

## MSPDCL failed to comply with the MIC decision; documents in connection with the Saubhagya scheme still not provided

### A complaint was filed against the Managing Director of MSPDCL for playing delay tactics in providing information

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 16:

The Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (MSPDCL) is playing delay tactics in providing information related to the Saubhagya Scheme. The Manipur Information Commission had passed an order on September 1, 2022 to provide the documents sought on or before September 10, 2022.

As per the Managing Director of MSPDCL's letter No. 4/7/2022/MSPDCL-TI/Legal dated September 9, 2022, which the Imphal Times team received on September 12, it is informed to collect the documents by depositing a photocopy fee during office hours. As per MD's letter, our team went to the Office of the MSPDCL on Monday, September 12 to deposit and collect the documents. When we reached the office, we were

informed by a concerned staff of the MSPDCL that the photocopying of the documents was not finished. So, we were then informed to come on September 14 to collect the documents.

As informed, our team again went to the MSPDCL office on September 14 to collect the documents on September 12, but the staff who informed us to come on September 14 was not available in the office, we asked other employees in the office about him, but they had no information. After talking with one employee, he informed our team that the concerned employee had taken leave.

Later on, the MD of MSPDCL, through its staff, informed our team to give another two or three days to provide the documents. If the photocopy of the documents was not finished, then why the Managing Director informed

to collect the documents during office hours?

This act of the Managing Director is nothing but a mockery of the RTI Act. Why is MSPDCL playing delay tactics time and again while providing documents? If nothing is wrong with implementing the said scheme, then why is MSPDCL afraid to provide the documents?

This is a huge dishonour to the RTI Act and the Manipur Information Commission should take serious action against the Managing Director of MSPDCL.

Earlier, the Power Minister also assured that all the documents would be given after the Manipur Information Commission's decision. The MSPDCL has dishonoured the assurance given by the Power Minister.

The Power Minister assuring the information would be given after the MIC decision

in a press conference called by himself and his department not providing information till the end of the stipulated time given by the MIC means the authorities of MSPDCL didn't respect the assurance given by the concerned power minister. This raises the question of whether MSPDCL is above the Power Minister.

As MSPDCL is playing delay tactics, our team has filed a complaint against MSPDCL with the Manipur Information Commission to schedule an emergency hearing and to order the Managing Director of MSPDCL to be present at all the upcoming hearings and to recommend disciplinary proceedings and a penalty under the provisions of the RTI Act.

Team Imphal Times will never remain silent till the information sought is provided by the MSPDCL.

## CM announces Rs. 500 monthly allowances for PwD with disability of 60 to 80 percent



IT News  
Imphal, Sept 18:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh announced a Rs. 500 monthly allowance for Persons with Disability having a disability of 60 to 80 percent starting from next month in celebration of the Prime Minister's 72nd birthday, yesterday.

The "Chief Minister's Sotharabasingi Tengbang" scheme launched in December 2017 already provides Rs. 1,500 per month to Persons with disability having a disability of 80% or more.

Making the announcement as the Chief Guest of the inau-

gural function of a "Free distribution camp of aids and assistive devices to Divyangjan" under the ADIP Scheme, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, the Chief Minister said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes in serving and helping the poor and downtrodden.

In line with the Prime Minister's vision of serving the poor and downtrodden, from next month a Rs. 500 monthly pension will be provided to Persons with Disability having disability of 60-80 percent after proper medical verification and identification

by Social Welfare, he said.

Elaborating that the Prime Minister believes in an equal society, the Chief Minister explained Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas and said we require collective efforts for inclusive growth by creating trust, confidence amongst us all without stopping our struggle.

The State under the present government has made much progress during the last five or so years, he said adding that the government is working with dedication, hardwork, sincerity, transparency, devotion and sacrifice.

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## World Bamboo Day observed; Saplings planted at Sangaitheh

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 18:

World Bamboo Day 2022 jointly observed by the Bamboo Development Promotion Organisation (BADPO) and the Bamboo Forum of India (BFI) at GM Hall, Imphal today. The function was attended by RD,PR Minister Y. Khemchand, Government of Manipur, Md Anwar Hussain, Chairman, Manipur State Minorities Commission; L. Lokeshwar, Ex-Mayor IMC, and Gokumar Neperam, Team Leader, State Mission Management Unit, Manipur as Chief guest, President, and guest of honour respectively.

Minister Yumnam Khemchand expressed the environmental benefits of using bamboo and that 50 % of the population uses bamboo for their livelihood. The Minister further expressed that we also need to protect bamboo species found in Manipur.



We also require the value of bamboo because it can be produced into a variety of products. The bamboo, which is found in our state, Manipur, can be produced for a better economy. The North Eastern states contribute 54 percent of India's bamboo production.

As part of the celebration, a state-level painting competition with the theme "Bamboo for the Environment, Energy,

and Employment' will be held in two categories at Singamei community hall.

The BeeNet Manipur (Biodiversity, Ecology and Environment) Network Manipur planted saplings of trees and bamboos at the Nupulan and Khongiom Lan Memorial at Sangaitheh in connection with the observance of World Bamboo Day, 2022.

The team conducted tree plantation, discussed the ob-

jective of this year's World Bamboo Day topic "To raise awareness on conservation of bamboo forests and promotion of bamboo industry" and also discussed on the environmental economy perspectives in respects of Manipur while endorsing into plantation of sapling. Manipur as IUCN listed zone as Indo-Burma hotspot region is hilly state where many economic plants and trees are abundantly grown and many of them are lying untapped and in unorganised status due to lack of political commitment, policy-programs and committed person.

The participants further reaffirmed to continue to fulfil the motto of the BeeNet Manipur "Shanghallasi Manipur / Towards greener Manipur" by planting trees in feasible places of the state and also to take up initiatives for promotion of environmental economy in the state.

## We are attracting investors today, this is sign of a positive change, CM Biren highlights

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 18:

Today, we are attracting so many investors and this is a sign of positive change and development, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said today after distributing certificates for Skill Development Training Programme (upskilling) to State Returnees due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chief Minister highlighted that the Manipur Start-up was launched with a budget of just Rs. 30 crore, which has been increased to Rs. 100 crore, and further encouraged those who received their skill development completion certificates to apply under the Start-Up scheme.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the Certificate distribution

function which was attended by government officials, trainees, trainers, among others, the Chief Minister said Skill Development training programme for State Returnees during the COVID-19 pandemic was included in the State government's 100 Action Points for First 100 Days.

The function was held at KB Philanthropy-5, Khabam Lamkhai, Mantripukhuri.

Providing assistance, employment to some of those who returned to the State during the pandemic was a target of the government, he added.

Today we are conducting these skill development training in various fields including Front Office Associate, Counter Sales Executive, Home delivery boys, business builders, nail techni-

cians, barbers, tourists guide etc, he said.

Manipur is becoming a tourist hub, the Chief Minister said, further stressing that the number of tourist footfall including foreigners has increased manifold in the last few years. He said considering the State's natural scenic beauty, climate, food culture, hospitality of the people, etc, we have the potential to be a tourist hub.

He said the State is also developing various sites with historic relevance including the Ibudhou Marjing Statue at Heingang, INA Complex Moirang highest Indian national flag 165 feet height, Nongpok Thong, Imphal Nongpok Torban to attract more tourists and investors.

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## MSFDS invites screenwriters to 6-month ScreenLab

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 18:

Manipur State Film Development Society, MSFDS, announces its 6-month, intensive fiction feature film screenwriting Lab (October-March), to be mentored by acclaimed screenwriters of Film Industry. The incubation-mentorship lab is designed as a hand-on, intensive, project oriented screenwriting lab for Manipuri feature length, fiction film.

Experienced as well as aspiring fiction screenwriters in-

terested in participating in the Lab have to fulfil the preliminary online submission for selection in the limited seat, first-of-a-kind lab for screenwriters in Manipur. The preliminary submission includes one-sentence logline, synopsis (400 words), narrative outline or treatment (2500 words) and story intent & motivation (500 words).

The preliminary online submission closes on 15 October 2022 and the final pitch of incubated screenplays is scheduled to be held on 30-31 March 2023

with attractive cash awards, grants and commitment for production for the outstanding screenplays. Details of the screenlab are available at MSFDS office at Palace Gate or on MSFDS websites, namely [www.msfdsonline.org](http://www.msfdsonline.org) and [www.msfdsonline.net](http://www.msfdsonline.net). The Lab which is in a hybrid format, combines online and offline interactions and mentorship.

The takeaway of the lab are : Screenplay writing from concept to screen, area specific guidance and input, understanding the 3-act structure

story and beyond, scripting scenes, dramaturgy and narrative thread, developing characters, screenwriting techniques to guide dialogue and action, writing effective logline, synopsis and treatment and marketing screenplays.

MSFDS urges screenwriters of Manipuri fiction feature films and those aspiring to become screenwriters to avail the opportunity to fine tune story ideas to full-fledged screenplays with inputs from industry experts.

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## SUK celebrates 11th Foundation Day

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 18:

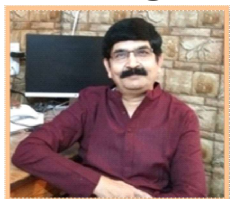
The Students' Union of Kangleipak (SUK) celebrated its 11th foundation day with president Dhanakumar Ningthouja unfurling the Union's flag at the head office at 9 a.m. and the formal function held at Meipan Banquet Hall palace compound. Kh Joykishan, MLA of Thangmeiband assembly constituency, Dhanakumar Ningthouja, President SUK, Dr Chingbam Sarat, Chairman

COHSEM, and Jeetendra Ningomba, President CCSK attended the foundation day as Chief Guest and Guest of Honor, respectively.

SUK observed a seven-day long tree plantation at different schools (private, government, and higher secondary) and also held blood donations at RIMS. As a part of the 11st foundation day, SUK organised an open debating competition on the topic " Manipur Da Drug ki Mahum Saribasi Leingakki Thourag Thousil Mapung

Phadabagini" which was held at Maharaja Chandrakirti Auditorium on September 17th. On this foundation day, prizes were also distributed, the first prize carries a sum of Rupees thirty thousand, second a sum of Rupees twenty thousand, and third Rupees ten thousand prizes, each with a certificate and memento. Consolation prizes were also given to the 4 to 10 participants, and also distributed to the students who participated in the SUK competition.

# Kudos - PM Modi releases 'India's guests' Eight Cheetahs



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

extreme extinction event and were able to restore the world's population of cheetahs.

India's successes in managing the world's largest population of wild tigers proves it has the credentials to bring cheetahs back. Project Cheetah was approved by the Supreme Court of India in January 2020 as a pilot programme to reintroduce the species to India. The concept of bringing the cheetah back was first put forth in 2009 by Indian conservationists, along with Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), a not-for-profit organisation, headquartered in Namibia, which works towards saving and rehabilitating the big cat in the wild. The reintroduction of cheetah into the wild is a step towards correcting an ecological wrong and fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mission life.

But for 75 years — the entirety of its existence as an independent nation — India has been bereft of cheetahs, the world's fastest land animal. A small population of Asiatic cheetahs now only remain in Iran with which a deal to translocate the animals fell through considering the country has barely 50 of these beasts remaining in the wild. If cheetahs no longer existed, there would be a domino effect — referred to as a trophic cascade.

The cheetah was completely wiped out from India due to excessive hunting and shrinking grasslands, its natural habitat. Saving this magnificent animal from extinction requires innovative conservation methods that address the welfare of both cheetah and human populations over large landscapes. The cheetah is one of the most ancient large cat species, with ancestors dating back over five million years to the Miocene epoch. The cheetah is also known for its speed. The cheetah is the fastest terrestrial animal on the planet, living in Africa and Asia. Cheetahs are threatened by human-wildlife conflict, illegal wildlife trade, poor sperm quality, and lack of genetic diversity, but one of their greatest challenges to survival is the loss of habitat together with loss of prey base. The shrinking of their natural habitat is due to a combination of increasing human populations and climate change impact. The major population of cheetahs, of which only about 7000 mature individuals survive in the wild and it remains only in African countries like Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Thanks to Indian government's efforts to preserve cheetahs. 7 years ago, the Wildlife Institute of India launched a Rs 260-crore cheetah reintroduction scheme. This might be the first intercontinental cheetah translocation project in history. The Ministry of Environment announced an "Action Plan for Cheetah Introduction in India" at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). India plans to introduce eight to ten cheetahs every year and in five years, they hope to have a population of 50 wild cheetahs in India. There's certainly more to do. But the good news is that humans and cheetahs can survive and thrive together if we can create the right conditions. There is no doubt that if people can be persuaded to find a little room in their hearts for these shy, fragile cats, there's a chance to prevent them from sprinting further to extinction.

## My Drama Behind Marriage



By: Joshila Takhellambam

Firstly, I would like to ask a simple question to all the readers: "What is the life of a woman?" I think that everyone might know some basic answers just by observing some basic importance. But today, I would like to throw Himalayan lights on what it is like to be in the life of a woman. It's not only because I am a woman, but it's the only thing that I was very fond of in the life of every single woman in this vast world. Many of you might question why only women but not men. It's because I never ever wanted to be on the side of the culture that I was born into, i.e. women should be compulsorily married. Or in a lighter way, unmarried women are not taken very seriously.

And also with the phrases like "NUPU DI NUPAGI KHUYA KHADA LEIGADABANI." Their independent way of life is completely abolished from the very first day that they are married, well! I am not coming out very arrogant saying that all men are the same and they all treat women heartlessly but to most of those who can be examples of my article.

In this world today, almost all the people think that "Marriage" is something people can't live without, like "a pen and a notebook, a plant on the roots." I know if my parents were not married, my existence wouldn't be a possibility. But why can't we push marriage from being compassion to a choice. The other thing that really irritates me a lot is the fact that a woman's happiness is completely dependent on the mood of their husband. Such people don't even think for a second that there are many women who want to live their life independently, not under the control of anyone, anybody till death. Just like all men, we do have dreams, huge dreams where it's beyond marriage. If marriage is becoming a hindrance to most of those women who love to achieve something huge, I think it should be given as a choice. I know, there is not law of the land stating that all women have to be married compulsorily by the constitution of India but the social stigma's waves are very strong in this regard.

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# What Moves Us: Education as the Focus

By: Amar Yumnam

Manipur right now is preoccupied with the issues of education or rather with what needs to be done as to what is happening in this most important social sector. The happenings in this sector have been a cause of both anguish and anger for the people of Manipur for quite some time. Until recently the person at the helm of affairs in governance of this sector was someone who did not understand what education is about and this was coupled by an incapability to think of what it should be like. It is in this background that Manipur now has a Minister looking after this social sector who, besides his own educational qualification, possesses the capability to apply his mind to the issues of this sector and appreciate the debates raised by the interested public. Since a significant section of the population of the State values education, it is natural that the accumulated anguish and anger would get manifested to draw the attention of the new person in the helm of affairs. It is a positive sign: Time is now that only the Educated can think about Education in a meaningful way — the knowledge economy does not have space for pretensions. As Amartya Sen puts in his *idea of Justice*: "What moves us, reasonably enough, is not the realization that the world falls short of being completely just — which few of us expect — but that there are clearly remediable injustices around us which we want to eliminate." Today's world is very different from this one narrated by Paul Trowler in the second edition (2003) of his *Education Policy*: "Before 1870 the role of the state in education was limited to the provision of grants to some church schools, some teacher training responsibility and the education of pauper children in schools associated with some workhouses. Church,

private and voluntary schools were the only important sources of education. Only the middle class and the upper class could afford an education of any quality, and this was usually limited to their male children."

While the whole spectrum from elementary schooling to higher education are now in a bad shape in Manipur, the school level is in a particularly very bad shape. The need for Education Policy has never been felt in Manipur as strongly as it is today; fortunately, we have a Minister who has right capability to apply his mind on this. Let me quote from Trowler extensively on this: "Education policy is often thought of as a thing: a statement of some sort, usually written down in a policy document. Viewed in this way, education policy could be defined as follows:

"A specification of principles and actions, related to educational issues, which are followed or which should be followed and which are designed to bring about desired goals.

"In this sense policy is a piece of paper, a statement of intentions or of practice as it is perceived by policymakers or as they would like it to be... This view of policy is a very limited one. It is better to see policy as a process, something which is dynamic rather than static.

"This dynamism comes from a number of sources:

- There is usually conflict among those who make policy, as well as those who put it into practice, about what the important issues or problems for policy are and about the desired goals.

- Interpreting policy is an active process: policy statements are not always subject to multiple interpretations depending upon the standpoints of the people doing the interpretative 'work'.

- The practice of policy on the ground is extremely complex, both that being 'described' by policy and that intended to put policy into effect. Simple policy descriptions of practice do not capture its multiplicity and complexity, and the implementation of policy in practice almost always means outcomes differ from policy makers' intentions (which were, anyway, always multiple and often contradictory)."

Stephen Ball also made similar proposition in 1994 on *Education Reform*: "Policy is both text and action, words and deeds, it is what is enacted as well as what is intended. Policies are always incomplete insofar as they relate to or map on to the 'wild profusion' of local practice."

Despite the existence of NEP 2020, Manipur still needs a policy on how to contextualise education, particularly so in the school stage. As Guttman so emphatically put in his 1987 *Democratic Education*: "A guiding principle of deliberative democracy is reciprocity among free and equal individuals: citizens and their accountable representatives owe one another justifications for the laws that collectively bind them. A democracy is deliberative to the extent that citizens and their accountable representatives offer one another morally defensible reasons for mutually binding laws in an ongoing process of mutual justification. To the extent that a democracy is not deliberative, it treats people as objects of legislation, as passive subjects to be ruled, rather than as citizens who take part in governance by accepting or rejecting the reasons they and their accountable representatives offer for the laws and policies that mutually bind them."

The prevailing issues of lack of teachers and uncertainty in the service conditions of teachers are hope-

fully already getting the attention of the governance. In the light of recent public resentment of so many representatives with educationally doubtful backgrounds returning as Public Representatives and the prevailing education crisis, what Guttman so emphatically puts is of interest: "Deliberative democracy underscores the importance of publicly supported education that develops the capacity to deliberate among all children as future free and equal citizens. The most justifiable way of making mutually binding decisions in a representative democracy—including decisions not to deliberate about some matters—is by deliberative decision making, where the decision makers are accountable to the people who are most affected by their decisions. Deliberative decision making and accountability presuppose a citizenry whose education prepares them to deliberate, and to evaluate the results of the deliberations of their representatives. A primary aim of publicly mandated schooling is therefore to cultivate the skills and virtues of deliberation."

Besides the widely known issues, we must accept that there are so many injustices characterising Manipur's education sector. First, the spread and the coverage of education still have a long way to go. Second, the spread and the coverage are in a crisis situation in the mountains in Manipur — the lingering divide in education between the mountains and the valley cannot be allowed to continue. Third, the learning crisis of Science and Mathematics in the mountain areas of Manipur should be corrected sooner than later.

In fine, for a future with justice Manipur needs an Education Policy alive to the contextual realities of Manipur, and implementation of it without compromise.

## Face Redness; How to get rid of it



By: Shahnaz Husain

Red in the face? You're not alone. Flushed cheeks and pink patches are an extremely common skin complaint—even more so in this season, and increasingly in the era of mask-wearing.

A glowing flush on the face is usually credited as the work of a dedicated hand with blush, however a distinctive reddish tinge on the central area of the face—nose, cheeks, forehead, and chin is generally caused as a result of blood rushing to the capillaries under the skin due to inflammation, irritation, allergy to skincare ingredients, heat, sun exposure, alcohol, spicy food, acne, dryness or over-exfoliation etc.

But there are other forms of redness. Some are more physiologic, for example, the redness that comes after exercise

or otherwise disrupt the delicate skin moisture barrier and pH balance.

Fortunately, there are several efficient natural remedies you can use at home to reduce facial redness. On your road to recovery, these remedies work well in addition to your skincare regimen. Try these natural ways to reduce facial redness.

### Coconut Oil

Coconut oil is an extremely well-liked natural skincare product. It

possesses anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and hydrating qualities—the perfect properties for your skin. Take about a teaspoon of coconut oil and rub it between your palms to warm it up and get it to an easier consistency for your skin to absorb. Then apply it to your face, paying special attention to the areas of your skin. Coconut oil is safe to use in the area around your eyes. Use cold-pressed, virgin coconut oil to ensure there are fewer chemicals and additives in your product. This is the kind of coconut oil that most clinical trials use when they study its properties.

### Green Tea

Green tea has anti-inflammatory properties that reduce skin irritation, skin redness and swelling.

If you want to apply green tea topically, you can use a store-bought product or make your own. To make your own, all you need is some loose-leaf green tea and water. Just steep the tea in hot water for a few minutes, then strain it and allow it to cool. You can then apply the tea to your skin with a cotton ball.

Prepare a cup of green tea for yourself. Put it in the refrigerator to finish cooling for about 45 minutes. After that, rub the affected regions with a piece of cloth that has been soaked in the tea. Use this home treatment frequently for better effects.

### Aloe Vera

Aloe vera is often considered one of the best cures for skin problems due to its healing properties. Skincare products made with this succulent plant can soothe the skin, stimulate its repair, and even reduce the pain.

It is a commonly found ingredient in skin and hair care products. These aloe vera products are great options to get rid of redness on the face, using them alongside your



skin rejuvenation treatments. You may apply the gel liberally during flare-ups for relief from redness and burning.

Aloe vera gel takes a few minutes to dry. Let your skin absorb it completely. You can reapply the aloe vera gel twice per day.

Aloe Vera topical products can be found in the form of gel, cream, lotion, and ointment, and it's up to you to choose the consistency that suits your skin type the best. For instance, a gel is a better option for people with oily skin, while creams and ointments are better suited to those with drier skin types.

### Honey

Honey helps in moisturizing the skin since it is a rich source of humectants. Adding moisture can help manage symptoms of rosacea since skin dryness is believed to make the condition worse.

Try soothing skin with a honey mask. First, rinse your skin with warm water, then apply honey liberally to red skin and leave it on for about 30 minutes before rinsing off. However, don't use honey if your red skin is due to a sunburn.

One of the best methods to get free of face redness on the nose, face, and skin is raw honey. Your face should be covered in a modest amount of honey before drying. Before rinsing it off with lukewarm water, wait for 30 minutes.

### Oatmeal

In addition to being a delectable breakfast option, oatmeal has long been used as a natural treatment for facial redness. Oatmeal is a commonly found ingredient in face masks and other skincare products. Limiting water loss and bolstering the skin lessens the effects of Rosacea.

Mix cooked and then ground oatmeal with rose water, and apply on the face for immediately soothed skin.

Take one bowl of organic oatmeal. Add the water to your bowl of oatmeal and mix together until you have a thick paste. Apply the paste gently to the affected areas. Allow it to dry. Remove gently and apply moisturiser to your skin.

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

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# India logs 5,664 fresh Covid cases in 24 hrs, active infections surge to 47,922

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 18:

India reported 5,664 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, according to an update by the Union health ministry on Sunday. As a result, active cases currently stand at 47,922.

The active caseload comprise 0.11 per cent of the total infections. An increase of over 1,000 cases was recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. Yesterday, the country had 46,848 active cases, an increase of 100 cases from Friday.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.96% while the weekly positivity rate was at 1.79%.

The country conducted 2,89,228 Covid tests in the last 24 hours, with the total number of tests conducted so far at 89.15 crore.

The data shows that 4,555 recoveries were recorded in the last 24 hours, taking the tally of recoveries so far since the onset of the pandemic in early 2020 to 4,39,57,929. The recovery rate currently stands at 98.71%.

Under the nationwide vaccination drive, India's cumulative vaccination coverage has exceeded 216.56 crore. Of all the doses administered, 94.65 crore were second doses and 19.48 crore precautionary.

The central government has provided more than 203.03 crore (2,03,03,52,325) vaccine doses have been provided to States/UTs so far through Government of India free of cost channel and through direct state procurement category.

As per the Ministry, more than 3.70 crore (3,70,12,740) balance and unutilized Covid vaccine doses are still available with the States/UTs to be administered.

India's COVID-19 tally had 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.

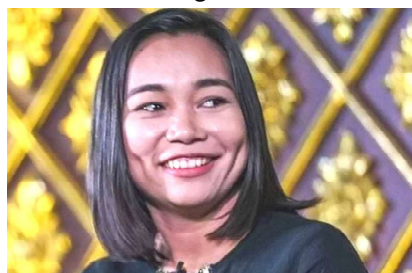
India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, three crore on June 23 last year and four crore on January 25 this year.

## PEC demands fair trial to detained Burmese journalists

IT Correspondent  
Geneva, Switzerland, Sept 18:

Press Emblem Campaign (PEC), the global media safety and rights body, has expressed its concern over the relentless arrest and imprisonment of working journalists in Myanmar (also known as Burma and Brahmadesh) since last year's military coup and urged the authorities for ensuring fair trials to all the detained journalists.

Media reports from Yangon, the former capital of the southeast Asian nation, reveal that a freelance news presenter for BBC Burmese was imprisoned on 15 September for three years with hard labour by a military court in Insein prison. Het Het Khine was arrested on 15 August last year and she remains behind bars for over a year in the notorious jail of Yangon.



The popular journalist presented a Burmese language program named 'Khan Sar Kyi' for the British broadcaster where she narrated stories of many Burmese political and social leaders in the backdrop of impending civil

war in the poverty stricken country. She was accused of using provocative words against the military junta while working for many unlawful organisations.

"Since the coup on 1 February 2021, the military dictators have forced many media outlets to shut down their offices inside Myanmar. Nearly 145 journalists have been arrested till now and one third of them are still under detention. We demand an unconditional release of all journalists by the military authority," said Blaise Lempen, president of PEC (www.presseemblem.ch).

As Myanmar is facing a civil war like situation where the soldiers were attacking the pro-democracy activists belonging to different organisations and a few resistant groups have taken arms in hands to target the military personnel along with their relatives and well-wishers, the journalists have been facing a difficult situation. PEC's southeast Asia representative Nava Thakuria informs that the journalists can be arrested for any piece that the generals do not like.

## Tamenglong Battalion celebrated Army Day

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 18:

To commemorate Army Day 44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of Headquarters 22 Sector AR/ IGAR(East) organised a grand function at district headquarters, Tamenglong. To salute the valiant soldiers who sacrificed

their lives to protect the country and its citizens a befitting wreath laying ceremony was organised. The Veterans & Veer Naries from Tamenglong joined the Commandant and all ranks in the celebrations & paying their tribute to the valiant heroes of Indian Army.

Patriotic songs and band display filled the environment with patriotic fervour.

The stellar performance of the troops of the Battalion during the cultural programme establish a deep cultural connect among the citizens witnessing the event which epitomized the prevalent concept of "Unity in Diversity" and "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat". The Commandant, 44 Assam Rifles also extended his warm greetings & best wishes to all people from The Zeliangrong region on the auspicious & joyous occasion of Gann Ngai festival. An information stall on various entries to join Indian Army was also put on display for the visitors.

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## AR conducts interaction with Manipur University Faculty and Students



IT News  
Imphal, Sept 18:

Keithelmanbi Battalion of under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised an interaction with Manipur University faculty and students at Manipur University on Imphal West district of Manipur on 17 September 22.

The interaction helped in aligning students of Manipur

University towards the common goal of development along with peace and tranquillity in the region, with them being the future leaders of the state and country. There was a healthy discussion on how Assam Rifles and student unions can together work in harmony for growth, opportunity and youth empowerment to supplement and ensure success of existing

MoU. Guiding students to join armed forces and career counselling were also discussed at length. Increased sporting engagement was also deliberated to promote 'Khelo India' and 'Fit India Campaign'.

The interaction concluded with tea and refreshments with student profusely thanking the Assam Rifles for their continued support and assistance.

## "E-Banking in India - Technology and Emerging Innovations" book released

IT Correspondent  
Imphal, Sept 18:

Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a prolific writer, an outstanding academician and the more ingenious guide has won accolades not only in the academic field but also in the genre of research. Presently, he is serving as a professor of economics at Baba Farid College of Management and Technology (Punjab). His new book based on an empirical research, "E-Banking in India: Technology and Emerging Innovations" was released in all India conference of Intellectuals by Dr. Farooq, Vice-president of AICOI, New Delhi. The book contains prominent research papers by Dr. R.K. Uppal that are very useful for the banking industry, planners, policymakers, and researchers. This book is published by a leading publisher, Bharti Publications, New Delhi. The advocate, Supreme Court of India, Prakesh Nidhi Sharma congratulated Dr. Uppal. He is considered a master of professional academic work. As a matter of fact, his research fervor and visionary zeal primarily focus on banking and finance. Amongst his prominent books Indian Banking in the Globalized World-2013, Information Technology in Banks- A New Gateway for Success-2018, E-Age Banking-A Future Outlook-2018, Banking with Technology-A New Vision 2020 have won an array of laurels. Through his books, he envisaged the challenges and opportunities regarding the use of e-banking particularly in public sector banks. He was instrumental in suggesting the reforms in e-technology.



He desires to restructure and revolutionize Indian banking industry by linking it with e-technology thereby ushering a new era of competitive banking system not only at home but also abroad. For him, research is a never-ending process. The loss of human resources due to cancer has again caused a stir in his indefatigable research mind and he has embarked on a new project i.e. "An Empirical Study of Loss of Human Resources with the Extensive Penetration of Cancer in the Malwa Belt of Punjab and its Future Perspectives." Infact, he is an asset for the society. His works and publications amply bore the insignia of his academic pedestal in a short span of time. Dr. G. S. Dhaliwal, Chairman, Baba Farid Group of Institutions, Bathinda, congratulated to Dr. Uppal for his brilliant recent research work.

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## Challenge the existence of the environment and organisms



By: Vijay GarG

In May this year, several beaches in Goa were sticky due to oily 'carcinogenic tarballs'. There have been 33 such incidents in Goa since 2015. Tarballs are dark-brown sticky balls ranging in size from footballs to coins. They also make the sand of the beaches sticky. They smell bad. It is very common to see such filth on most of the 105 km beaches in Goa. This affects not only tourism, but also those related to fish farming. For the people it becomes a question of livelihood.

The reason for this is the leakage of oil or crude oil in the sea. Sometimes it is caused by ships passing through the

roads, then the main reason for this is also the crude oil extraction plants from the depths of the sea at various places. Anyway, excessive tourism and uncontrolled fishing trawlers continue to make the surface of the sea oily. A recent study by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) has identified three main locations responsible for oil spills on the country's west coast. The oil released may be responsible for polluting the beaches of Maharashtra, Karnataka, besides Goa in western and southwestern India. This research recommends that these unknown oil spill factors can be detected by adopting 'manual clustering' method.

In fact, the pristine coastlines of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka More and Gujarat are the busiest international ocean water routes on the west coast which are facing serious ecological crisis due to dangerous tarballs caused by oil spills. Oil The impact of the leak is more in the sensitive part of the ocean. Contains vulnerable areas i.e. places with turtle breeding grounds, mangroves,

coral reefs. The Goa State Oil Spill Disaster Emergency Plan prepared by the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GPCB) during the Chief Ministership of Manohar Parrikar stated that the coastal areas of Goa are home to unique flora and fauna. The report also discussed the disproportionate impact on migratory birds due to oil spills.

Four consecutive years 2017 to 2020 a study of the data acquired till 0 (March-May) showed that there are three hot spot zones of oil spills. Ironically, even during the lockdown, there was no impact on oil exploration and international tanker traffic, due to which the oil spill remained intact. The biggest hit of oil spill in the sea falls on its fauna, creatures like whales, dolphins leave their traditional place and migrate to other areas, then small plants found in the depths of the water body, small fish, coral like structures. Permanent damage occurs. Many seabird fish the catchers come down and oil sticks to their wings and they cannot fly again. They lose their lives in agony. If there is

an oil spill in the cyclone affected areas, then this oil goes to the earth with waves, spreads in the settlements and human beings suffer from many serious diseases by eating the fish grown here.

The most adverse effect of oil spill is the increase in sea water temperature, which is a major threat to the existence of the earth in the era of climate change. Note that 93 percent of the heat generated by global warming is in the ocean. They first swallow the stomach, then when they spit it out, many diseases arise. When the sea temperature rises due to the ambient heat, there are events such as severe rain due to the production of more clouds, cyclones due to the concentration of heat, extreme heat in the coastal areas due to the hot steam of the climate. Titled 'Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region', this report is the first of its kind prepared by India, which warns the country about the potential dangers of climate change and also gives suggestions.

It is easy to understand that

when there is a layer of flammable oil on the upper surface of the sea, then the temperature of such water will definitely increase. Cautioning against rising sea temperatures, the report states that the Indian Ocean sea surface temperature has increased by one degree Celsius on average during 1951-2015, which is 0.7 °C higher than the global average SST warming over the same period. Due to the warming of the sea surface, the sea level in the northern Indian Ocean decreased by 1.06-1.75 mm per year during 1874-2004. R has increased. Over the past two and a half decades (1993-2017) it has increased by 3.3 millimeters per year, which is comparable to the current rate of global mean sea level rise.

Although the vast mind of the sea struggles with all kinds of environmental crises, but once it settles, then we have no solution for it. Oil extraction and transportation from the sea may be very attractive today, but due to this the increase in the wrath of the sea is a challenge for the existence of the earth.

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## My Drama Behind....

Taking it further on, the stigma never stopped there. Even in 2022, boys and girls can't be friends is nothing old. A lot of people see it as flirting. As long as there is a wall in between, equality will be nothing but an illusion or something people will never achieve. That's why a lot of males are trying to use it to their advantage just to catch the attention of some stupid girls. The fundamentals of comfort are now being used as a bait to trap the fishes.

Even with all this anger in me, I am not trying to under-

estimate the importance of a father in life but it's the choice - not in having one but being one. I was raised right by my parents, I know if it weren't for them to sacrifice many - it'll never be this way. Even looking at the rate of population rising throughout the world, I guess people should stop making it seem like 31 years of age for a woman is the time where they need to be a mama for at least one or two kids.

(The writer is a class 12 student of Emmanuel English Academy, Yaingangpokpi, Imphal East.)



# Awareness Programme on Blood Donation needed: Health Minister

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 18:

Health & IPR Minister Dr. S. Ranjan Singh has said that mass awareness on blood donation is needed. Minister Ranjan was speaking during a Mega Blood Donation Camp held at the main auditorium of Manipur Voluntary Health Association, Wankhnei Ningthem Pukhri Mapan. The blood donation drive was organized as a part of the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav. The drive was held under the theme "Donating blood is an act of solidarity, Join the effort and save lives".

Speaking at the occasion, Minister maintained that by donating blood a donor is saving a life. Public seems to be unaware about the importance of blood donation. Donating blood is not harmful to the individual. It is rather a modality of health care through which one can have the opportunity to undergo different tests for health. More donors need to turn up to meet the required blood for saving lives, he added.

He stated that blood donation and health camps are also being organized at different parts of the country today as



a part of the Birth Day Celebration of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. Celebrating the Birth Day of Narendra Modi in a different way is an example of the government for loving and caring the citizens, minister stated.

He further stated that the Government has launched many health care schemes at the national and state levels. With the objective for a TB free India by 2025, the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan has been launched. All the concerned

state health authorities have been instructed to frame modalities to detect cataract in the state as a part of National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment, Ranjan supplemented.

Speaking as President, MP, Rajya Sabha, Leishemba Sanajaoba said that the blood donation campaign will continue for 15 days. Seva Pakhwada is also being organized all over the country as a part of the Birth Day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is

organized with the zeal to serve the people. Serving the people is serving the god, he maintained.

Chairman, LDA, M. Ashnikumar, PD, MSACS, Roshita Haobam, IAS, Director Health Services Manipur, Shasheekumar Mangang, Director NHM, Manipur Sorojit Ningombam and Director JNIMS, Prof. Deven Singh Laishram were among those shared the dais during the mega camp. Certificate was also distributed by the Chief Guest to the donors.

# 7th Foundation day of All Manipur Dalit Development Association was held

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 18:

The 7th Foundation day of All Manipur Dalit Development Association (AMDDA) was held at Imphal Hotel in Sangai Hall yesterday. The presidium members of the this foundation day are Dr. T.M. Rajen Ayangba

of Presiden of AMDDA, Moirangthem Sorojini Leima, Advisor of AMDDA, N. Ibochouba Singh, Chief Controller of AMDDA and Diya Khwairakpam, Advisor of AMDDA.

The presidium member of that foundation day, Dr. T.M. Rajen Ayangba said that the All

Manipur Dalit Development Association (AMDDA) is the association for every poor situation and It's aim is creating good situation in Rural area. AMDDA want to put proper education system in hilly region of Manipur. He appealed to Government for giving proper facilities and right to AMDDA.

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# CM announces Rs. 500 monthly...

Today, India is also making progress in all sectors under the able and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister said adding that the Prime Minister and the government is always there for the people.

Further in his speech, the Chief Minister appreciated the SAKSHAM SEVA KENDRA,

Ningombam Village Road, Imphal West and the organizers of today's function.

During today's function, various aids and assistive devices including tricycles, wheel chairs, Teaching & Learning Materials, etc were distributed to PwDs under the AIDP scheme.

The inauguration function was also attended by External

Affairs & Education, Government of India, MoS Dr. RK Ranjan Singh, Youth Affairs and Sports, Public Works Minister Govindas Konhoujam, Social Welfare Minister Heikham Dingo Singh, Patsoi MLA Sapam Kunjakewor Singh among others. The dignitaries led by the Chief Minister also planted tree saplings as part of the celebration.

# We are attracting investors...

He also spoke on various welfare schemes and missions including the School Fagathansi Mission. Chief Minister's Hakshel gi Tengbang, Ayushman Bharat, Har Ghar Jal, Manipur Start-up and their benefits.

He further highlighted the importance of Skill development and said skill development is important to improve the economy and for self sustenance.

Delivering the welcome and key-note address, Mission Director Manipur Society for Skill Development Kimjalhai Kippen said today's Kaushal Deekshant

Samaroh, Skill Convocation Ceremony was jointly conducted by the KB Philanthropy and Manipur Society for Skill Development.

She explained the various schemes conducted under the MSSD including the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana PMKVY-2 and 3, Recognition of Prior Learning, etc and said these schemes are conducted successfully with the help of the 37 empanelled training providers.

She said that the certificates distributed today are for trainees who have completed training under the PMKVY-3 and

RPL. The RPL (Upskilling) was specially conducted for the State Returnees due to Covid-19, she said, adding that it was inaugurated on May 19, 2022.

The Mission Director also said that the trainees who have completed the courses can also avail loans from banks.

Today's function was also attended by Skills Labour Employment & Entrepreneurship Minister Heikham Dingo Singh and Skills Labour Employment & Entrepreneurship Secretary B. John Tlangtinkhuma among others.

# MSFDS invites screenwriters...

To clarify any doubt and question regarding the Lab, aspiring participants may contact MSFDS Secretary for interaction at its Palace Gate Office during office hours. The Screenwriting Lab is supported by Cine Writers & Playwrights Forum Manipur.

The 6-month latest Lab is a part of MSFDS' promotional activities to encourage good

cinema practice in Manipur and help articulate Manipuri stories for global market.

Between the year 2021-2022, MSFDS has undertaken several skill development training programs like the film archiving workshop, cinematography Lab, editing Lab, Master Classes on screenplay writing, film direction and editing, a talk series by Aribam

Syam Sharma on acting for films, sound & music direction for films and on film direction. Another project incubation and mentorship Lab, by the name of 'Documentor Imphal' was also organized in which 8 documentary projects were incubated and cash awards worth Rs. 8 lakhs doled out to filmmakers who participated with projects.

# Poshan Abhiyan and tree plantation conducted at Chandel

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 18:

Poshan Abhiyan and tree plantation programme was conducted today at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Chandel in collaboration with IFFCO. The event was attended by Ksh. Prava Devi, District Officer, Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department, Chandel; K. Sharmila Monsang, Secretary, Women Development, Monsang Pantha village, Chandel and Dr. A. Ameeta Devi, Head i/c ICAR - KVK Chandel as Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and President respectively.

Poshan Abhiyan is the Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, and adolescents. The Abhiyan is a multi-ministerial convergence mission with the vision to accelerate India's progress on malnutrition, in a time bound manner with fixed target. Specifically, the mission attempts to (1) deliver a high impact package of interventions in the first 1,000 days of a child's life; (2) strengthen the delivery of these interventions through technology and management; (3) im-

prove the capacity of front-line workers (FLWs); (4) facilitate cross-sectoral convergence to address the multi-dimensional nature of malnutrition; and (5) enhance behaviour change and community mobilization.

During the event, speech of Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on the occasion was shown to the participants. In the technical session, training programme on the topic of models of Nutri-garden, Nutri-thali for balanced diet, bio-fortified varieties in nutrition and Package of prac-

tices of vegetables & horticultural crops were conducted with resource persons Ts. Leenda Monsang, SMS (Plant Breeding); Dr. Kl. Levis Chongloi, SMS (Agronomy) and Dr. Y. Prabhathi Devi, SMS (Home Science) of ICAR - KVK Chandel. Thereafter, vegetable seed package and banana saplings were distributed to the participants, exhibition and tree plantation was also conducted. Altogether 103 participants from farm women, Anganwadi workers and students from the district have attended the programme.

# Sports

# Mumbai City FC and Bengaluru FC eye maiden Durand Cup title in final

Agency  
Kolkata, Sept 18:

The Indian football season started with the 131st edition of the Durand Cup in Kolkata and the first tournament culminates with Mumbai City FC and Bengaluru FC facing off at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan today.

Arriving in the City of Joy with their first teams and with the aim to win the oldest football tournament in Asia, the two Indian Super League sides have already fired the opening salvo. Mumbai City FC and Bengaluru FC will now look to cross the threshold to clinch the Durand Cup, Shilpa Trophy and President's Cup for the first time in their history - as well as an AFC Cup slot.

Mumbai City FC had topped their group, consisting Rajasthan United FC, ATK Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Indian Navy, by the barest of margins but on top - after finishing on the same points with the first two teams

and losing to the third in their last game. Bengaluru FC, finished as runners-up from their group - which had toppers Mohammedan SC, along with Jamshedpur FC, FC Goa and Indian Air Force.

Come the knockout stage, both had to dispose of strong fellow ISL sides - namely Chennaiyin FC and Odisha FC - and that too in extra time of their quarter-finals.

In the semi-finals, the Islanders defeated Mohammedan SC by a last-gasp goal as the Blues beat defending ISL champions Hyderabad FC thanks to an own goal.

Ahead of the summit clash, both coaches sounded cautious of injuries and stressed the need to treat the final "as just another game".

Sunil Chhetri has won every tournament on offer in Indian football, expect the Durand Cup. When asked about it, at the pre-match press conference, he said: "We're motivated enough because of the way we've progressed as



a team going into the final. That I have not won it or that the team hasn't been to a Durand Cup final is secondary."

"We are here to win the Durand Cup and start the ISL season with more confidence. I am happy with my team till now. I am expecting an excit-

ing match. BFC is a good team they have good players. My message to the team for tomorrow will be enjoy the game," Mumbai City FC coach Des Buckingham said at the pre-match press conference.

Bengaluru FC coach Simon Grayson was mindful of the

opponents in the final, saying at the pre-match press conference, "I think we have to play as a team tomorrow. Mumbai has some very good players. Greg Stewart and others. So, we know what they can do. They play a lot of passes. We have to be good tomorrow to

stop the opposition. I think it's important to win the final and it doesn't matter in what style we play. We have to be careful tomorrow and make sure we play better. We don't have any injuries. Our target will be to win the trophy without any injuries. We are in the final and we will make sure that we win the trophy because we have the mentality to win."

The Islanders, who won the ISL and League Winners Shield in the 2020-21 season, have looked solid in the run-up to the finals and with the addition of Mourtafa Fall, look a more rounded team. They have the highest scorer of the tournament with seven goals in Lallianzuala Chhangte in their ranks and someone of the quality of Greg Stewart marshalling the midfield with authority.

Bengaluru FC, on the other hand, are the ISL 2018-19 champions and also have six other top domestic titles to their name. They have presented the most successful striking force of the tournament with

talisman Sunil Chhetri, Roy Krishna and Siva Sakthi, all being in goal-scoring form. At the back too, the experience of regular Indian internationals like Sandesh Jhingam and Gurpreet Sandhu have held them in good stead. Moreover, they have been unbeaten in the run-up to the title clash.

With a mouth-watering contest on offer, Lt. Gen. KK Repswal, SM CSM, chief of staff Eastern Command and chairman of the tournament organising committee, speaking exclusively to News18.com urged the fans to come to the stadium and watch the game in numbers.

"Both (teams) are extremely competitive teams. I would like to appeal to all the fans, especially in Kolkata that they should not miss two ISL teams playing in the final. Durand Cup came to Kolkata because we felt the city if the 'Mecca of football' in India, so the fans must prove that irrespective that none of the local teams not being successful in reaching the final," he said.