanyakumari and

reached Karnataka. In the beginning, we assumed that walking 3,500 km was a tough task. But, later, it went on to become an easy task," Gandhi added.

"Whenever we felt fatigued, a certain force encouraged us and made us march ahead. The words of small children, physically challenged, aged and poor served were sources of inspiration. The padayatra was taken up a month ago, people belonging to different religions, backgrounds are together putting steps ahead," he said.

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INTERPOL – Reality beats the....

This was followed by the success of Operation Garuda, where the Central Bureau of Investigation, in close coordination with INTERPOL and the Narcotics Control Bureau, targeted drug cartels with international links, resulting in 175 arrests and 127 cases registered across the country.

Another example of the importance of cooperation via INTERPOL is our International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database.

Containing more than four million images, videos and hashes of child sexual exploitation material, the ICSE database

helps identify an average seven child abuse victims every single day. To date, the database has assisted in the identification of more than 30,000 victims worldwide.

Earlier this year India became the 68th country to connect to this specialized database, and has already seen significant results from being part of this global network dedicated to protecting the most vulnerable members of society.

And of course, one of the fundamental drivers behind the creation of INTERPOL nearly 100 years ago remains at the forefront of our work today –

helping countries bring fugitives to justice, no matter where they attempt to hide and no matter for how long they flee.

Every year INTERPOL Red Notices alert police worldwide about internationally wanted fugitives, helping countries identify and arrest thousands of murderers, rapists, terrorists, fraudsters and other criminals.

While there may be differences at the geopolitical level, for law enforcement the focus is, and must always be, upholding the rule of law, following an investigation no matter where it leads, no matter from where vital policing information comes from.

Indeed, today, strong intra-regional policing is a reality and we are witnessing cross-border exchanges between law enforcement agencies as never before in global history.

It is the commitment and professionalism of law enforcement in member countries such as India which makes INTERPOL a vital part of the global security architecture.

Recognizing India's contribution to international law enforcement, last year the General Assembly elected Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation Praveen Sinha to be Executive Committee Del-

egate for Asia.

It is against the backdrop of India's rich history and future-looking approach that delegates from around the world will gather to address the most pressing crime issues of today, and how we can continue our joint efforts to address the threats of tomorrow.

The General Assembly is the most important event in the Organization's calendar, and I cannot think of a more suitable place for it to be hosted than New Delhi.

(The author is a INTERPOL Secretary General)

Voter Identity Card Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Voter Identity Card, issued by Government of Manipur, enrolled as Sl. No. 443, H. No. 97, bearing BPT 0363614 of 40/5 polling station, Jiribam A.C., on the way between Babupara Ward No.6 to Jiribam bazaar on the 10th October 2022.

Finder are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned

Sd/-
Md. Zafar Sadique
Babupara Ward No.6, Jiribam

Sixth time in its 137-year-history Congress all set to have internal elections for its president

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 16:

With the Congress set to vote to elect its new chief, it would be the sixth time in its nearly 137-year-old history that an electoral contest would decide who would take up the mantle of the party's president. Also, with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra not in the running for the party president's post, a non-Gandhi would be at the helm after over 24 years following the polling on Monday and counting on Wednesday.

Senior party leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor were pitted against each other and have been crisscrossing various state capitals to woo the over 9,000 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates who comprise the electoral college for electing the party chief.

While Kharge is considered the firm favourite and the 'unofficial official candidate' with a large number of senior leaders backing him, Tharoor has pitched himself as the candidate of change.

During the campaign, even though Tharoor has raised issues of an uneven playing field, both candidates and the party have maintained that the Gandhis are neutral and that there is no 'official candidate'.

Asked about the significance of the polls, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh told PTI, "This is actually the sixth time that the Congress is having internal elections for its president in its 137-year-history."

"The media has highlighted 1939, 1950, 1997 and 2000. In



Congress presidential candidates Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor.

fact, there had been elections too in 1977 when Kasu Brahmananda Reddy was elected," he pointed out.

Ramesh said he has always believed in the Congress model of evolving a consensus for such positions, noting that the most famous practitioner of this approach in the post-Nehruvian era was K Kamaraj.

"As we approach E-Day tomorrow this belief has become even more stronger. The reasons for this are pretty obvious," he said without elaborating.

"I am not at all convinced that organisational elections actually strengthen the organisation in any way. They may serve individual purposes but their value in building a collective spirit is doubtful," he said.

Even so, the very fact that elections are taking place are of some significance, he added.

"But I consider them of less institutional importance than the historic Bharat Jodo Yatra which is a transformational initiative for the Congress and for Indian politics as

well," Ramesh said.

The Congress has claimed that its internal democracy has no parallel in any other party and it is the only one to have a central election authority for organisational polls.

It was way back in 1939, when an electoral contest decided who would be Congress president and in fact, Mahatma Gandhi's candidate P Sitaramayya had lost to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Then in 1950 came the Congress' first election post-Independence for the post of party president when Purshottam Das Tandon and Acharya Kripalani faced off for the top post.

Surprisingly, Tandon, seen as a Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel loyalist, had won the contest trumping the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru's choice.

In 1977, following the resignation of Dev Kant Barooah as party president in the wake of the defeat in the Lok Sabha polls, K Brahmananda Reddy defeated Siddhartha Shankar Ray and Karan Singh in the party's polls for AICC chief.

The next election that needed a contest came 20 years later in 1997 when Sitaram Kesri squared off in a triangular contest with Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot.

Except for Maharashtra and parts of Uttar Pradesh, all state Congress units had backed Kesri.

He had posted a landslide victory getting 6,224 delegates' votes against Pawar's 882 and Pilot's 354.

The third contest came in 2000 and this was the only time a Gandhi family member was challenged in the elections with Jitendra Prasad taking on Sonia Gandhi. Prasad suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Sonia Gandhi who garnered over 7,400 votes, while Prasad reportedly polled a paltry 94.

The upcoming polls would certainly be historic as the new president would replace Sonia Gandhi, the longest-serving party president who has been at the helm since 1998, barring the two years between 2017 and 2019 when Rahul Gandhi took over.

'Govt not ready to accept international figures because...': CPI(M) slams Centre over Global Hunger Index

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 16:

After the Indian government slammed the Global Hunger Index (GHI) report 2022 which ranked New Delhi at 107th position behind Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, CPI (M) leader Sitaram Yechury today slammed the Centre for allegedly turning a blind eye to the said report. He alleged that the present government is not ready to accept international figures.

"The present government is not ready to accept any international figures. The country is declining at every level. Look at the economic scale, unemployment or even the kind of propaganda that is going on in the form of politics of violence, there is an

atmosphere of fear, and there is a decline in every area," CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury said.

"The government says that there are 121 countries and all of them agreed to the Hunger Index but ours did not believe it because it showed a decline. It is known that crores of people have become poor who were not poor before COVID-19 but instead of giving relief to them, the Centre is busy giving a tax-relief and waiving loans to the rich," the CPI(M) leader said while talking to news agency ANI.

Notably, the Centre blasted the GHI 2022 report calling it erroneous and far from ground reality. "Index is an erroneous measure of hunger & suffers from seri-

ous methodological issues. The report isn't only disconnected from ground reality but also chooses to deliberately ignore efforts made by Govt to ensure food security for the population, especially during the Covid pandemic," a statement by the government of India read.

"Taking a one-dimensional view, the report lowers India's rank based on the estimate of the Proportion of the Undernourished (PoU) population for India at 16.3%. The FAO estimate is based on the 'Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) Survey Module' conducted through Gallop World Poll, which is an 'opinion poll' based on '8 questions' with a sample size of 3000 respondents," the statement further noted.

Assam Rifles conducted Special Cleanliness Campaign 2.0

IT News
Imphal, Oct 16:

Chassad Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised special cleanliness campaign 2.0 to promote

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in their Battalion HQ at Kamjong district, Manipur today.

The cleanliness drive was not only an effort to clean the surroundings but was also

an endeavour to motivate and encourage the tps to keep their surroundings clean and litter-free.

Tops of Assam Rifles participated in the event with zeal & fervour.

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Indian Army signs agreement....

Agniveers will receive Rs 33,000 in the second year, Rs 36,500 in the third year and Rs 40,000 in the fourth year. They will get Rs 11.71 lakh as Seva Nidhi Package after four years. The 'Seva Nidhi' will be exempt from Income Tax. There shall be no entitlement to gra-

tuity and pensionary benefits. Agniveers will be provided non-contributory Life Insurance Cover of Rs 48 lakh for the duration of their engagement period in the Indian Armed Forces. During this period of service to the nation, the Agniveers will be im-

parted with various military skills and experience, discipline, physical fitness, leadership qualities, courage and patriotism.

The skills gained by each Agniveer will be recognised in a certificate to form part of his unique resume.

Sports

India romp to seventh Women's Asia Cup title with easy win over Sri Lanka



Agency
Sylhet, Oct 16:

India maintained their dominance in the Women's Asia Cup with an eight-wicket demolition of a self-destructing Sri Lanka in the final here on Saturday for their seventh title in eight editions.

Sri Lanka, who were playing their first tournament final in 14 years, imploded after opting to bat on a slow and turning pitch. They could only manage 65 for nine which India knocked off in 8.3 overs. Smriti Mandhana struck a sub-

lime 51 not out off 25 balls.

It was a procession after Sri Lankan skipper Chamari Athapaththu got run out in the third over following a mix up with Anushka Sanjeevani who too got run out six balls later.

Renuka, who has been in top form since the Commonwealth Games in August, sent back Hasini Perera on the very first ball she faced. The left-hander checked her shot only to be caught at cover, leaving Sri Lanka at nine for four.

The Sri Lankans were in dire need of a partnership but Kavisha Dilhari's fall made it

16 for five as she was bowled while trying to play an incoming delivery from Renuka across the line.

Rajeshwari Gayakwad got her first wicket after Nilakshi de Silva played on to her stomach while trying to cut a ball close to her body. At 32 for eight, being bowled out for a sub-50 total was very much on the cards, but Ranaweera saved them from that ignominy with an unbeaten 18 off 22 balls.

The Indians bowled with discipline but poor shot selection contributed more to Sri

Lanka's steep slide. After a memorable win over Pakistan in the semifinals, it seemed the occasion got the better of Sri Lanka.

India lost Shafali Verma and Jemimah Rodrigues cheaply in the run chase. However, both the batters did well in the tournament, with Shafali getting back to form and Jemimah making a successful comeback from injury.

The elegant Mandhana played some exquisite strokes on way to completing the formality alongside skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (11 not out off 14). Smriti's effort included three sixes and six boundaries. Fittingly, she sealed the win with a maximum off Oshadi Ranasinghe.

The win is a shot in the arm for India's preparations for the T20 World Cup next year. They were able to test players for different roles during the competition, though that also contributed to their only loss in the tournament, against Pakistan in the league stage.

The Indians took a lap of the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium and, in a fine gesture, got clicked with the entire groundstaff after their triumph, which was witnessed by a sizeable turnout.

Indian U-17 Women's Football team eye huge opportunity against Brazil

Agency
Bhubaneswar, Oct 16:

Indian U-17 women's football team head coach Thomas

Dennerby wants his girls to be more confident with the ball while building their attacks when they play Brazil in their concluding Group A match of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium on Monday, October 17, 2022. The match will kick off at 8pm IST.

"When we have the ball, we need to feel relaxed and start playing. We need to be confident and play a little bit

more. Now, we have nothing to lose. I hope the girls start playing freely," said Dennerby on the eve of the match.

Hosts India are already out of the World Cup having lost their first two group league encounters against the United States (0-8) and Morocco (0-3). On Monday, they are pitted against mighty Brazil, considered a force to reckon with in women's football. In the latest FIFA rankings released early this week, Brazil's senior girls are placed ninth.

Dennerby is very much aware of Brazil's reputation,

but at the same time, he thinks his wards are capable of proving themselves on the pitch. "We have to focus very hard on defending, but we also know football is not only about defending. It would be nice for us to score in the tournament," he said.

"Hopefully we can have another good performance. Brazil are a good team. And we also know that Brazil are fighting to ensure their place in the knockout stage. So, I think they are going to come out with all guns blazing," the coach added.

Online Essay Competition

Commemorating the 126th Birth Anniversary of Lamyamba Hijam Irabot, Team Imphal Times is organizing an Online Essay Competition. This is the 2nd time that the Team Imphal Times is organizing an Essay Competition. This year theme is - "Manipur's Socio-Economic Problems: System Failure or Individual Fault."

All submitted essays will be published in the Imphal Times newspaper and the name of the winners will also be published. The word count for the essay must be between 1000 and 1200 words.

1st prize Rs 5000, 2nd prize Rs 3000, and 3rd prize Rs 2000 with certificates. The competition is opened to all individuals and every submission must be accompanied by a photo/image of the candidate. The last date of submission will be 6 pm on October 30.

All participants should enclose details of their identity. Father's or Mother's name, Address, Qualification, Contact No. (Cell Phone or Landline) should be enclosed at the of submitting the write up. Language medium : English.

Participant can be sent by e-mail to: imphaltimesessaycomp@gmail.com in MS Word or PDF format.

Team Imphal Times