

## Two Retired Mechanical engineers under CBI scanner on corruption charges re-engaged for civil engineering works at MOBEDS

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 2:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh promises to root out corruption appear to be another joke as Mechanical engineers who have been retired from MDS and who are under CBI scanner to corruption charges are re-engaged for MOBEDS (the engineering cell of MOBC) which is supposed to be filled by Civil engineers. As per an office notification by the former Chief Engineer of PWD (L) Binoykumar Singh, Civil works of construction of Buildings, Roads and bridges are normally designed and executed by Civil

engineers only. The notification was issued in 1999 and is still valid.

On the other hand, there have been numerous rulings of the High court and also decision of the state cabinet not to re-engage or extend service for those who are retired. Above all these, student organisation like AMSU had appealed not to extend service or re-engage on June 26 this year and this appeared in many newspapers of the state. However, in spite of all these, the present BJP-led government of the state is re-engaging and extending the service of retired engineers in various Engineering Departments, Societies and Corporations and giving them full-time employment. It is not clear under which criteria, the retired engineers are being re-engaged. It is worth mentioning that the present Chief Minister of Manipur had time and again vowed to root out corruption from the state in various public meetings and press meet and even went to the extent that, even his family members will not be spared if found involved in corrupt practices.

The Engineering Cell of Manipur Minorities & OBC Economic development society (MOBEDS) which is under the Directorate for Welfare of Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes has the Chief Minister as the Chair-

man, Secretary to the CM as Vice-Chairman and Director of Minority Affairs, OBCS, and SCs, Government of Manipur as Member Secretary. A retired Additional Chief Engineer from the erstwhile Irrigation and Flood Control Department, currently known as Water Resources department has been re-engaged as a Chief Engineer, MOBEDS since 2019. The said re-engaged Engineer is a close relative of the present Secretary to the CM and Vice Chairman of MOBEDS, raising the question and doubt of corruption, favouritism, and nepotism. Above all these, services of certain employees (Engineers) of Manipur Develop-

ment Society (MDS) which has an ongoing case by the CBI are being utilised. Two retired Engineer officers (EO) and one retired Surveyor of Works (SW) of MDS are currently re-engaged with MOBEDS. Different civil construction works are being undertaken by MOBEDS under MSP, PMJKV, and other centrally Sponsored schemes of Minority Affairs, Government of India, and most interesting of them all are the civil construction of Sadhbavna Mandap, Model Residential School, School Buildings, Boys and Girls Hostel in different districts of both Hill and valley region of the state. What is most intriguing is that

the Executive Engineer (EE) who are re-engaged to execute and supervise all these numerous civil constructions happens to be Mechanical Engineer instead of a Civil Engineer. It may be worth questioning why the Member Secretary and Chief Engineer are silent over this matter of re-engaging a Mechanical Engineer as an EE for supervising these projects which cost crores of rupees. In the event of an unfortunate event arising out from technical defects, who will be held responsible and accounted for, is the finger going to be pointed towards Chairman or Vice-Chairman or the Member Secretary? Nowhere in other Engi-

neering Cell of other Manipur Government departments like the Public Works Department (PWD), Water Resources, Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) and Minor Irrigation (MI) engage Mechanical Engineers to supervise and execute Civil construction works. It is worth mentioning that every developmental project and work taken up should be done for the welfare of the public, not in the self-interest of some people. If the need arises, it should be done in a free and fair manner, to re-engage those who have sound technical knowledge and diligent retired Civil engineers.

## Associations demand transfer of DFO Chandel

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 2:

The Unique Business Association Chandel and Sulam Business Association Chandel, Manipur has demanded transfer of the present Divisional Forest Officer, Chandel.

In a press statement the association said that the present DFO who is a non-local officer should be transferred out and replaced by a local officer who can understand public basic needs and

problems.

"When a non-local officer is posted in Chandel, the people of Chandel who are illiterate and poorest of the poor are facing language barrier, miscommunication between general public thereby causing more and more troubles to the public. People in Chandel need a person who can easily understand or satisfy their wants in any activities or solve the problem in easy way", the statement said.

The association alleged that the present DFO

Chandel was warned repeatedly for his weak administration. It also alleged that the DFO Chandel cannot build a conducive working atmosphere in Chandel District owing to his incompetency being a Divisional Forest Officer.

It alleged that the present DFO Chandel is that people came for asking saplings for plantation but he refused to issue the same despite of large numbers of saplings were observed in the nursery located in the DFO office premise.

## National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) mega conclave MSMEs will help boosting employment generation in Manipur: Union MoS (MSME)

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 2:

Union minister of state for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma on Friday inaugurated a national SC-ST Hub (NSSH) mega conclave in Manipur's Churachandpur district.

The programme was organized by the Union ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises at EBC Gospel Centenary Hall, Tedim Road, Hebron Veng, New Lamka.

In his address at the inaugural session of the conclave, the Union minister said that in a small state like Manipur where there are no big industries, MSME has a big role to play in employment generation.

He remarked that despite lacking large-scale industries, Manipur is unsurprisingly compatible with highly profitable, small-scale industries. The state has high potential for the MSME sector.

He said that the MSME ministry is targeting to enhance its contribution in the GDP of the country from present 30 to 50 per cent and employment generation in MSME to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India the top economy of the world in the future.

He said that the constant efforts are being made towards upliftment of MSMEs through various schemes for infrastructure development, credit and financial assistance, technology up-gradation, skill development along with inclusion of a large number of business units and exporters under "Self-reliant

India" initiative of the Central government.

Verma then urged the cluster groups to take the benefits of the various programmes taken up by his ministry to strengthen Small and Medium enterprises in the state.

He assured that his ministry will extend its support to those organizations interested in forming such cluster groups to promote medium and small enterprises.

Manipur textile, commerce and industries minister Nemcha Kipgen who also attended the inauguration function assured all possible help from the Manipur government's side while availing the benefits of the various schemes of the Union ministry of MSME.

The conclave attended by top ranking officials of various bank and line departments of the state government among others aimed to promote entrepreneurship and make development reach across all sections of society, especially the marginalized groups, including SC/ST entrepreneurs.

The NSSH is currently

offering various industry specific training, business orientation programmes, knowledge sessions on E-tendering, GeM, etc. to develop technical and business skills of SC-ST MSEs in close partnership with industry and academia.

Some of the courses being offered by the Hub include digital marketing, CNC operation, mobile repairing, security alarm and smoke detector, refrigeration and air-conditioning, tool design, web designing, etc.

The Hub has provided capacity building training in various sectors to 31,350 SC/ST candidates through 45 different training institutions at 162 locations in 26 states and UTs across the country, said joint secretary Mercy of Union ministry of MSME.

Presentation of successful stories of SC-ST entrepreneurs and highlighting and creating awareness on various Central and state government sponsored schemes for the SC-STs by resource persons and officials of the concerned departments were the highlights of the conclave.

## STF BSF organizes 'Run Up to Teacher's Day' at Churachandpur

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 2:

STC BSF Churachandpur organised 'Run Up to Teacher's Day' on 02nd Sep 2022 with great zeal and fanfare under the overall supervision and guidance of Umesh Kumar Nayal, PPMG, PPMDS IG STC BSF CC Purin 4 schools of Churachandpur targeting children of Higher Secondary standard with an aim to apprise them about the glorious history of BSF, its Mission & Vision and to make them aware of the recruitment processes, pay scales and other benefits in BSF.

Four teams were constituted comprising Officers, Subordinate Officers, Mahila Constable, 615F Retirees and famous personalities. BSF teams visited 04 schools namely St Paul's Institute, Lamka, Rayburn High School, Lamka, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Tuimorn, RengKai Govt Higher Secondary School, RengKai and showed them a documentary on Border Security Force, India's First Line of Defence. STC BSF Teams also apprised all the students about the recruitment processes of Assistant Commandants, Sub Inspectors and Constables, pay scales and other benefits in 135F, Handy Pam-



phlets and Brochures were distributed among school children for a ready reckoner. Mahila Constable and BSF Retirees and their families shared their views with the school children and apprised them about the adventurous and promising career in BSF.

Laisram Santa Devi, Ace Indian Boxer from Manipur, Arjuna Awardee and a National Champion and a former World Champion in the lightweight class actively took part in the event with SIC 135F Team and visited schools and met students, and shared with them about her challenges and achievements in her career as Boxer. She praised the difficulties and the challenging task being performed by BSF on the Pakistan and Bangladesh border in tackling the nefarious design of Anti National Elements operating inside and across the border. She hailed the Border man

for letting them sleep peacefully in the night as the 135F Jawans on the border are serving the nation 24 hours a day. She encouraged students to appreciate the efforts of BSF and choose it as their future Career.

P Doungel IPS, DGP Manipur, Sharath Chandra Arroju, District Collector, Churachandpur and Shivanand Surve IPS, SP Churachandpur conveyed their good wishes to the school children through video messages and praised the efforts made by BSF men for maintaining peace and tranquility at the border. They congratulated and expressed their sincere gratitude to STC BSF Churachandpur for organizing a noble event "Run Up to Teacher's Day" in school to make the children aware of the prospects in BSF.

All the doubts and queries of students were appropriately

answered by the team members. Photo Gallery and Weapon Exhibition were also organized in schools where all the students were shown the latest weaponry and gadgets available with the BSF. All the students took keen interest in all the affairs and showed their profound interest and willingness to choose BSF as their future career.

STC BSF Churachandpur has also invited 30 students, comprising of boys and girls, of all above 05 schools to visit STC Campus on 03rd Sep 2022 to witness different training activities being run at the institute.

School Principals and staff of all the schools contributed their best to the successful conduct of the program. BSF Team facilitated all school Principals by presenting Momento and recognized the school fraternity for their efforts and contribution for making the event a success.

## Rashtriya Poshan Maah launched at Kamjong District

IT News  
Kamjong, Sept 2:

The Rashtriya Poshan Maah programme was launched on Thursday at Kamjong district. Organised by the ICDS Cell, Social Welfare of Kamjong, the launching program was held at the Community Hall of Riha Village under Phungyar sub-division. This program is being conducted as a part of the Poshan Abhiyan—PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment.

The launching program was attended by Deputy

Commissioner, Rangnamei Rang Peter (IAS) as the chief guest, CMO Dr Lucy Duidang and ZEO L Nabakumar as the guests of honour, and Wungang Mahung, Headman of Riha village as the functional president.

Giving his speech, Shri Rangnamei appreciated the initiative of the Narendra Modi-led government for carrying out this massive program all over the country to focus on the health and nutrition of children, women and adolescent girls. He appealed to all to ob-

serve this program dutifully and to perform the activities included under Poshan Maah properly. He also urged the officials concerned and the Anganwadi workers/helpers to ensure maximum reach of the benefits of this program.

CMO Dr Lucy gave a detailed speech on the nutrition among children (0-6 years), pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls.

A rally was also held as a part of the program participated by the dignitaries and many women.

# 49th Chief Justice of India U U Lalit is a getter in disposing cases

By: Harihar Swarup

On August 26, a day before taking oath as 49th Chief Justice of India, Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, speaking at the farewell hosted for his predecessor, announced, his goal for his 74-day stint at the top office—from setting up at least Constitutional bench that would sit throughout the year to ensuring smothering methods for listing cases and allowing lawyers to effectively mention their for listing.

For those who have known justice Lalit, first as an advocate-on-record before the Supreme Court and later as a designated senior advocate, it is this work ethic that defines him.

"There has been a CJ who, perhaps, understands this court and the bottlenecks in the registry better than Lalit. As an AOR (advocate-on-record) for over a decade, he has dealt with this every day. As a senior advocate, he has a vision of what the court ought to be," A senior advocate said.

Born in 1957 in Maharashtra's Solapur, Justice Lalit shifted his nascent two-year practice from Mumbai to Delhi in 1986. This was when his father, a former additional judge of the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court, lost his office during the Emergency and also set up new practice in Delhi. Justice Umesh Rangnath Lalit had in 1975 granted bail to three minors in a sedition case, which did not go down well with the Indira Gandhi led-congress government. The judge's links with the RSS and its lawyer's wing, Advhivakta Parishad did not help his case to get appointed as a permanent judge.

After working in the chambers of ace lawyer, P H Parekh and former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee Justice Lalit set up his independent practice. As Advocate-on-record, his practice took shape in a modest flat in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar. From there, he rose to be one of top lawyers in the Supreme Court, arguing 15-20 cases on Mondays and Fridays, when the Supreme Court admits fresh cases. For over a decade, he was amicus curie (friend of the court) for the 'forest bench' that was hearing environmental cases.

He has reputation as a criminal law expert, who defended celebrity and high profile cases and high profile clients — he represented Salman Khan in Blackbuck poaching case and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy in the disproportionate assets case.

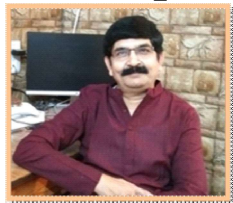
"His father had an exclusive criminal practice, but his son, Justice Lalit's practice has always been independent of that. As a senior advocate, he had a mixed bag of cases with, perhaps, more civil than criminal," says a lawyer who has been Justice Lalit's contemporary.

Despite his famous rich, and powerful clientele — from former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh to former Uttar Pradesh CM Mayawati, congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu (then with the BJP) and super star Salman Khan — as a lawyer, the shy and reticent Lalit has, perhaps, never spoken to media.

In 2014, he became a judge of the Supreme Court—only second CJ to be directly elevated from the bar to the apex court bench. The first, Justice S M Sikri, had made history when he presided over the 13-judge Kesavananda Bharti Bench in 1973 that gave the landmark verdict outlining the doctrine of basic structure of the Constitution.

A deeply spiritual man, Justice Lalit is known to participate in Ganesh pujas and visits of Sufi saints. Few know that for over 30 years, he has been making an annual pilgrimage to a "Baba ki Dargah", a shrine in Nagpur's Civil Lines where he offers his services. Moments after Justice Lalit took oath, he sought the blessings of the custodian of Dargah, who was seated next to him at Rashtapati Bhavan.

# Importance of coconut tree



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

productivity of coconut in the world and third in the area of cultivation. Andhra Pradesh, where coconut is cultivated in an area of 1.025 lakh hectares with an annual production of 1,678 million nuts, stands first in productivity and the scope for expansion is immense.

The importance of coconut tree is to be propagated. As a primal symbol of creation, the coconut is truly a symbolism of selfless sacrifice. Rightly called as the "Tree of life", every part of the coconut tree can be used. The coconut is also imbued with medicinal qualities. Being an eco-friendly crop it facilitates sustainable development. Coconut tree, fame for being the tree of life, has proven much worth because of its parts. These are used for everyday life: the tree itself produces timber, the shell of the fruit becomes plaiting and thatch, the hardened liquid serves as meat of the fruit, and the liquid as drink — often may be mixed with alcoholic beverages or sugar syrup. The coconut industry is to be made more competitive by increasing productivity with better management, organic recycling, replanting and also by adopting an integrated farming system coupled with community processing, product diversification, value-addition and by-product utilization. Coconut is regarded as a life-giving fruit for its amazing properties. Coconut products add a scrumptious creaminess to any drink or dish. A smoothie takes on a tropical flair, while even

World Coconut Day is celebrated every year on 2nd September to highlight and raise awareness about the importance and benefits of coconut. Today, we need to make people understand that coconut crop has a vital role in poverty reduction and to provide nutritional and health security, which are the prime need of this hour. Coconut is a rich source of Lauric acid and electrolytes, coconuts contain many antioxidants and are also antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal. There are about 140 different products that can be made out of coconuts, which have worldwide demand. India is third in area under coconut cultivation next to Indonesia and Philippines, our production are highest.

In India, 12 million people are dependent on coconut farming for their livelihood and the contribution of the coconut farming sector to the GDP of the country is around Rs 10,000 Cr. According to experts, India stands first in production and

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# BJP losing more than 80 seats in 2024 Lok Sabha Polls is not impossible

Regional Parties have emerged stronger, only Congress has to do its job

By: Nitya Chakraborty

Just eighteen months are now left for the holding of the next Lok Sabha elections in March/April of 2024. BJP has been talking of a "Congress-mukt Bharat", while the Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao called for "BJP-mukt India" in Patna on Wednesday in the presence of the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The latter has already declared that he would start meeting all the opposition leaders to form a viable front to fight the BJP in the coming polls.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is most angry against the BJP now as both the CBI and ED are haunting the senior AAP leaders. Already searches have been made at his deputy CM Manish Sisodia's residence and the LG of Delhi V K Saxena is up in arms against the CM. The AAP government is under siege by the BJP-led centre. Kejriwal in his own way has given a call for the overthrow of the Narendra Modi government at the centre in the coming Lok Sabha polls.

So, where do all these developments lead to? Already some media publications and poll forecasting agencies have carried out some surveys about the mood of the nation, one and half year before the Lok Sabha polls. The projections naturally vary but there is one meeting point — the BJP will lose seats, though Prime Minister Narendra Modi might be forming the government with a small majority. Even the BJP poll trackers, as per the sources, are reported to have given varying assessment about the BJP's fortunes ranging from slim majority at the upper end to between 240 and 250.

This writer has made some zone-wise estimates on the basis of the 2019 poll results along with the changes evident through rural and urban bodies polls in the states as

also the by polls that have taken place in the last 39 months since the 2019 polls. My submission is that in 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP reached its peak with 303 seats out of the total 543, and now this figure can only go down, but the question is to what extent? The Congress under Rajiv Gandhi got 404 seats in 1984 Lok Sabha polls, but the figure came down to less than 50 per cent in the next polls in 1989. Rajiv failed to form the government at the centre.

I am starting from the southern zone where the BJP is weakest. The southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka have a total of 129 seats, out of which BJP has 29 seats — 25 from Karnataka and 4 from Telangana. As of now, there is no question of BJP getting any seat from TN and Kerala. In Andhra Pradesh, the BJP has its stronghold in two districts, but the YCSRC led by the Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has done extensive work in those districts which have been reflected in the local body elections some months back. Jagan is solidly entrenched, and neither the BJP, nor the Congress is in a position to create any crack in his support base. As regards Telangana, the BJP has made some inroads in urban areas, but the TRC chief KCR has checked its advance. All reports suggest that there is no question of BJP gaining any additional seat above the present four. In fact, the figure may go down by one.

Now the real battlefield state in South, Karnataka, is going to witness a fierce battle in both the coming assembly elections in early 2023 as also in 2024 Lok Sabha polls. In 2019 polls, the BJP got 25 seats out of the total of 28, the Congress got one, JD(S) one and NDA supported candidate got one.

The Congress formed ministry in Karnataka after the last assembly elections, but the defections organised by the BJP led to the fall of the government and the formation of the BJP ministry. Presently, the BJP government in Karnataka is in a mess. The ministers are openly making money and for the first time, the contractors association have come out against the government alleging that no order could be received from the Karnataka government departments without giving 40 per cent of the amount as bribe. Astounding indeed.

I have checked with my old sources in IT industry in Bengaluru, the Silicon Valley of India. The IT honchos who supported Narendra Modi in the last Lok Sabha polls are worried. The social harmony in the state is at stake as the fringe Hindutva groups are on a rampage in Karnataka with no control from the state government. The fear is that the state BJP will go to its extreme to play the communal card, just as the party played in state assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. The Congress has good base in rural areas in Karnataka. Presently, the two top leaders — former chief minister Siddaramaiah and the state president D K Shivkumar — are working jointly. That's a good sign. If the Congress organization can be properly galvanized, the Party is expected to do well in both assembly and the Lok Sabha polls. The Congress has the potential to extract another ten seats from the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls if everything goes well for the Party.

Now about the eastern region including Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. In Bengal, by all counts, BJP will be losing minimum 12 seats in the next Lok Sabha polls. In 2019 polls, the BJP got 18 seats from four seats in 2014 polls. In the period

since the last Lok Sabha polls, all poll results including assembly, civic polls and by polls show continuing decline in the BJP support base. Mamata Banerjee and TMC are presently bogged in the corruption related issues of former minister Partha Chatterjee and powerful Birbhum district president Anubrata Mandal, but this will not affect at all the TMC prospects in the coming panchayat elections in 2023 and the Lok Sabha polls in 2024. Prashant Kishor's agency I-PAC has silently done the groundwork to build a robust poll machinery and as of now, and BJP is no match to it. Mamata Banerjee's traditional base among the Muslims, village and urban poor and women is intact.

Bihar is another state which will help in sealing the fate of the BJP. Out of 40 seats, BJP got 17 seats in 2019 polls while the JD(U) got 15 as its NDA ally and LJP 6. The present combination of Mahagathbandhan in Bihar is based on a wide social composition in the state covering 70 per cent of the electorate. BJP will be lucky to get even two to three seats from this state. BJP that way will lose minimum 14 to 15 seats in Bihar, Nitish Kumar's projection as the potential PM will also have its impact on the BJP masses as Bihar has never had a Bihar PM. In other two states, Odisha and Jharkhand, the BJP will make all efforts to improve but in Odisha, with BJD led by Naveen Patnaik in complete control, the BJP hopes may not materialize. In fact, BJP seats may go down from the present 8 out of the total seats of 21. In Jharkhand also, the BJP got a maximum 11 out of the total seats of 14. The BJP seats may go down, if the alliance led by Hemant Soren sticks together and works jointly.

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# Women's Health



By: Vijay Garg

**"The problem of malnutrition even among domestic women"**

If the issue of women's health is affecting every aspect of the overall life of the country, then large-scale women-centric research surveys are needed to assess it. But according to what is estimated so far, there is an urgent need to improve the health infrastructure keeping women in mind. The participation of women in the total workforce of the country is talked about every year. It is openly told that the women of the country in economic matters are victims of discrimination.

The issue of women not getting equal rights in the society has been going on for decades, but there is not much discussion about their health. According to a survey, there are signs of the population of women in the country exceeding that of men. In such a situation,

even as the largest section of the country's population, the health of women must be monitored. The fact is shocking that every second woman in the country is suffering from anaemia and every third woman has a low body mass index. One-fourth of the total population women suffer from malnutrition. Despite all the promises and claims after that, if this condition occurs, then we need to be alert about the health of women.

Several surveys have revealed that women get less nutrition than men. A major reason for this was also considered to be our male dominated social system. Due to the pressure of saving in families with limited income, boys are usually given more nutritious food than girls. According to the 'Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey 2019' before the corona epidemic, food rich in all nutrients large sections of the country were not getting it. But during the Corona period, the situation got worse than the limit.

According to a study by the Tata Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition, the nutritional diet of women declined by forty-two percent during the time of corona closure. They got less fruits, vegetables and other nutritious foods. Due to the closure of schemes like 'Mid Day Meal' in schools due to Corona, girls were deprived of supplements and nutritious food like iron folic acid. It is a well-known fact that the women of our country have the highest nutritional value. Most of the deficiency is found only in iron. It is shocking that even today fifty-

seven percent of Indian women suffer from anaemia.

The problem of malnutrition among domestic women also remains an enigma. There is a direct experience that the women of the house usually eat the leftover food after feeding everyone. This trend in the Indian environment often deprives them of adequate and balanced food. Similarly, the practice of marriage at an early age is also no less responsible. Being pregnant at a young age also has serious side effects on the body. Huh. For example, according to the National Family Health Survey-5, 23.3% of girls were married before the age of eighteen. The rate of becoming a mother in adolescence is still 6.8 percent.

Malnutrition is a problem with adult pregnant women as well. It is an established fact that due to lack of adequate nutrients during pregnancy, both the woman and the baby remain malnourished for a long time. Nowadays health experts are talking about a 'hidden hunger' i.e. indirect hunger among Indian women. It means that the micronutrients in the body lack. For many decades the main focus in women's nutrition was on iron supply. But now experts are also pointing out the deficiency of micronutrients like Vitamin D, Vitamin B12 and Zinc in Indian women. Even in today's civilized society, Indian women are becoming victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence causes serious injury not only to the physical but also to the mental health of women.

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# Supreme Court dismisses plea to declare Sanskrit as national language

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 2:

Giving a language 'national' status is a policy decision that requires amendment to the Constitution, and not ordered by the court, the Supreme Court said on Friday while dismissing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking Sanskrit to be declared as a national language.

"This lies in the realm of policy decision and even for the aforesaid, Constitution of India is to be amended. No writ can be issued to Parliament for declaring a language as a national

language," a bench of justices MR Shah and Krishna Murari said.

The apex court made the observations while hearing a PIL filed by DG Vanzara, a retired bureaucrat, and a lawyer.

"How many cities in India speak Sanskrit? This is a policy decision. We cannot issue a writ to the Centre to take a particular policy decision," the bench remarked.

Vanzara said he wants a discussion on this by the Centre and a nudge by the court can go a long way to promote that at the government level.

The bench, in a lighter vein,

asked the petitioner, "Do you speak Sanskrit? Can you recite one line in Sanskrit or at least translate the prayer in your writ petition to Sanskrit." Vanzara shared a Sanskrit shloka but the bench replied, "This we all know."

Vanzara then quoted a former judge of the erstwhile Supreme Court of Calcutta during the British Raj when Sir William Jones commented that out of the 22 languages he studied, Sanskrit was clearly the mother language. "We share that view. We know that several words in Hindi and other state languages have come

from Sanskrit. But this cannot be the ground to declare the language as a national language. For us to declare a language is very difficult."

The petitioner argued that under Article 32, the top court has got ample scope and a beginning could be made in this direction by seeking the Centre's view on this issue. "This debate has to happen in Parliament," the bench replied.

Dismissing the plea, the bench added that if the petitioner is so advised to move a representation, he may be at liberty to file such a representation before the government.

# India's Covid tally maintains downward trend; 6,168 new infections today

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 2:

With 6,168 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,44,42,507, while the active cases declined to 59,210, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll has climbed to 5,27,932 with 21 new fatalities that include two deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.13 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.68 per cent, the health ministry said.

There has been a decline of 3,538 cases in the active COVID-19 caseload in 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.94 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 2.51 per cent, the health ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,38,55,365 while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 212.75 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

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.

The 19 new fatalities include four from Maharashtra, three each from Delhi and West Bengal, two each from Chhattisgarh and Gujarat, and one each from Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh.

# India, UAE working on joint health projects in Kenya and Tanzania

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 2:

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are working on a joint initiative to establish health projects in Kenya and Tanzania and taking forward cooperation in food security within the I2U2 framework that includes the US and Israel.

These issues figured in the India-UAE joint commission meeting that was co-chaired by external affairs minister S Jaishankar and his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdulla bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi on Thursday.

The meeting also reviewed cooperation in diverse sectors such as energy and investments.

A team comprising representatives of the Indian and UAE governments recently visited Kenya and Tanzania to identify opportunities for joint projects in the health sector,



the external affairs ministry said in a statement on Friday.

Both ministers expressed happiness at the forward movement in healthcare and education cooperation. Discussions between the two countries on establishing an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in UAE have moved forward with the setting up of a joint working group between institutions on both sides.

The ministers reviewed ongoing discussions be-

tween the two sides in the field of food security, including within the India-Israel-US-UAE (I2U2) framework, the statement said.

The first I2U2 Summit held in July unveiled initiatives focused on food security and clean energy, including investments of \$2 billion by the UAE to develop a series of integrated food parks across India and a \$330 million hybrid renewable energy project in Gujarat.

Jaishankar and Sheikh

Abdulla bin Zayed expressed satisfaction at the entry into force of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on May 1 and the organisation of activities and events for effective implementation of the pact. They reiterated their commitment to achieving the goal of \$100 billion in bilateral trade in the next five years.

"They also positively assessed the investment partnership between both countries and the growth of UAE investments in India in diverse sectors," the statement said, adding the next meeting of a bilateral high level task force will be held shortly in India.

The ministers reviewed progress in elements of bilateral cooperation identified in a Vision Statement adopted by the leaders of the two countries at a virtual summit on February 18.

# Assam Rifles organised Security Meet with CSOs



IT News  
Imphal, Sept 2:

Phudrei Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organized a CSO meet at Phudrei in Thoubal District, Manipur yesterday. The CSO meet was organised and focused

to ensure a safe environment for overall development in the Area of responsibility. In addition to this various other security related issues like Extortion demand drug trafficking and various other security issues were highlighted.

All CSOs extended their full

support to help Assam Rifles in curbing the nefarious Plans of UGs and also to avoid any law-and-order situation which may hinder the growth of the society.

The CSOs expressed their gratitude for organizing the event. A total of 21 CSOs participated in the event.

Contd. from Page 2

# BJP losing more than 80 seats in 2024 Lok Sabha Polls...

For BJP, the northern states are the main route to its road to power at the centre. This region has 192 seats and in the 2019 poll, the BJP got 156 seats, an unusually high number taking account the fact that the BJP got 28 out of 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 25 out of 26 seats in Rajasthan and 9 out of 11 seats in Chhattisgarh. The 2019 Lok Sabha poll results were unusual taking into account the strength of the Congress in these three states. Kamal Nath, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel are seasoned leaders and they are fully involved in organisational work also. There is a good possibility of BJP losing at least 25 seats out of the present total of 62 seats at present.

As regards Uttar Pradesh

which sends 80 members to Lok Sabha, BJP got 62 seats in 2019 elections, BSP 10, SP 5 and the Congress 1 the sole seat of Sonia Gandhi. In UP, now BSP is on a decline and a major part of its base has gone to BJP and the Samajwadi Party. The SP is working hard and it has the potential to grab the seats earlier held by the BSP. But the fact is that the UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath has been able to vastly improve his administration compared to two years back. The delivery system of services has improved and this is having impact. This along with Hindutva drive should help BJP in Lok Sabha elections. SP may improve but that may not be much. The BJP high command knows the importance of UP and that is why

the BJP duo Narendra Modi and Amit Shah are prompt in taking corrective actions, when these are needed. BJP will seek to improve its position in UP. Now it depends on Samajwadi Party and its leader Akhilesh Yadav how he meets the challenge.

In Punjab, BJP has only two seats out of the total of 13. The party is in such pathetic condition in the state that they may even lose both the seats. Then in Delhi, BJP got all seven in the last Lok Sabha polls. Now the situation is completely different. Despite some amount of melodrama in the behaviour of the Delhi Chief Minister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, AAP has been able to prove its worth to the Delhi electorate. It will not be surprising if AAP

gets about five out of seven seats in the next Lok Sabha polls. Then in Haryana also, the BJP cannot maintain the level of the present 10 seats out of ten. The Party can lose one or two. For AAP, the Lok Sabha polls in Punjab will be a big test for improving its tally. It will be at the cost of the Congress and the BJP.

In Western region, the two major states Maharashtra and Gujarat have a total of 74 seats out of which BJP got 49 seats 23 in Maharashtra and all 26 in Gujarat. Right now, Maharashtra political scene is in fluid state, it is not clear to what extent Eknath Shinde has been able to take the Shiv Sena base in his favour. BJP-Eknath combination will be formidable if Eknath is able to take over

Uddhav. Base some idea will be available after the Mumbai corporation elections shortly. In any case, the BJP got maximum in 2019 polls, its scope for gaining is not much.

In the North East region, out of the 25 seats, the BJP has got 12 and the regional parties the remaining 13. The BJP has got 9 seats in Assam out of 14 in last poll. The Assam Congress is still not in best shape, but if it allies with the regional anti-BJP parties in 2024 polls, it has some possibilities. Trinamool Congress will also try to be a part of anti-BJP alliance before the 2024 polls. But still the advantage is with BJP as Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma is a cunning political leader and he will use all tricks to get the opposition divided

in Assam. In any case, there is little scope for BJP gaining much in NE states. The regional parties in NE always support the ruling combination at the centre, whether it is BJP or the Congress. If there is a hung Parliament after the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP cannot be sure that the present NDA parties will stick to it. In Tripura also, the BJP has got all two seats but if there is an alliance between the CPI(M) led Left Front, Congress and Trinamool, BJP will lose both the seats.

Overall, the position is that the ground situation is fit for making the BJP lose around 80 to 85 seats nationally, if only the Congress plays its role properly. The Congress is the main opposition party facing the BJP in 170 to 180 seats. The

Party has to ensure the defeat of BJP in additional 50 seats out of these as against the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The Congress will lose its two seats in Bengal and also more than five seats in Kerala to the Left Democratic Front. The Party has to make up this loss by its gain from the other states. The anti-BJP regional parties are set to do better against the BJP, now it is the Congress and the Congress alone on whose performance depends whether the BJP will be a minority party. The Congress has to touch the figure of 100 in 2024 polls as against 52 in 2019 polls to make a non-BJP coalition possible. If the Congress fails, the BJP will be at the centre for the third time after 2024 polls.

(IPA Service)

# Women's Health

According to the National Family Health Survey, the rate of domestic violence in India in 2019-21 was 29.3 percent. Not only that, women another great aspect of health is that most women or their families try to hide women's ailments for fear of social neglect. Even today, there is a trend in the society to see the same disease in men and women from different perspectives. Women themselves also avoid seeking medical advice for fear of social pressure and disruption in

household chores. It is also no secret that women have less access to medical services than men. In this regard, the World Economic Forum releases the 'Global Gender Gap' report every year. It is the status of access to health services of Indian women in the latest report is that out of 146 countries, our country ranked last. Health services are not easily accessible to women, especially in rural areas. Many times women hesitate to go to the hospital due to lack of fe-

male doctors and nurses or female staff in hospitals. There is also a growing belief among the conscious that the concern for women's health is not only humanly rational, but also an economic one affecting every aspect of life. Equally important in this respect. Being half the population of the country, women also play an important role in the workforce.

While some may argue that their participation in the workforce is low, the low par-

ticipation of women in the labor force does not make much of an impact from an economic point of view. This argument can be given only by those who do not know that in the unorganized sector of the country, the participation of women in productive work is much more visible than that of men. Whether it is the country's largest agricultural sector in terms of population or whether it is a cottage industry or a full-fledged textile industry, a large part of this

unorganized sector is generally handled by women. If the health of such a large population of women is in question, then an assessment should also be made as to how women's health is affecting the economic development of the country. Consideration should also be given to whether small surveys may be sufficient to accurately assess the intensity of larger problems. If the issue of women's health is affecting every aspect of the country's overall life, then its assessment

Large-scale women-centric research surveys are needed to do this.

But according to what is estimated so far, there is an urgent need to improve the health infrastructure keeping women in mind. Of course, there is a complete infrastructure of health services in the country, but as long as there is a big plan for women's health, all that can be done is to conduct awareness campaigns to increase women's access to the available ser-

VICES. It is not difficult at all to run a campaign to motivate for regular check-ups. It is the task of raising awareness among women about the essential micronutrients in food is also easy. Efforts can be made to change that social mindset both at the government and non-government levels that women should not hide their problems, but start telling them openly. Laws related to marriage and domestic violence at an early age can be seriously enforced.

# PM Modi commissions India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant in Kochi

PIB  
Kochi, Sept 2:

Showcasing the country's growing prowess of indigenous manufacturing and a major milestone in the path towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi commissioned the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) on September 02, 2022. During the event, the Prime Minister also unveiled the new Naval Ensign (Nishaan), doing away with the colonial past and befitting the rich Indian maritime heritage. He dedicated the new ensign to Chhatrapati Shivaji.



Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said, here on the coast of Kerala, every Indian is witnessing the sunrise of a new future. This event being held on the INS Vikrant is a tribute to the rising spirits of India on the world horizon. He said that today we are seeing a manifestation of the dream of the freedom fighters where they envisioned a capable and strong India. The Prime Minister exclaimed "Vikrant is huge, massive, and vast. Vikrant is distinguished, Vikrant is also special. Vikrant is not just a warship. This is a testament to the hard work, talent, influence and commitment of India in the 21st century. If the goals are distant, the journeys are long, the ocean and the challenges are endless - then India's answer is Vikrant. The incomparable Amrit of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is Vikrant. Vikrant is

a unique reflection of India becoming self-reliant."

Commenting on the new mood of the nation, the Prime Minister said, no challenge is too difficult for today's India. He said "today, India has joined those countries in the world, which manufacture such a huge aircraft carrier with indigenous technology. Today INS Vikrant has filled the country with a new confidence, and has created a new confidence in the country." The Prime Minister acknowledged and praised the contribution of the Navy, engineers of Cochin Shipyard, scientists and specially the workers who worked on the project. He also noted the happy and auspicious occasion of Onam that is adding even more happiness to the occasion.

Every part of INS Vikrant has its own merits, a strength,

a development journey of its own. It is a symbol of indigenous potential, indigenous resources and indigenous skills. The steel installed in its airbase is also indigenous, developed by DRDO scientists and produced by Indian companies, he said. Explaining the massive proportions of the Carrier, the Prime Minister said it is like a floating city. It produces electricity that is sufficient to power 5000 households and the wiring used will reach Kashi from Kochi, he said. He said that INS Vikrant is a living embodiment of the Spirit of the Panch Prans that he proclaimed from the ramps of Red Fort.

The Prime Minister talked about the Indian Maritime tradition and naval capabilities. Chhatrapati Veer Shivaji Maharaj, he said, built such a navy on the strength of this

sea power, which kept the enemies on their toes. When the British came to India, they used to be intimidated by the power of Indian ships and trade through them. So they decided to break the back of India's maritime power. History is witness to how strict restrictions were imposed on Indian ships and merchants by enacting a law in the British Parliament at that time, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister noted that today on the historic date of September 2, 2022, India has taken off a trace of slavery, a burden of slavery. The Indian Navy has got a new flag from today. Till now the identity of slavery remained on the flag of Indian Navy. But from today onwards, inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji, the new Navy flag will fly in the sea and in the sky.

# 152.5 crore Aadhaar authentications done in July 2022

PIB  
New Delhi, Sept 2:

Aadhaar registration, usage and adoption is progressing well across India, and by the end of July 2022, more than 134.11 crore Aadhaar numbers have been generated so far for the residents.

Residents successfully updated 1.47 crore Aadhaars in the month of July, and till date (end of July) 63.55 crore Aadhaar numbers have been successfully updated following requests from the residents. These updation requests are related to demographic as well as biometric updates done at both physical Aadhaar centres, and by using the online Aadhaar platform.

In July, 152.5 crore authentication transactions were carried out via Aadhaar. A majority of these monthly transaction numbers were done by using fingerprint biometric authentication (122.57 crore), followed by demographic authentications.

As of end of July 2022, a cumulative number of 7855.24 crore Aadhaar authentications have been carried out so far, as against 7702.74 crore such authentications by the end of June.

During July, more than 53 lakh Aadhaars were generated, of these, a majority were of children below the age of 18 years (0-18 age group). Aadhaar saturation level among adult residents is now near universal, and the overall saturation level is 93.41%. At least 26 states and UTs have now a saturation of over 90%.

Aadhaar, a digital infrastructure of good governance, is a catalyst of both ease of living and ease of doing business. The digital ID is helping various ministries and departments in the centre and at states in improving efficiency, transparency and delivery of welfare services to the targeted beneficiaries. Around 900 social welfare schemes in the country run by both centre and states have been notified to use Aadhaar till date.

Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB) has been playing a key role in delivering benefits via welfare schemes including direct benefit transfer for LPG, MGNREGA, and national social assistance program or NASP. All the APB transactions during the month of July involved an amount of Rs. 12511 crore.

Whether it is e-KYC, Aadhaar enabled payment

system (AEPS) for last mile banking, or Aadhaar enabled DBT, Aadhaar has been playing a stellar role in supporting Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Digital India.

In July, the number of e-KYC transactions executed via Aadhaar was 22.84 crore. The cumulative number of e-KYC transactions so far increased from 1226.39 crore in June to 1249.23 crore in July. An e-KYC transaction is done following consent from the Aadhaar holder, and eliminates physical paperwork, and in-person verification often required for KYC registrations.

More than 1507 crores of last mile banking transactions have been made possible through the use of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) and the network of micro ATMs. It has enabled financial inclusion at the bottom of the pyramid. In July alone, 22.37 crore number of AEPS transactions were carried out across India.

Note: UIDAI is starting a monthly bulletin underlining achievements and progress of Aadhaar. Media is requested to note that some of the data points may undergo minor updates subsequently.

# Assam Rifles distributes essential items to the Blind School

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 2:

Modi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(South) distrib-

uted essential items to the students of The Mission Blind School, Palle, Kakching District, Manipur on September 1, 2022. The Children of the School

prepared a small function to thank the Battalion for all the contribution and support provided to them by the Battalion over the years.

## Sports

### Durand Cup 2022:

# Chennaiyin FC see off 10-men TRAU FC in 4-1 victory; Jamshedpur FC beat Indian Air Force 2-1

Agency  
Imphal/Kolkata, Sept 2:

Chennaiyin FC put in a winning shift against TRAU FC, as they emerged victorious in a 4-1 in their Group C fixture at the Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal on Thursday.

A lightning-fast strike from Petar Sliskovic (12) earned him the accolades of being the fastest goalscorer in the tournament's history, which then was followed by a penalty goal from Karikari (202).

Nandakumar Singh's men took a blow after Johnson was shown a red card yet they hit back with a goal from captain Komron, but it wasn't enough as Vafa Hakhmaneshi (512) added a third, with Sliskovic netting the fourth (552) as the duo wrapped up the proceedings.

The Marina Machans opened the floodgates in the opening 15 seconds as Petar Sliskovic was fed a long ball at the start of kick-off that ended up with the Croatian comfortably finding the back of the net.

No more than 20 minutes on the clock, new signing Kwame Karikari doubled the lead for his side from the spot-kick after Petar Sliskovic was brought down inside the box.

Thomas Brdaric's men kept creating chances but couldn't find an output. With Sliskovic as their main man in the attack,



Chennaiyin FC players celebrate after scoring a goal

crosses kept coming but the attacker just couldn't get the ball past the net.

In the 36th minute, TRAU FC hit a bumper as they went down to 10 men after Salam Singh was sent off for dissent and disobedience against the referee, with the match official notwithstanding any nonsense and straight away handed the card.

Things took a U-turn for Thomas Brdaric's men after Sajid Dhot made a blunder in their own half that led to a handball that further led to a penalty being given by the referee. Captain Komron sent the Chennaiyin FC keeper the wrong way to reduce the deficit to one goal.

Chennaiyin FC put in a fiery shift in the second half as they sought for more goals in their bag. A brilliant one-two be-

tween Rahim Ali and Petar Sliskovic had almost found its way to the goal but Haokip brilliantly saved the former's shot.

The Marina Machans were quick to add to their goal tally with a third one after Vafa Hakhmaneshi found himself in a perfect position to fire in a header from an Anirudh Thapa corner to give his side a two-goal cushion in the 51st minute.

The left flank saw many white shirts getting forward, and in the 55th minute, Chennaiyin FC reaped returns after a flawless cross from the left wing fell to Sliskovic and the forward converted from a header and put his name on the scoresheet yet again to make it 4-1 for the side.

Minutes later, Thapa was through on goal, receiving a loose ball at the edge of the box, but the skipper's shot was

inches away from hitting the target.

There were a flush of chances created by Thomas Brdaric's men but Haokip made top saves and blocked their access to the goal.

Chennaiyin FC are still in the competition and will play their final game against NEROCA FC on Monday in what will be a virtual knockout game to decide their quarterfinal qualification.

In another match, Jamshedpur FC finished their Durand Cup campaign on a strong note with a 2-1 win over Indian Air Force FT at the Kishore Bharati Stadium in Kolkata on Thursday.

A goal from Piush (262) gave Jamshedpur FC the lead but the side of the armed forces pushed back with an equaliser after a goal from Somananda (392) in the closing stages of

the first half. It was in the 84th minute that the Red Miners got their lead back thanks to the efforts of Ruatmawia who restored their lead and ended their campaign with a win.

The game exhibited end-to-end action in the starting minutes of the match, with Indian Air Force FT looking threatening whenever they got the ball moving into the final third as Jamshedpur FC were enjoying greater possession.

The Armed Forces side had almost scored the opener of the game as the crossbar denied Vivek's powerful strike after powering through a counter-attack.

It didn't take long for the Men of Steel to respond as they broke the deadlock through Piush scored from an easy one-on-one situation after he was set up by Ruatmawia, who got past a player and put in a beautiful through ball in-between the four defenders down the middle.

In the 39th minute, Indian Air Force FT fought back with an equaliser as Somananda scored a better, a shot that rocketed in the bottom-right corner almost from 40 yards out, with the Jamshedpur FC keeper having no chance.

Both sides started attacking with more intent with crucial saves being made at both ends by the two keepers that kept the score level.

# Kalyan Chaubey elected as All India Football Federation President, Bhaichung Bhutia loses



Agency  
Kolkata, Sept 2:

Kalyan Chaubey was voted as the new president of the All India Football Federation, the first time in its 85-year-old existence that a former player will hold the post. Chaubey, a BJP leader from West Bengal, defeated Bhaichung Bhutia, one of the biggest legends in Indian football, by a margin of 33-1 on Friday.

Known as 'Sikkimese Sniper' during his playing days for his goal-scoring prowess, Bhutia did not have many supporters in the 34-member voters' list made up of state association representatives. He could not even get his state association representative as proposer or seconder for filing his nomination papers.

During his illustrious career, Bhutia made a total of 104 appearances for the Indian team, and retired from the sport as a

player in 2011, with a then record 40 goals to his name.

In 1999, Bhutia became the first Indian footballer to sign with a European club, after he was roped in by English team Bury.

His career also included successful stints at prominent Indian clubs like Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Selangor and United Sikkim.

Following his retirement as a player, the former India captain managed teams like United Sikkim and also headed the AIFF's technical committee.

Chaubey is a graduate from the renowned Tata Football Academy (TFA) and a pass-out of its golden batch of 1996. He had lost the last parliamentary election for the Krishnanagar seat in West Bengal, never played for the India senior team though he was in the squad on few occasions. He, however, played for India in age-group international tournaments.