

Chief Minister flags off 12 GPS enabled Highway Patrol vehicles



IT News
Imphal, Oct 4:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh flagged off 12 GPS enabled highway patrol vehicles from the Western Gate of the Chief Minister's Secretariat today. The patrol vehicles flagged off today, under phase-III, included 3 for Tamenglong District, 3 for Noney District, 2 for Kangpokpi District, 2 for Senapati District and 2 for Tengnoupal District.

Earlier, 5 such vehicles for Senapati District and 3 vehicles for Kangpokpi District

were flagged off on 13th May, 2022 in phase-I. While another 5 vehicles for Tengnoupal District and 2 vehicles for Tamenglong District were also flagged off on 8th June and 19th June, 2022 respectively in phase-II.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh stated that the GPS enabled highway patrol vehicles are launched to enable quick response from Police to any incident that takes place along the National Highways in the State. The location of the patrol vehicles could be tracked from the Police Headquarters. Stating that

the vehicle flagged off today could accommodate a minimum of 10 police personnel, he mentioned the patrol teams would help to stop threatening and extortion of truck and bus drivers by unknown miscreants along the National Highways.

The Chief Minister further maintained that law and order of the State had significantly improved with the tireless day and night service from the Police side and also with the support and cooperation of the public. As such, there is now no need for security convoys for transportation of oil tank-

ers in the State, he said. Continuing that the aim of the Government is to ensure its people's welfare and safety, he stated that the Government had started the work of police modernization to change the morale of police and make them people friendly. Necessary equipment had been provided for the modernization. Meeyamgi Nimit is also organized in every district including the District Police to bring better relations between police and public, he added.

N. Biren further informed that construction of 34 Police Stations along the Indo-Myanmar Border from Behiang to Jessami had started and added that with all such initiatives, the State would be able to check and stop illegal immigration and drugs trafficking along the border areas. Terming the police as protectors of life and property of people, he asked police personnel to be always ready to help the public timely and also to ensure no damage is caused to the public.

Further, he appealed to the patrol vehicle teams to use the vehicles with proper maintenance, thinking it as their own property, as Government's property is public property.

State government is preparing draft regulations for liquor legalizations - CM

IT News
Imphal, Oct 4:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today said that the state government is preparing a draft proposal for regulations for legalization of liquors in the state.

Answering to reporters queries while launching the 12 GPS enabled Highway Patrol vehicles, Chief Minister N. Biren said that legalization does not mean free liquor sales and consumption at

anywhere. Regularization will have to follow certain guidelines and the state government is preparing a draft regulation for that.

The Chief Minister further said that it is unfortunate for misinterpreting the legalization of liquors. There will be various prohibitory sections and legalizing liquors does not mean that they will let free hand to both selling and consumption of liquors. Sales of Liquors will be allowed to only at some specific

places and people need not have to worry as he himself will strictly look after in the making of the regulation.

"I am a father too and I don't want to spoil my children", N. Biren said. In connection with the various agitations against the government decision, N. Biren said that he is communicating with all stakeholders and as soon as the draft regulation is prepared he will make it public to discuss about it.

Director General of Police (in charge) Christopher Doungel, delivering his welcome speech, appreciated the Chief Minister for his unwavering support to work taken up by the Police Department and for his initiatives for the welfare of the people of the State. He stated that the GPS enabled highway patrol vehicles would not only check

crimes and extortion, but act as confidence building measures and maintain a better relation between the police and public.

Tribal Affairs and Hills Minister Letpao Haokip, Social Welfare Minister Heikham Dingo, Transport Minister Khasim Vashum, MP, Rajya Sabha Leishemba Sananjoaba, Chairman, Manipur Industrial

Development Corporation Ltd. Kongkhom Robindro, Chairman, Manipur Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation Ltd. Khongbantam Ibomcha, Additional Director General of Police Clay Khongsai, Senior Police Officers and Superintendents of Police also attended the flagged off programme among others.

Minister Th. Biswajit distributes weavers' Pehchan cards to the weavers of Kshetrigao CDP

IT News
Imphal, Oct 4:

Minister Thongam Biswajit had distributed weavers' pehchan cards to the weavers of Kshetrigao CDP.

Speaking at the function as a chief guest Minister Th. Biswajit said that MEETAC was taken up as a mission by the then Governor Najma Heptulla as chief patron and chairperson to promote sale of handloom and handicraft items produced by local weavers and artisans in other places of the world. He further expressed that a sum of Rs 2 crore has been added in the budget from time to time to train weavers and ar-



tisans for the production of items of international standards.

Minister Biswajit pointed out that handloom is also a part of the mission. He urged local weavers to join the train-

ing programme conducted under MEETAC and produce quality products.

He urged Manipuri weavers to strive to produce quality handloom products by taking part in training

programmes conducted under the Mission for Economic Empowerment of Traditional Artisans and Craftsmanship (MEETAC) and sponsored by the state government. The mission not only extends training but also provides the opportunity for the launch of start-ups.

Minister Th. Biswajit further expressed confidence that the awareness programme would definitely benefit the weavers as the knowledge of weaving handloom products alone would not suffice without the idea of marketing and benefits provided by the government for them.

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CADA condemn show cause notice to Dr. N. Sanatomba

IT News
Imphal, Oct 4:

Coalition Against Drugs & Alcohol (CADA) has expressed strong condemnation to the serving of show-cause notice to Dr. N. Sanatomba, for expressing his opinion with the liquor legalization while speaking at a debating competition at MU.

A statement said that the show cause notice was served to suppress the freedom of speech and expression amidst protest against September 20 state cabinet decision for lifting of banned on liquors by various organization. It said that, earlier too there were reports of intimidation from the government side to whoever spoke against any government deci-

sion during discussion programme at various TV Channels. If there is no room for the voice of dissent to any government decision in a democratic country then the state will not be able to move forward.

The CADA said that when political parties members spoke any anti people statement the government remain silent.

Vice President of SUK awarded PhD

IT News
Imphal, Oct 4:

Students Union of Kangleipak (SUK) head office extended their gratitude to its Vice president, Keisham Lebanan, for his PhD, awarded from the Department of Life Sciences (Zoology) of Manipur University on 5/9/2022. Keisham Lebanan completed his PhD under thesis "Taxonomical Characterization

of the Parasites of the Fishes of Barak Valley, Assam".

In a press release, the Students Union of Kangleipak (SUK) stated that Keisham Lebanan was also the former president of the Manipur University Students' Union (MUSU). He already completed SET of UGC and wrote academic articles at different journals and participated in 12 international and national seminars.

Today, SUK felicitated Keisham Lebanan at the SUK head office. During the felicitation function, the SUK president stated that SUK had organised a free coaching camp for Class 10 students with special emphasis on government school students.

During the felicitation function, CCSK President Jeetendra Ningomba also attended and presented gift items to K Lebanan.

BJP may again sweep Gujarat in the State Assembly Polls by year end

Congress seems to have given up the State to AAP to act as Opposition

By Sushil Kuttu
New Delhi, Oct 4:

One opinion poll places the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the Congress and AAP in the forthcoming Gujarat assembly elections, slated for December 2022, with the BJP reportedly all set to beat both anti- and pro-incumbency; perhaps, even another altogether different strain of incumbency if there's one, in the state where Narendra Modi's 'Gujarat Model' still models for top pick!

That the Aam Aadmi Party,

which had swept Punjab earlier this year, and Delhi years ago, would repeat its performance in Gujarat is not a possibility, even if the Opposition would break a leg, and a hand, for such an outcome. An AAP breakthrough in the absence of a Congress victory is the preferred Opposition outcome.

But signals from Gujarat for AAP are muted and conversation mostly revolves round the moribund Congress doing, by far, better than the AAP. The Congress apparently has a ghostly hold over large sections of the Gujarat

electorate. And AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal spending more time in Gujarat than Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Wayanad Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, hasn't made a difference. The Gandhi scion hasn't made a single Gujarat visit in months, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi only pops in and out.

Now, beginning this month, Modi is back in election-Modi-mode. And, just as he picked up from where he had left before the last assembly elections, there's this opinion poll/survey which gives BJP a record seventh victory

since 1995, with a total of 135-143 seats in the 182-member house. The same poll/survey gives the Congress 36-44 seats and the AAP whatever remains in the drebs.

The ABP News-CVoter poll says AAP will make inroads in the state, but its heightened vote-share will not translate into seats, only reward it with maybe 1-2 seats maximum, that's all. In other words, a repeat of AAP's Uttarakhand showing earlier this year, where despite all the hype and hoopla, there was nothing much to show.

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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.

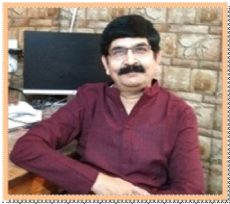
1st prize Rs 5000, 2nd prize Rs 3000, and 3rd prize Rs 2000 with certificates. The competition is opened to all individuals and every submission must be accompanied by a photo/image of the candidate. The last date of submission will be 6 pm on October 30.

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

Will the evil of Rape be solved by giving a deterrent punishment to the rapist?



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Don't we think that violence against the weaker sex brings out the manly demeanor of our society where oppression of women is deemed as a custom? Women were silently suffering earlier but due to presence of media and sensitization of police, they are now coming forward to speak against all types of crime. While serious law reform is the need of the hour, it also should be taken into consideration that the planners, administrators, and law enforcement agencies work efficiently and diligently in that direction. This diminishing social protection has made vulnerable, especially working and college going women in the city to crimes like eve-teasing, molestation and rape. It is noticed that the prevalence of crimes against women in a certain place depends on a large extent to the social ambience of that place. The punishment for battering, molestation, sexual molestation and unlawful threat must be increased. Projects must be launched for a better cooperation between the police, the social services and other relevant parties. Government should come out with much more essence and urgency to check the indecent behaviour against women folks, and the need to chart out stern measures on the part of administrative authorities for curbing down such events. People also need to come out with determination against such evils and not be a moot spectator wherein a daughter, or a sister, or a wife, or a mother is crying for alms.

One would find that the scenario for women seems grim indeed and this will continue so long as the basic social and economic structures remain unchanged and the implementing and law and order agencies show indifference. Public display of big hoardings only serves to excite the young minds. Laws alone cannot put an end to evils that are endemic in the social structure; the government can at least make some attempt to take its own enactments seriously. Crime is endemic to the human condition, but a crime specifically directed at one sex is most despicable and unfortunately, the one that is punished least. According to the Government's statistics twenty five rapes are committed in the country everyday but the unofficial record is in very large number. One would find that Rape is a sexual as well as cultural attack which has become a great social problem today. There are many rape cases which have become the headlines of the leading newspapers but the timely actions are not taken.

It is obvious that there is much to be done to change our laws on rape. While Sections 375 and 376 of the Indian Penal Code are the major laws dealing with rape, they have failed to match the international standards of addressing the crime. Making tougher laws will only be as effective as its implementation. Violent assaults, rapes and murders of women are symptomatic of a deep societal dysfunction. Any new law on rape should include the conduct of the defence lawyer and bar unethical questions against the rape victim. If an FIR is registered against a person in a rape case, he should be automatically disqualified from contesting elections. The prosecution for rape and sexual harassment should have toughest lawyers pleading the case to have 100% conviction and not one in over 1000 cases.

In view of the increasing incidence of the rape incidents, it is absolutely necessary to review the rape law humanely and progressively as the existing law is not only partial but also outdated. The subject needs a comprehensive review and should include various types of assault, violence and torture, and with gender neutrality. Indian women are far too vulnerable to violent assaults. Sexual violence in villages, though little reported, keeps girls and women indoors after dark. The pity is that to change attitudes to rape so many young women have had to suffer and die. An act of the police never prosecute and the public ignores. Women are routinely groped and harassed by men on buses and trains. The reason behind is the vulgar display by even top grade heroines in the form of 'item numbers' has become a must for any successful movie. All these adds to the frustration where the age of sexual maturity does not match with the permissible age for marriage. A piece of fool-proof legislation is needed to safeguard innocent victims. One should see that by giving a deterrent punishment to the rapist this evil of rape would not be solved. Once it is proved that the person is guilty of rape he should be hanged and the women for their self-defence should learn the art of Karate, Judo and if not they should keep a chilly powder in order to escape from the rapist. Before the dignity of more women is sacrificed, we need to have a real change for the better democracy, greater freedom, full transparency, strict law enforcement, and mandatory punishment for heinous crimes against women.

Is teaching a noble profession?



By: Vijay GarG

What are the qualities teachers should exhibit through their actions that make this profession a noble one? Teachers who consider themselves as belonging to a noble profession should exhibit high moral principles.

About a month ago, a globally well-known English Language Teaching (ELT) professional and teacher educator emailed a group of teachers asking whether we could help him with a project. He asked each of us to recall a teacher we remembered, with appreciation, and to list the things that made them so memorable. The questionnaire he sent had some thought-provoking questions. The project's main purpose was to help define the actions and qualities of effective teachers.

While reflecting on the questions, I recalled some few recent incidents that made me ask whether teaching was really or has ceased to be a noble profession. News reports such as 'Dalit boy dies after upper caste teacher beats him for drinking water from his pot' and 'Dalit boy beaten in school for failing to give answers; teacher detained' and of teachers being booked under POCSSO for misbehaving with students across the country must have shaken the conscience of people who consider teaching a noble profession. Though these incidents indicate rotten things in our education system and exhibit ignoble thoughts and dishonourable behaviour of some teachers, there are many other thoughts and actions/non-actions of modern teachers that have made teaching an ignoble profession.

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World Animal Day amidst Wildlife Week Celebration



By: N. Munal Meitei

The 4th October is celebrated as World Animal Day, with this years theme, "a Shared Planet" and wildlife week is observed from 2-8th October. The theme emphasizes that our planet is equally shared by all living being. WAD was started in Florence, Italy in 1931 at a convention of ecologists and animal life in all forms is honoured and celebrated on this day.

Animals both large and small are a critical component and vital part of our environment. Animals, including birds, fish, insects and pollinators, are important to support the web of activity in a functioning ecosystem. The cycle of predating and becoming the prey is what keeps the ecosystem in order. Carnivores, prey on herbivores and herbivores live on grass and plants, such is the food chain.

When these animals die, their bodies decompose into the soil and provide nutrients for the plants. In this way, the animals keep the cycle stable. When this equilibrium is disturbed, things begin to spiral downwards. If the predators are killed, the number of herbivores will increase. This will decrease the amount of plant life and grass in that region, and naturally, the herbivores will come out of their habitat. Here counts the importance of niche. Bees collect nectar from flowers and thus pollination takes place with production of honey.

One of the most common uses of an animal is keeping them as pets such as dogs and cats. According to health.harvard.edu, having a dog as a companion can reduce cholesterol and triglyceride levels and lower the stress level on individuals. There is also evidence that keeping pets can significantly help children and the elderly with

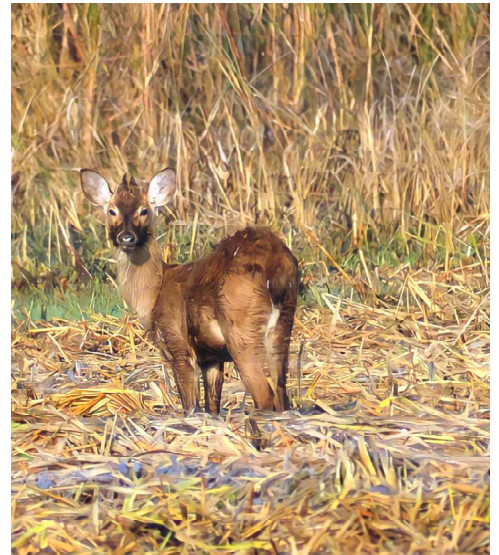
anxiety and mental health problems.

Further, the man-animal interaction has several positive effects on the health of both. Based on a study conducted by several researchers, people with pets have low heart rate and blood pressure levels compared to those having no pets. In this study, two groups of people, having pets and non-pet owners, were subjected to stressful situations. Then their cardiovascular reactivity was observed. And the results show that having a pet can significantly reduce the chances of cardiovascular diseases and helps in faster recovery. According to the Mayo clinic, animal-assisted therapy can help patients ease the pain and quick recovery in dental procedures, cancer treatment, cardiovascular diseases, dementia, post-traumatic stress disorder, and anxiety.

In the elderly, having a pet provides emotional and social support too. A study reveals that pet owners have better physical and psychological well-being than people with no pets. They get compassion from the pets at old age and become better at doing their regular activities such as bending, kneeling, climbing stairs, walking, dressing up, preparing food, and taking medicines. And several studies show that having pets can help kids develop empathy and emotions plus increase interaction with others. Therefore, animals are essential in human life for both physical and mental well-being.

Animals like mice and rats are used for genetics and genetically modified experiments. When a new medicine is developed, animals like chicken and fruit flies are used to test them. They are used again and again until the medicine is deemed safe for human use. Snakes venom is used to treat patients with cardiovascular, pulmonary and many diseases related to blood. The drug for treating cancer comes from a particular marine animal called *Ecteinascidia turbinata*. A deadly toxin produced by the snail *Conus geographus* is used for pain relief.

Animals are also the source of entertainment too. Safaris are yet another example where animals live in harmony and peace and at the same time provide income for owners. In



Rwanda, one Gorilla earn Rs. 3.98 crore revenue per year from tourism. Some animals are used explicitly for sports and leisure. Polo, equestrian and horse racing are a few sports where horses are our best companions.

Celebration of world animal day unites the animals welfare movement, mobilising it into a global force to make the world a better place for all animals. Animals are sentient being just like human and have right to live, be protected from cruelty under effective animal protection act.

Half the world's mammals are declining in population and more than a third are probably threatened with extinction, according to an update of the Red List, an inventory of biodiversity issued by the IUCN. The most beautiful gift that God has given to us is the animals; they embellish the natural beauty by their unique way of existence.

Now the question is, how can you contribute in helping the animals? So the answer is very simple. The most easy ways to help the animals is to become vegetarian, which will surely help in saving the ani-

mals and in enhancing your health. The other way is to stop purchasing the things that are prepared from the animals such as the fur and leather. Do not purchase the personal and the household products which are tested on the animals. Get yourself connected in or donate to the animal welfare organizations and local animal rights.

Animals play such a critical role in our lives; without them, we'll no longer be able to have this Earth. Human beings came into existence just recently as per the anthropological timeline. Animals existed for millions of years before that. Our state has also a wide variety of mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and fishes as well. No wonder, it is one of the wealthiest states in terms of flora and fauna species. But, there is no meaning if we do not love and protect them. Therefore, in this World Animal day, let's pledge not to harm and cruel the animals and before that, think twice for an earth without the animals.

(The author is an Environmentalist: email-nmunal@yahoo.in)

RAVANA effigy is burnt every year, but RAVANA is still Alive Let's Burn The Real RAVANA Within

By: Prof. Jayadeba Sahoo

Yatra Naaryastu Pujante, Ramte Tatra Devta!

(Where Women are Worshipped, Deities Reside)

"Ya Devi sarva bhuteshu Matri rupena samstitha, Ya Devi sarva bhuteshu Shakti rupena samstitha Ya Devi sarva bhuteshu Shanti rupena samstitha, Namestasyai Namestasyai Namostasayi Namoh Namah"

Translation: "The goddess who is omnipresent as the personification of universal mother"

The goddess who is omnipresent as the embodiment of power

The goddess who is omnipresent as the symbol of peace; I bow to her, I bow to her, I bow to her."

The divine vision, the royal clothes, the weapons, the unique chariot (vaahan), the blessing hand and the other that gives indiscriminately, the face of dignity, love and law - Ma Shakti. In a country where we call devi-devtas our ancestors, the time of Navratri and Dasshera is a journey of reverence, penance, attaining of blessings, leading to the victory over evil.

Each of the nine days, we invoke the spirit of a Goddess; we sing praises of her life; we aspire



to imbibe her qualities in order to defeat Ravan - the physical manifestation of bad vices/negativities. In fact, we individually fight this battle every day. Has the festival become just a ritual or another social event or will we finally eliminate this overwhelming enemy? The powerful characteristics of the female entity have been known for ages - it would be false for all of us to learn from our Devis. Where else in the world have feminine virtues been personified and revered as **Ma Lakshmi, Ma Durgaji, Ma Kali, Ma Gayatri, Ma Umaji, Ma Saraswati**, with such grandeur?

In most families, preparations for the festival involve creating the sacred space for the idol, laying seeds of wheat etc. on banana leaves, above which a pot is placed from where droplets of water constantly fall. Garlands of flowers are placed in this pot. A diya or light is constantly lit. Prayers and fasting take place for the nine-day period and culminates with a havan. The tenth day is spent in creating and burning the effigy of Ravan. Looking at the spiritual meaning, these rituals speak volumes on how one's life becomes divine.

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All Journalists welcome to cover PM Modi's visit, clarifies Himachal DGP after 'Character Certificate' row

Agency
Shimla, Oct 4:

All journalists are welcome to cover Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Himachal Pradesh on October 5, state police chief Sanjay Kundu said on Tuesday after a notification seeking character certificates from mediapersons triggered uproar.

"All journalists are most welcome to cover Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to Himachal Pradesh tomorrow 5th October, 2022. Himachal Pradesh Police will facilitate their coverage. Any inconvenience is regretted," DGP Kundu tweeted from his personal handle.

The official notification that triggered the row was issued on September 29, asking the District Public Relations Officer (DPRO) to supply a list of all press correspondents, photographers, videographers, and teams of Doordarshan and AIR along with "a certificate of their character verification".

"The certificate of character verification may be supplied to the office of Deputy Superintendent of Police, CID, Bilaspur by October 1, 2022 positively. Their access within



the rally or meeting will be decided by this office," the notification said.

Following the controversy, while the DGP tweeted to say all journalists are welcome to cover the PM's visit, the deputy commissioner's office in Kullu blamed the faux pas on "miscommunication".

The opposition Congress, meanwhile, said the ruling BJP must answer why the order was withdrawn only after objections from the media fraternity. "Why was the order issued in the first

place? The concerned authorities and the ruling party need to answer," said Congress spokesperson Naresh Chauhan.

PM Modi will on Wednesday visit Himachal Pradesh, which goes to polls sometime next month, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of projects worth over Rs 3,650 crore.

During his day-long visit, Modi will first inaugurate AIIMS Bilaspur, after which he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple

development projects and also address a public function. The PM will also participate in Kullu Dussehra celebrations.

Modi will also lay the foundation stone of around 31 km long project for four laning of the national highway from Pinjore to Nalagarh on NH-105, worth over Rs 1,690 crore.

The Prime Minister will then lay the foundation stone of the medical device park at Nalagarh, which will be built at a cost of about Rs 350 crore, an official statement said.

India's records 1,968 new Covid-19 cases, lowest in 133 days

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 4:

India logged 1,968 new coronavirus infections, the lowest in 133 days, raising the tally to 4,45,99,466, while the active cases declined to 34,598, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday. The death toll climbed to 5,28,716 with 15 more fatalities, which included eight deaths reconciled by Kerala, data updated by the ministry at 8 am stated. A total of 1,675 cases were recorded in a span of 24 hours on May 23.

The active cases comprise 0.08 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.74 per cent, the

health ministry said.

A decline of 1,528 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 case count in a span of 24 hours, it said.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.94 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.29 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease surged to 4,40,36,152. The case fatality rate was 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 218.80 crore doses of coronavirus vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 inoculation drive.

India's COVID-19 tally

crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19, 2020.

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

The seven fatalities reported in the past 24 hours included two from Odisha and one each from Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka and West Bengal.

200 stations in India to get 'world-class facilities', says Railway minister

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 4:

A total of 200 railway stations in India will get a facelift with modern amenities, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said.

Vaishnaw was speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony for a coach maintenance factory at the Aurangabad railway station in central Maharashtra.

"Tendering process for 47 railway stations is completed while physical work has started at 32 stations," he said.

"The government has prepared a master plan to revamp 200 railway stations. Overhead spaces will be created on the stations which will have world-class facilities including waiting lounges and food courts, besides amusement facilities for children," the minister said.

Vaishnaw further said railway stations will act as the

"platform" for the sale of regional products.

Speaking on the contribution of the Marathwada region in Maharashtra in the making of Vande Bharat trains, the minister said, "The country will have 400 'Vande Bharat' trains in future and 100 of these trains will be manufactured in the coach factory at Latur in Marathwada. The necessary changes in the factory are already being made."

Currently, three Vande Bharat trains are operational and the latest one, between Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar, was launched last week.

The first coaches of the upgraded version of Vande Bharat will roll out from Marathwada Rail Coach Factory at Latur in 13 to 14 months, he said.

"Newly launched Vande Bharat trains have generated interest outside India too and therefore coaches required

for them will be manufactured at the Marathwada factory. All necessary preparations have been completed. As many as 1,600 coaches will be manufactured at the factory," Vaishnaw said.

The rail coach factory in Latur will provide a fillip to the development of Marathwada and due to it, other related projects will also be set up and employment will be generated on a large scale, the minister said.

He said all parts of the country are now being connected either by highways or railways under the PM Gati Shakti scheme, and parts of Marathwada will also be linked.

The coach maintenance facility in Aurangabad has the capacity of 18 coaches, but Maharashtra Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, Ambadas Danve, demanded that this capacity be expanded to cater to 24 coaches.

Appropriate measures put in place to deal with Chinese activities along LAC: IAF chief

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 4:

Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari on Tuesday said the Indian Air Force has taken appropriate "non-escalatory" measures to deal with Chinese activities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

Addressing a press conference ahead of the Air Force Day on October 8, he also said that recent developments at the global stage show the need for

a strong military to ward off any challenge.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the IAF has been preparing for all kinds of security challenges including "worst-case scenario" and asserted that it is fully ready to face any situation.

"We continue to be operationally deployed and ever vigilant," he said, adding the IAF continues to monitor all Chinese activities along the LAC.

When asked about recent

incidents of Chinese fighter jets flying close to the LAC, he said appropriate non-escalatory measures have been taken and a message was sent to the neighbouring country.

Our overall preparation is a continuous process irrespective of Chinese belligerence, he said.

To a question, he said the benchmark for the situation to return to normal in eastern Ladakh would be to return to status quo ante and completion of disengagement in all

friction points.

Referring to the ambitious theatreisation plan, the Air Chief Marshal said the IAF understands imperatives of joint planning and execution with sister forces for future wars.

We are not opposed to tri-services integration; our reservations are relating to only certain structures, he said.

The chief of Air Staff also said that the IAF is in sync with the government on self-reliance in defence production.

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RAVANA effigy is burnt every year, but RAVANA.....

When we allow the waters of spiritual knowledge to fall from the mud pot (representing our intellect) on our thoughts (seeds placed on the mud representing the physical body), our thinking becomes clear, positive and powerful. The seeds germinate meaning our efforts bear fruit. The flowers symbolise the emergence of divine virtues through this process. Upvaas (or fasting) is the combination of 'up' (to be near) and 'vaas' (place), meaning to be close to God. The diya represents lighting the inner light or awareness of being a soul or

atma. This consciousness makes us concentrate on the Almighty Power, from whom we absorb Divine Powers, symbolized by the weapons in the hands of the Deities. The spiritual power gained during intense prayers and meditation is incomparable to any power seen in today's world. The power bestowed gives us the will to eliminate the vices and bad qualities; just as objects are placed in the fire during a havan, we too surrender our weaknesses.

The Devis' characteristics are extraordinary - they are

shown as young kumaris yet are called 'Mother' (respect gained through purity), they are shown with 4 or 8 arms (possession of divine powers), each arm holds an alankaar (signifying weapons of knowledge wielded at negative vices), a devil is shown at their feet (victory over evil tendencies) and many more. In the Ramayana, we know how Ravana and his ten heads (5 vices each of man and woman) could not be defeated individually - each time Lord Ram killed one head, another sprung up again. Ravana only died when he was shot in

the navel. Taking a spiritual perspective, we cannot overcome our vices by removing them individually; we need to find the source. The parent of all the vices is body-consciousness - forgetting our true form of a soul and true nature of peace, love, knowledge, happiness allows Ravana to harm us. True knowledge and Raja Yoga helps us hit the target.

We often fail to ask how these Shaktis achieved such status - the shastras / scriptures speak of these Goddesses as being Shiv Shaktis - or the

powers of God Shiva. They were created by the Supreme Soul in His own image. Charity begins at home. If I want to change the world, I need to change myself first. Let's pledge on this Dussehra, to forge all relationships - Supreme Communion (Raja Yoga) with Supreme Being 'God' - Incorporate Point of a conscient Eternal Light, imbibe 8 - Spiritual Powers (Symbolically represented as 8 weapons in 8 hands of DURGA) viz. power to withdraw, power to pack up, power to tolerate, power to ac-

commodate, power of discrimination, power to judge, power to face, power to co-operate and burn the vicious - real Ravana within from our mind and intellect completely by the fire of RAJAYOGA Meditation and thus, become entitled to our God Fatherly birthright of Golden Age for 21 births. When we learn the method of tapping this Supreme energy, we can truly be children of the Goddesses. Only then will we celebrate Dassehra permanently. Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University has been engaged in

this task for last 83 years since its inception in 1936-37.

As You Adorn The Holy Goddesses This Navratri,

May You Beautify Yourself Too With Their Inheritance!

Happy greetings on the auspicious festival of "Dussehra-Vijaya Dashmi-Festival of the victory of Good Over evil".

!!!!!! Om Shanti !!!!!

(The author is a Faculty, Brahma Kumaris, RERF; Professor & Ex-Dean, HoD, Faculty of Education, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh)

Is teaching a noble.....

Glorifying the profession
Every year, when the teaching community celebrates Teachers' Day, we come across social media posts that glorify the profession and make teachers feel proud of their vocation. Managements of educational institutions tell teachers that theirs is the noblest profession in the world and exhort them to behave in a "noble manner". Only critical teachers know what manage-

ments imply, when they utter the word 'noble'. For them, noble teachers are those who are active in teaching but passive in thinking critically. To be "noble" is to have or demonstrate fine personal qualities or high moral principles. Teachers who consider themselves as belonging to a noble profession should have and show many fine qualities and high moral principles.

For me, a noble teacher is

one who is broad- and open-minded and fair, and ethical. Such a person is liberal in many ways. Religion, caste, race, and so on, are not barriers, as they embrace inclusivity. Today, unfortunately, some teachers are religious and caste fanatics and openly abuse people belonging to other faiths and castes. Recently, a highly qualified academic, working in a reputed institution, was in the news for hurling abuses at

Dalit students during an online class, and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes has taken up the case. In a country where teachers are expected to be anti-caste crusaders, being caste-minded is definitely an ignoble characteristic.

Being open-minded

An open-minded teacher is unprejudiced and ready to accept new ideas. Such teachers have an "I am ok - you are ok"

attitude and are ready to learn from others. On the contrary, others think that they are the source of knowledge and everyone should be passive listeners and nobody should question them. These teachers, with an "I am ok-you are not ok" attitude, are so prejudiced that they think that certain students cannot be academically successful and label them, causing The act of labelling by teachers causes great

damage to the psyche of many students. Being prejudiced is another ignoble characteristic.

A fair teacher looks at things objectively, treats everyone equally, makes students feel valued in the classroom and wins their trust. There have been many instances of teachers favouring some students and treating others unfairly. Showing partiality or showering favouritism is another ignoble

characteristic.

An ethical teacher is a real educator with characteristics such as intellectual honesty and courage. Unfortunately, today, it is rare to find teachers who can demonstrate intellectual courage. Teachers have become silent spectators of injustice that their fellow teachers and students experience. Being silent or neutral in unjust situations is also an ignoble characteristic.

President Murmu launches 'herSTART', start-up Platform of Gujarat University for Women

Agency
Ahmadabad, Oct 4:

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday launched a start-up platform for women entrepreneurs created by Gujarat University. The president is on a two-day visit to Gujarat, her first after becoming the President.

On the second day of her two-day, the president inaugurated 'Her Start' an initiative of the varsity for women entrepreneurs.

The President noted that there are more than 40 start-ups working in the campus of Gujarat University. And more than 125 women-led start-ups are being actively supported by this university. Also around 15,000 women entrepreneurs are associated online or offline with this initiative. She said that she was happy to inaugurate a start-up platform dedicated to women entrepreneurs in such a start-up friendly university. She expressed confidence that this platform will not only boost innovation and start-up efforts of women entrepreneurs but also prove to be an effective platform in connecting women entrepreneurs with



various government and private enterprises.

She also laid the foundation stones for various projects related to education and tribal development at a function at Gujarat University.

The President said that she was also happy to inaugurate projects like Sainik School, Girls Literacy Residential School and Eklayva Model Residential School related to education, especially girls and tribal education in Gujarat. Because the foundation stone for further strengthening India's position in science, research

and innovation will be built through school education.

On Monday she inaugurated or laid foundation stones for projects worth Rs 1,330 crore at a function in Gandhinagar. She also offered a floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Sabarmati Ashram.

The President noted that Gujarat has also made significant progress in the field of higher education. While the number of colleges in the state was 775 in 2001-02, in 2020-21 this number increased to more than 3,100. India's first education quality and monitoring

cell, 'Garima Cell' has been established in this state for evaluation of higher education. She said that with the effective implementation of 'Van Bandhu-Kalyan Yojana', there has been a significant increase in the literacy rate in the tribal society. This scheme has also improved the school dropout rate among tribal students.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, father of India's space program Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, former chairman of ISRO, Dr. K. Kasturirangan. And Union Home Minister Amit Shah are alumni of this university.

Assam Rifles celebrates Gandhi Jayanti with Cleanliness Drive

IT News
Imphal, Oct 4:

Tengnoupal Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations at Village Khudengthabi along with a Cleanliness Drive on 02 Oct 2022.

To Commemorate the Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a function was organised by Assam Rifles at Pre-Primary School in Village Khudengthabi on 04 Oct 2022. More than 40 children along with School Staff and Village Authorities were in attendance.

During the function, Life of

Mahatma Gandhi and Gandhian Principles were emphasized and refreshments were offered to the children.

In order to encourage the local populace to keep the environment clean and litter free, a Cleanliness drive was also organised to promote the Swatch Bharat Abhiyan at Khudengthabi.

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Minister Th. Biswajit distributes...

The Awareness on Cluster Development Programme (CDP) was held at Khongman Zone-4 Multipurpose community hall organised by Manipur apex Handloom weavers and Handicrafts Artisans C.S. Ltd under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) in connection with the implementation of the Kshetriga Cluster

Development Programme (CDP).

The programme, which was presided over by AWAS president A. Ronika, was also attended by Khongman GP Pradhan N. Nungshirei, Thongju Part-I GP pradhan Th. Lata, Ucheekon Nongchup GP pradhan K. Munindro, Ucheekon Nongpok GP Pradhan N. Jadumani, Basikhong GP Pradhan N.

Bimolata, Thongju Part-2 GP Pradhan Nameirakpam Kanon Chanu, Top Dusra GP Pradhan Mayanglabam Surlaba, Weavers' Service Centre (WSC) Imphal deputy director and HoO Hara Kanta Baro, District Handlooms and Textiles, Imphal East project manager Th. Ibemcha Devi and National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC) officer in charge Y. Shantikumar attended.

BJP may again sweep Gujarat...

But the AAP supporters aren't giving up hope. They are harking to an "IB report", which allegedly gives the BJP fewer seats than the Punjab-implant and intruder from Delhi, insisting that an "intelligence report" has to be, by definition and reputation, more reliable than a poll based on piecemeal data in small sample sizes.

The majority of the common Gujaratis beg to differ. They are in favour of continuing with the BJP government with Bhupendra Patel in the Chief Minister's chair, underlining the fact that AAP does not have a matching "Chief Ministerial face" to flaunt and counter the BJP with, unless Arvind Kejriwal proclaims himself the CM face of AAP in Gujarat.

In the months since Punjab fell to the AAP, Kejriwal has been a fixture in Gandhinagar

and Ahmedabad with Surat thrown in for good measure. Currently, word of mouth and "face-recognition" are running the Kejriwal Gujarat campaign. Auto-rickshaws carry his "face" to all nooks and corners. And the manner in which he's been roiling state BJP politicians ensures AAP and Kejriwal remain top discussion-topics in public transport, and in public squares.

Kejriwal has the opportunity of a lifetime to take advantage of the political chess-pieces falling in place of their own and to his advantage. Gujarat is Modi's home state and a defeat in Gujarat for the Prime Minister would leave Modi on wobbly knees. A defeat in Gujarat will render Modi kind of lame-duck, and morally-incapacitated. Modi's standing within the BJP itself will suffer

a crippling setback.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has given in and that is advantage-Kejriwal. Unlike in 2017, the Gandhiscion this time isn't even trying. He has left Gujarat for the likes of Arvind Kejriwal. The ABP News-CVoter poll says the Congress vote-share in Gujarat has fallen, and so also that of the BJP. But AAP vote-share is rising.

The poll says because of the "strong AAP challenge", vote shares of the BJP, and the Congress will drop to below their 2017 levels, while AAP's vote share will rise to as much as 17.4 percent. One of the questions asked of the sample was "Who is your choice for Chief Minister's post?" "Who is your choice for PM post if the BJP loses Gujarat?" should also have been asked, even if just for 'GK'. (IPASERVICE)

'Never expected support from big leaders...': Congress prez poll candidate Shashi Tharoor

Agency
Kerala, Oct 4:

Congress presidential poll candidate Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday noted that he doesn't expect support from 'big leaders' in the party in the upcoming internal election. The Thiruvananthapuram MP, however, did reiterate that he needs 'everyone's support' for the

same. Tharoor is currently in Kerala for his poll campaigning.

"I was not expecting any support from the big leaders of the party and I am not expecting that now either. In fact, I met party workers at Nagpur, Wardha and then Hyderabad. They are the ones asking me to contest and not back away from it," Tharoor told reporters.

"I assured them I will not

back away. I will not betray those who have supported me till now. Their confidence in me is what gives me the strength to move forward," he added.

Shashi Tharoor's statement comes in the backdrop of Kerala Congress chief K Sudhakaran publicly declaring his support for the other contender and senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge for the post of party chief.

Responding to questions about whether Sudhakaran's public support for Kharge was targeted at discouraging others from supporting him, Tharoor said, "Maybe. But I am not saying that. I do not need to decipher what is going on in people's minds. I will say one thing, whatever one says secretly or publicly, the ballot is secret."

Sports

Assam Don Bosco football tournament

IT News
Imphal, Oct 4:

Assam Don Bosco university and the Genesis Max foundation is organising the 1st edition of the North East Pride Football Cup in two phases across the North East India

Region.

In Manipur the tournament will be conducted at Imphal - Eastern ground Wangkhei on October 7 and 8, Churchandpur - Lamka Ground on October 14 and 15, and at Kangpokpi the tournament will be held at

Kuki Academy football ground on October 21 and 22 October.

The North East Pride Cup is a 5-a-side amateur tournament for players under the categories of Under-14, Under-16 and Under-19 in the 7 North Eastern States of India.

The tournament is organised to mark and celebrate the centenary year of Don Bosco in India.

The winning team for each tournament (per zone) will get a chance to come for Finale in Guwahati city and fight for the North East Pride Cup.

Champions League:

FC Barcelona, Atletico Madrid to play vital matches in Group Stage

Agency
Madrid, Oct 4:

Spanish giants FC Barcelona and Atletico Madrid have vital Champions League matches away from home on Tuesday night.

Barcelona visit Inter Milan and need to avoid defeat following their 2-1 loss away to Bayern Munich in their previous group game.

That defeat means another loss in Milan would suddenly leave Xavi Hernandez's side with a lot of work to do to reach the last 16 of the competition, and Barca's delicate financial situation means they cannot

afford to miss out on the knockout stages.

Xavi still has a long list of injuries to contend with, as Ronald Araujo, Hector Bellerin and Memphis Depay all miss out again, but Frenkie de Jong may be able to play, while Sergi Roberto and Eric Garcia are also likely to come into the side. Gavi will also play after suffering a minor injury scare in Saturday's 1-0 win in Mallorca, which took them to the top of LaLiga.

That game saw Alexandre Balde cover at right back, with Jordi Alba on the left and Sergi Roberto's recovery should allow Balde to move

back to the left (although that will leave many wondering why Barca signed Marcos Alonso from Chelsea).

Inter are in a difficult moment domestically after suffering consecutive defeats to Udinese and Roma.

Atletico Madrid can't afford any slip-ups either as they travel to face Group B leader Bruges, reports Xinhua.

The Belgian side has been the surprise package in an even-looking group, containing Porto and Bayern Leverkusen, with two wins from two games, while Atletico need to recover after a tame 2-0 defeat to Bayern

Leverkusen last time out.

Diego Simeone's men played well at the weekend as they secured a comfortable 2-0 win away to Sevilla and Simeone recovers Mario Hermoso and Thomas Lemar, who missed out on Saturday.

The coach will be worried by a dip in form from Joao Felix, but Alvaro Morata is in excellent form, while Antoine Griezmann will make his by now traditional 30-minute cameo in the second half.

Bruges' main threat will be Barcelona loanee Ferran Jutga, who has netted five goals in just six appearances with the club.

India grouped with Pakistan & England as ICC announce groups & fixtures for 2023 Women's T20 World Cup

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 4:

Harmanpreet Kaur and co. will face England as well as Pakistan in the group stage of the 2023 Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa as the International Cricket Council

announced the groups and fixtures for the world tournament on Monday. Also in Group 2 along with the three are West Indies and Ireland.

Group 1 on the other hand consists of hosts South Africa, defending champions Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh with South Africa and Sri Lanka locking horns in the opener on February 10 in Cape Town.

The group stage fixtures will continue till February 21 while the two semi-finals will be played on February 23 and 25, both followed by a reserve day. The final will be played in Cape Town on February 27.

The 10-team tournament in South Africa will be eighth edition of the competition.

Australia have been the most successful team with five titles while England and West Indies have one title each.

Schedule
10 February: South Africa v Sri Lanka, Cape Town
11 February: West Indies v England, Paarl
11 February: Australia v New Zealand, Paarl
12 February: India v Pakistan, Cape Town
12 February: Bangladesh v Sri Lanka, Cape Town
13 February: Ireland v England, Paarl
13 February: South Africa v New Zealand, Paarl
14 February: Australia v Bangladesh, Gqeberha
15 February: West Indies v India, Cape Town
15 February: Pakistan v Ireland, Cape Town
16 February: Sri Lanka v Australia, Gqeberha

17 February: New Zealand v Bangladesh, Cape Town
17 February: West Indies v Ireland, Cape Town
18 February: England v India, Gqeberha
18 February: South Africa v Australia, Gqeberha
19 February: Pakistan v West Indies, Paarl
19 February: New Zealand v Sri Lanka, Paarl
20 February: Ireland v India, Gqeberha
21 February: England v Pakistan, Cape Town
21 February: South Africa v Bangladesh, Cape Town
23 February: SEMI-FINAL 1, Cape Town
24 February: RESERVE DAY, Cape Town
24 February: SEMI-FINAL 2, Cape Town
25 February: RESERVE DAY, Cape Town
26 February: FINAL, Cape Town
27 February: RESERVE DAY, Cape Town