

Free good grains at 5 kg per person per month for all the beneficiaries of NFSA will be continued till December, 2022

PIB
New Delhi, Sept 28:

In pursuance of the pro-people announcement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2021 and successful implementation of additional food security under PMGKAY, the Union Cabinet has approved the extension for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY-Phase VII) for a further period of 3 months i.e. October to December 2022.

At a time when the world is battling with the effects of Covid on its decline and insecurity due to various reasons, India has been successfully maintaining food security for its vulnerable sections while taking necessary steps to keep availability and affordability for common man.

Recognising that people have gone through a difficult period of pandemic, Govt has decided to extend PMGKAY for a period of three months so that poor and vulnerable sections of society are supported for the forthcoming major festivals like Navratri, Dussehra, Milad-un-nabi, Deepawali, Chhath pooja, Gurunak dev Jayanti, Christmas, etc. which they can celebrate with great gaiety and community for festivities. With a view to ensuring this, Govt. has approved this extension of PMGKAY for three months, so that they continue to enjoy the benefits of easy availability of foodgrains without any financial distress.

Under this welfare scheme, 5 kg of food grain per person per month is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered

under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) [Antodaya Anna Yojana & Priority Households] including those covered under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Financial implication for the Government of India has been about Rs. 3.45 Lakh Crore upto Phase-VI of PMGKAY. With the additional expenditure of about Rs. 44,762 Crore for Phase-VII of this scheme, the overall expenditure of PMGKAY will be about Rs. 3.91 lakh crore for all the phases.

The total outgo in terms of food grains for PMGKAY Phase VII is likely to be about 122 LMT. The aggregate allocation of food grain for phases I-VII is about 1121 LMT.

So far, PMGKAY has been in operation for 25 months as under

· Phase I and II (8 months) : April '20 to Nov. '20
· Phase-III to V (11 months) : May '21 to March '22
· Phase-VI (6 months) : April '22 to Sept. '22

PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY), started during difficult time of COVID-19 crisis, has provided food security to the poor, needy and the vulnerable households/beneficiaries so that they do not suffer on account of non-availability of adequate foodgrains. Effectively it has doubled the quantity of monthly foodgrains entitlements being normally delivered to beneficiaries.

Going by the experience of earlier phases, the performance of PMGKAY-VII is expected to be on the same high level as achieved before.

Fake call centre busted in Gurgaon, 9 including 3 from Manipur arrested

Agency
Gurgaon, Sept 28:

Police have busted a fake call centre in Gurgaon that has been allegedly duping US nationals using cryptocurrency on the pretext of providing them federal grants ranging from USD 9,000 to 34,000, officials said on Wednesday.

A joint team of CM flying squad and Gurgaon police conducted a raid on Tuesday night and caught nine people, they said.

Satyendra alias Sam, Ankit Sachdeva, residents of Delhi, Abhisawan Sabarwal, Eklavya, Vishal Vishwakarma, natives of UP, Thomsang, Chokhauni, Magoi Ganglui, natives of Manipur were arrested, they said.

Police said they have seized

Rs. 1.5 lakh cash, four laptops, and three CPU from their possession.

The fake call centre was duping US nationals on the pretext of offering a grant on behalf of Federal Grant Washington DC between USD 9,000 and USD 34,000 and duped USD 200 to USD 1,600 in Google gift cards by redeeming, police said.

Deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Inderjeet Yadav (CM squad Gurgaon) said based on a tip-off, a raid was conducted at an office on the seventh floor of JMD Megapolis, Sohna road in sector 48.

When the police team led by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Sadar Sanjeev Balhara and DSP Yadav reached the office, the owners did not produce any valid

documents related to their establishment.

The DSP said, "The accused first collected the data like names, mobile numbers, emails and then sent them voicemail. They trapped foreigners after offering them grants of 9,000 to 34,000 dollars." "They then used to ask the US nationals to purchase google gift cards and then redeemed after taking money through cryptocurrency. We are questioning the accused," he said.

The accused revealed that they had duped many foreigners after offering them grants and the call centre was being run from the last six months, police said.

An FIR has been registered at the cybercrime police station under sections of cheating and IT Act, they said.

Cabinet approves release of additional instalment of DA to Central Government employees

PIB
New Delhi, Sept 28:

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the release of additional instalment of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief @ 4% to Central Government employees and pension-

ers due from 01.07.2022 based on the percentage increase in 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for the period ending June, 2022.

The Central Government employees and pensioners will become entitled to higher amount of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief respec-

tively, w.e.f. 01.07.2022.

The additional financial implications on account of this increase of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees are estimated at Rs.6,591.36 crore per annum; and Rs.4,394.24 crore in the financial year 2022-23 (i.e. for a period of 8 months from July, 2022 to February, 2023).

The additional financial implications on account of this increase of Dearness Relief to pensioners are estimated at Rs.6,261.20 crore per annum; and Rs.4,174.12 crore in the financial year 2022-23 (i.e. for a period of 8 months from July, 2022 to February, 2023).

Centre bans PFI and eight affiliate organisations for 5 years, cites 'unlawful activities'

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 28:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Wednesday morning banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates, including the Rehab India Foundation (RIF) and Campus Front of India, for five years under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The MHA banned the PFI and its associates and issued the gazette notification a day after the second nationwide crackdown on the radical outfit in five days with police teams across seven states conducting raids Tuesday and detaining or arresting more than 270 people with alleged links to the radical outfit.

The ministry in its notification said the PFI and its associates, affiliates, and fronts have been indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to India's integrity, sovereignty,

and security, have the potential of disturbing public peace and communal harmony, and supporting militancy in the country.

"The Central Government is of the opinion that it is necessary to exercise its powers under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the UAPA Act as the PFI is involved in several criminal and terror cases and shows sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority of the country and with funds and ideological support from outside it has become a major threat to the internal security of the country, investigations in various cases have revealed that the PFI and its cadres have been repeatedly engaging in violent and subversive acts," stated the notification.

After banning the PFI, the MHA also issued another notification with a subject line of delegation of power and said under the exercise of the pow-

ers conferred by Section 42 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Central Government directs State Governments and the Union Territory administrations to exercise all the powers under Section 7 (to prohibit the use of funds) and Section 8 (notify places used for the purpose of an unlawful association) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or UAPA.

In the first notification, the MHA said some of the PFI's founding members are the leaders of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and that the radical outfit has links with the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), both of which are proscribed organisations. "There had been a number of instances of international linkages of PFI with Global Terrorist Groups like Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

contd. on page 4

Funds for development worth 70 lakhs released but no work progress: LOWA

IT News
Imphal, Sept 28:

Longmai (Simbutong) Land Ownership's Welfare Association (LOWA) Noney Sub-Division, Noney District Manipur denounced the sorry state of affairs on the part of the sub-standard work site for the 11-1, Noney and the ill-fated project that cannot be accepted by the Government and the public.

A Press release by LOWA said, "W. Ratan Kumar Singh,

Special Class Contractor, MTDC has withdrawn Rs. 70 lakhs of the project cost, i.e., Rs. 5,01,05,337/- on July 1, 2021, and it has been nearly 2 years (15 months) that even the work of foundation remains still without progress. The huge amount released for foundation and infrastructure development cannot be allowed to be neglected for so long lest the time bound work of the project for 18 months is being lapsed soon as it has

been 15 months are over by now without any progress."

The Zeliangrong Students' Union and LOWA had visited the site and found it unfit and substandard and was reported to the Minister concerned. LOWA demanded that the concerned contractor be removed from work and another fit and honest contractor be entrusted.

The press release further said, "This association, as a donor of the land, appeals to

Heikham Dingo Singh, Minister Social Welfare, Skill Labour, Employment, Entrepreneurship & Fisheries, Manipur, to take up appropriate action to rescind the work of the said project from the name of W. Ratan Kumar Singh, Special Class Contractor, MTDC to another contractor who would do the needful work as per the guidelines of the project ITI, Noney. The public resentment is ripe to launch an agitation if the action is delayed."

Recent cases and investigation by NIA on PFI

IT Desk
Imphal, Sept 28:

The self-proclaimed social organisation Popular Front of India (PFI) strikingly, was in news, mostly for its involvement in serious violence and anti-national activities. Often considered as reincarnation of the banned terror outfit SIMI, PFI's name popped up with global terror links, gruesome murders, riots, forced conversions, etc. Most recently, horrendous communal crimes that shook the conscience of common man- brutal beheading of an ordinary tailor named Kanhaiya Lal by two religious in bigots in Udaipur, killing of Umesh Kolhe in Amaravati, murder of BJP youth leader Praveen Netti in Karnataka, arrest of

martial arts trainer in Telangana and recovery of Vision-2047 document in Phulwari shریف, Bihar all had one common connection i.e., the involvement of PFI. The gravity of the crimes, inevitably, warranted investigation by country's premier investigating agency NIA.

A petty tailor Kanhaiya Lal from Udaipur of Rajasthan had come on the radar of radical Islamic organisations for his apparent support to Nupur Sharma over her alleged blasphemy remarks. Subsequently, he was beheaded on June 20th by Riyaz Attari and Gous Mohammed, and shot a video of the gory incident without any remorse. NIA investigation in this case revealed that, the killers and key conspirators were closely associated with

State leadership of PFI.

Similarly, Umesh Kolhe of Amaravati was stabbed to death by three men merely for forwarding WhatsApp messages supporting Nupur Sharma. Unsurprisingly, the prime accused of the case, Irfan was associated with Amaravati PFI Division Committee President Maulana Sohel. NIA team conducted searches at Sohel's house to investigate his links with the case.

In Karnataka BJP youth leader Praveen Netti was killed by Shafiq and Zakir to create terror among Hindu activists. Shafiq's wife confirmed that he was an active member of PFI and took active part in PFI/SDPI activities. So far, NIA arrested 10 accused involved in the murder conspiracy and

all of them are members of PFI. The murder was in line with PFI's ulterior motive of creating terror among perceived enemy.

In Bihar, Police had recovered incriminating documents including "Vision Document 2047" which envisages to establish Islamic rule in India by the year 2047 and registered a case against 26 accused including two national level leaders of PFI. Police arrested four PFI cadres for secretly organizing physical training programmes at PFI office, just before the scheduled visit of Prime Minister. The case was being investigated by NIA which conducted searches at various places of PFI.

In the month of July, Telangana police busted a secret physical training camp of

PFI in Nizamabad and arrested four PFI activists including one Martial arts trainer Abdul Khader. The arrest revealed the sinister plot of PFI to train 200 cadres in martial arts and other violent acts. The training module of PFI includes handling of knife, rod, sickle and targeting specific body parts so that maximum damage could be made. It also contained instructions about storing stones in their houses and how to pelt stones on people when needed, indicative of spreading stone pelting culture across the country.

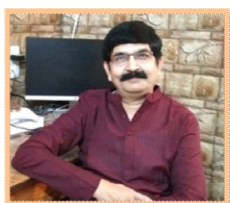
All these disturbing incidents were no random crimes, but ones emanating from deep seated religious bigotry and intolerance. The victims were cherry picked, thoroughly

reeced and executed with an intention to set examples. The reasons for gruesome murders were presumed blasphemy and urge to instill fear among the religious "other". PFI harbors extreme form of religious fanaticism which sanctions murders for slightest of provocations. Further, they would not shy away from shouldering with likeminded religious zealots to perpetuate their whims. Udaipur murder stands testimony to this. Recoveries from Bihar exposed their future plans and Nizamabad episode unveiled their preparedness to achieve the goal.

PFI is led by a group of Islamists who would exploit the religious zeal of innocent Muslims to attain their sinister agenda. Of late, Nupur

Sharma's remarks were taken out of context to fan communal conflagration. In fact, Tasleem Rehmani, who provoked her to make the comment was SDPI's former National Secretary. PFI's objective is to grab power even at the cost of life, property, communal cohesion and national integration etc. Muslims in India must realize that PFI will bring them evil only. The arrested Muslim youths were all below 30 Years. Vicious cycle of legal battles and ensuing poverty are what is in stock for them. Indian Muslim should forsake PFI for the sake of their posterity. Intellectuals across the board should come together to isolate PFI and appeal government to contain it before it is too late.

Educate yourself this World Rabies Awareness day



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

29th September is observed as World Rabies Day which is a day of action and awareness for rabies prevention. It also marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine. World Rabies Day was set up in 2007 to raise global awareness about rabies, to provide information on how to prevent the disease in at-risk communities and support advocacy for increased efforts in rabies control. Pasteur found that rabies were transmitted by agents

so small they could not be seen under a microscope revealing the world of viruses." Pasteur's early vaccine could cause serious, even fatal, reactions, but it was a start on the road to today's effective vaccines. Rabies has a long history in medicine, and now is well known. He developed a vaccine to keep dogs from getting rabies and to treat humans that get bitten by dogs with rabies. Pasteur developed "pasteurization" to prevent harmful microbes perishable food products use heat to destroy microbe without destroying food. There are two forms of rabies. "Furious" rabies largely affects the brain and causes and infected animal to be aggressive or excitable. "Paralytic" or "dumb" rabies, mainly affects the spinal cord, causing the animal to be weak-limbed, lazy, and unable to raise its head or make sounds because neck and throat muscles are paralyzed. Rabies is a zoonotic viral disease that is transmitted through the saliva and nervous tissue of an infected animal. Rabies is a sensitive and highly fatal viral infectious disease affecting the central nervous system. Rabies can develop if a person receives a bite from an infected animal, or if saliva from an infected animal gets into an open wound or through a mucous membrane, such as the eyes or mouth. It cannot pass through unbroken skin. It is an opportunity to unite as a community and for individuals, NGOs and governments to connect and share their work. In India, rabies is caused mainly by non-vaccinated stray dogs, while in advanced countries, bats cause rabies far more often. More than 99 % of all rabies cases in humans are transmitted from dogs. Rabies is present in the nerves and saliva of an infected animal. While human beings usually cannot fight a potential rabies infection without medication, some bird species have been known to develop antibodies and recover from the disease. Amongst domestic animals, dog is the commonest source of infection to man. The other domestic animals like cow, horse and camel etc. can be infected when bitten by a rabid dog and hence these animals can transmit the disease to man on biting. A stray dog which seems more aggressive or more passive than normal, which is salivating or foaming at the mouth or eating unusual things is thus a suspect candidate for rabies.

Rabies is an incurable disease that causes inflammation of the brain and eventual death. There is no way to stop or retard the progression of the disease once it has begun, and death almost always results within two weeks. The disease causes up to more than 50,000 deaths annually. Therefore, effective vaccination is necessary to counter the threat of contracting rabies.

World Rabies Day is a day of awareness but it has also become an integral part of national, regional and global rabies elimination strategies. The global adoption of 2030 as the goal for the elimination of rabies as a public health threat has led to even greater opportunities for World Rabies Day to make a sustainable impact on rabies, by bringing the attention of policy makers and donors to the ongoing situation and elimination efforts in rabies-endemic countries. Rabies is a serious disease, but individuals and governments can and do take action to control and prevent, and, in some cases, wipe it out completely.

Honorable PM's clarion call for a *Suposhit Bharat* has found resonance in the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition or POSHAN Abhiyaan - Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes among children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. A critical part of the programme has been to mobilize communities at the grassroots to combat misinformed or uninformed practices that lead to persistent malnutrition through generations.

Some of the ways in which the programme has sought to bring about behaviour change includes organization of Community Based Events (CBE); Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and advocacy and *Jan Andolan* (or people's movement) through convergence and ensuring wide public participation.

Focusing on the aims of POSHAN Abhiyaan, Mission Shoshan 2.0 (Saksham Anganwadi and Shoshan 2.0) was announced in Budget 2021-2022 as an integrated nutrition support programme to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes with focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition.

The programme leverages social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) as one of its strategic pillars to build a Jan Andolan. The Abhiyaan concentrates on creating awareness drives and conducting activities with the objective of improving nutritional outcomes and aims to address the challenge of malnutrition in a mission mode.

In order to ensure community mobilisation and bolster people's participation, the Abhiyaan has made sustained efforts to push for behaviour change throughout the year with focused campaigns. These campaigns have disseminated various nutrition-related messages leveraging different platforms. Along with community

POSHAN Abhiyaan: Bringing about Behaviour Change through Jan Andolan

By: Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai

based events, these intensive campaigns include yearly organization of *Poshan Maahs* and *Poshan Pakhwadas* with the aim of motivating mothers and communities to practice healthier nutrition behaviour.

Under the Abhiyaan, Community Based Events (CBEs) are being organized twice in a month on a fixed day of week by each Anganwadi Centre. Under Community Based Events, Annaprashan Diwas, Suposan Diwas (specifically focused on orienting husbands), celebrating coming of age, getting ready for pre-school at AWC, messages related to public health for improvement of nutrition, importance of hand-wash and sanitation, prevention of anemia, importance of nutritious food, diet diversity etc. are covered. Since the launch of the Abhiyaan more than 3.70 crore CBEs have been conducted at AWCs across the country.

To focus on nutrition, increase awareness on good nutrition practices and behaviours, two major outreach and social and behaviour change campaigns are undertaken under the Jan Andolan component of POSHAN Abhiyaan. Since the launch of the Abhiyaan, four 'Rashtriya Poshan Maahs', a month-long campaign held in September and four 'Poshan Pakhwadas', a fortnight-long campaign held in March, have been held with high reach and results. Key activities which include Poshan Melas, *Prabhat Pherees*, sessions on nutrition at schools, Self-Help Group meetings, Anemia camps, growth monitoring of children, home visits by ASHA/AWW, Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSND), etc. are carried out.

The Poshan Maah and Pakhwada celebrated so far have witnessed wide participation and enthusiasm from convergent Ministries, States/UTs and field functionaries. Frontline workers, community groups, PRIs, staff at

Block and District level, State departments and Ministries had exemplified diligent work towards triggering a Jan Andolan for POSHAN Abhiyaan. The fourth Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2021 witnessed 20.32 crore activities, while during the recently held Poshan Pakhwada from 21st March -4th April, 2022, 2.96 crore Jan Andolan-based activities were conducted.

Besides nutrition, awareness of general good health and hygiene practices are also imparted to the beneficiaries of POSHAN Abhiyaan through monthly sessions. Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) was conceptualized under the National Health Mission (NHM). It is being implemented across the country since 2007 as a community platform, connecting the community and health systems and facilitating convergent actions. It attempts to bring health, early childhood development and nutrition and sanitation services to the doorstep and promote community engagement for improved health and wellbeing.

Most importantly, in order to improve and create awareness about diet diversity in the community and provide different food groups to malnourished children, Poshan Vatikas or Nutrition Gardens have been developed to encourage local, seasonal produce for use by the community. The main objective of POSHAN Vatika is to ensure supply of nutrition through organically grown vegetables and fruits. It is worth highlighting that under the plantation drive supported by MoA/USH, 1.10 lakhs saplings of medicinal plants were planted in 21 districts. Additionally, 4.37 lakh AWCs are equipped with their own Poshan Vatikas.

The fifth edition of Rashtriya Poshan Maah is underway with an aim to convert *Jan Andolan into Jan Bhagidari*. It seeks to address the challenge of malnutrition by spreading the message through Gram Panchayats acting as

Poshan Panchayats. In the Poshan Panchayats, the key focus is on "*Mahila Swasthya*" and "*Bacha aur Shiksha*". The Rashtriya Poshan Maah serves as a platform to bring focus on the discourse of nutrition and good health and intends to achieve the holistic goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan in a harmonized manner.

As per the recently released report of the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), (2019-21), conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, India has improved on various nutrition indicators as compared to National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4), (2015-16). According to the NFHS-5 data, Stunting among children has reduced from 38.4 percent to 35.5 percent. Wasting has reduced from 21.0 percent to 19.3 percent and Underweight prevalence has reduced from 35.8 percent to 32.1 percent. Further, the percentage of women aged (15-49 years) whose Body Mass Index is below normal has reduced from 22.9 percent in NFHS-4 to 18.7 percent in NFHS-5.

Launched with a noble and holistic goal, POSHAN Abhiyaan intends to bring about behaviour change and increase nutritional awareness among mothers of young children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, family members including husbands, father, mothers-in-law and community members, health care providers (ANM, ASHA, Anganwadi worker) about vital nutrition behaviours with a strong focus on community level interventions and community participation. Behaviour change communication is a potent tool for promoting positive health behavior among populations. Success of Poshan Abhiyaan lies in the achievement of bringing the agenda of nutrition to the centre-stage of public discourse.

(The author is a Minister of State for Women and Child Development & Ayush)

Narendra Modi: the man behind the new confident, self-reliant, and powerful India



By: Laimayum Bashanta Sharma

contd. from yesterday

1. Demonetisation: ON November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a sudden move, announced his government's decision to discontinue the legal tender status of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes and instead introduce new 500 and 2,000 denomination currency. This 'demonetisation' policy, according to the PM, was aimed at tackling black money, counterfeit currency, disrupting criminal activities and terror financing. Demonetisation dented terror funding, break the back bone of the Maoist and insurgents and boosted digitalisation massively.

2. GST

The Revolution Brought by GST in India:

The introduction of GST or Good and Services Tax is touted as the biggest economic transformation in the country after India became an inde-

pendent nation. The GST model was first conceptualized by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and it was implemented by PM Modi. Before 1st July 2017, India was plagued with numerous Indirect Taxes in different sectors, which were not properly regulated. To have all of these under a single roof, the current government rolled out the Goods and Service Tax (GST) in a historic midnight event at the Parliament. It took 17 long years for GST to get implemented. This taxation scheme was implemented to scrape out all the other rampant taxes, and put 1.35 billion Indians under 'one nation, one tax' scheme. GST comprises of several taxes like VAT, Central Excise Law, Octroi, etc. which were earlier charged separately.

3. Digital India: The vision of Digital India programme is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Digital India Mission is mainly focused on three areas: Providing digital infrastructure as a source of utility to every citizen. Governance and services on demand. To look after the digital empowerment of every citizen.

Based on the foundations laid down in the form of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity and other digital initiatives of the government, today the robust integrated digital system removed 9 crore fake beneficiaries from the system in the last 8

years thus a massive leak has been plugged. Digital health solutions across the healthcare ecosystem have proven to be of immense benefit over the years, with CoWIN, Arogya Setu and e-Sanjeevani further demonstrating the role technology can play in enabling access to healthcare. It is estimated that a campaign like digital India can uplift the economy of India by one trillion and now the government is working towards transforming it into a five trillion economy. The digital Literacy of India has increased too. It has made us all survive times like a pandemic.

4. Jan Dhan Yojana: Launched in 2014, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is aimed at ensuring universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic banking account for every household. Under this scheme, a savings bank account is opened for a person. There is no need to maintain any minimum balance in these Jan Dhan accounts. The interest is earned on the deposit in this account. The account holder is also provided with a Rupay Debit card, an accidental insurance cover of 1 lakh which was later hiked to 2 lakh for those who opened the account after August 28, 2018. The Jan Dhan accounts are eligible for direct bank transfer and other schemes.

5. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had introduced this scheme for girls in 2015. This scheme is being run through post offices. According to Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, the parents can open accounts for their daughters

below ten years of age. The interest rate under this scheme stands at 7.8 per cent.

6. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: This scheme was launched in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by PM Modi in 2016. The scheme was introduced to make cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households which were using traditional cooking fuels like firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes etc., the official website states. As of September 1, 2022, a total of 9,49,69,244 connections have been released under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. On the other hand, more than 1.50 crore connections have been released under Ujjwala Yojana 2.0.

7. PM Mudra Yojana: The scheme was launched by PM Modi in 2015 to provide loans up to 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small and micro enterprises. The loans are given by commercial banks, regional rural banks, small finance banks, micro-finance institutions (MFI) and non-banking financial companies. The borrower can approach any of the lending institutions mentioned above or can apply online through govt. portal www.udymimra.in

8. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) The APY is a guaranteed pension scheme of the Government of India administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The scheme allows any citizen of India in the age group of 18 to 40 years to join through the bank or post office branches where one has a

savings bank account. Under the scheme, a subscriber would receive a minimum guaranteed pension of Rs.1,000-5,000 per month from the age of 60 years, depending upon his contribution. The same pension would be paid to the spouse after the demise of the subscriber, and on demise of both the subscriber and the spouse, the pension wealth accumulated till age 60 of the subscriber would be returned to the nominee. The Atal Pension Yojana saw a huge increase in subscriber base by 29.71 per cent on a yearly basis from 281.71 lakh in April 2021 to 365.39 lakh in April 2022.

9. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by the Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2015 at Panipat, Haryana. BBBP addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development. The key elements of the scheme include Enforcement of PC & PNDT Act, nation-wide awareness and advocacy campaign and multi-sectoral action in select 100 districts (low on CSR) in the first phase. There is a strong emphasis on mindset change through training, sensitization, awareness raising and community mobilization on ground.

10. Swachh Bharat Mission On October 2, 2022, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) will celebrate its eighth anniversary. It was launched on Oc-

tober 2, 2014 to fulfil the vision of a cleaner India by October 2, 2019. The objective of the Mission was to eliminate open defecation, eradicate manual scavenging, and promote scientific solid waste management.

11. PMMY Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme launched on April 8, 2015 for providing loans upto 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises. These loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY. These loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks, MFIs and NBFCs. The borrower can approach any of the lending institutions mentioned above or can apply online through portal.

12. Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana: Introduced in 2018, the Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana is a central government scheme which provides an income support of 1,600 per year in three equal instalments to all land holding poor families. According to the scheme's official website, the definition of a family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children. It is the state government and union territory administration's responsibility to identify the farmer families eligible for the scheme. The funds will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of these families.

13. Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (or Saubhagya) The new scheme, Saubhagya, seeks to ensure universal household electrification, that is, in both rural and urban areas.

to be continued

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com.

For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

SC allows EC to decide plea by Eknath Shinde faction for Real "Shiv Sena" Tag

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Sept 27:

In a severe setback to the faction led by Shiv Sena party Chief Uddhav Thackeray, the Constitution bench of the Supreme Court (SC) refused to stay the proceedings pending before the Election Commission of India (ECI), to decide on a plea by the Eknath Shinde faction for real Shiv Sena tag, symbol, on Tuesday.

Forceful arguments on behalf of the Thackeray faction were made by Senior Advocates Kapil Sibal, and Abhishek Manu Singhvi insisting that the issues that took place before the rebel faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde provided its majority in the Maharashtra state legislature be considered first and the proceedings before the ECI should be stayed till that time.

The Shinde faction approached the ECI on July 19 in what capacity? as a member of the Shiv Sena legislature party or as a primary member? Now he wants to go to the ECI and say that I am the political party. But much before that his membership to the party is in question in these proceedings, which have to be decided first, Sibal argued.

Shinde was appointed as a leader of the Shiv Sena legislature party (SLP) by the party chief Uddhav Thackeray (who will remain the party President till 2023). Shinde was not elected. As such the original issue of disqualification of 16 rebel MLAs in the light of the 10th schedule of the Constitution should be decided first, Sibal submitted.

However, the bench comprising Justices DY Chandrachud, MR Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli, and PS Narasimha allowed the ECI to decide a



Now the Election Commission will decide who carries the real Shiv Sena tag, Uddhav Thackeray or Eknath Shinde.

plea by the Shinde faction to be recognized as the 'real' Shiv Sena and to use the bow and arrow symbol of the party. "We direct there shall be no stay on proceedings before the election commission. An interim application seeking stay stands dismissed," the bench said.

The Thackeray camp argued that after the SC last heard the case relating to Maharashtra elections, they made a representation to the ECI requesting it not to proceed with the matter, as substantially similar matters were pending before the SC. If the ECI is allowed to continue with the proceedings, it would not only precipitate issues of great Constitutional import but would also cause irreparable injury to the applicant, the Thackeray camp said.

Senior Advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, appearing for the Shinde group, submitted that the Speaker's power is only about the legislature party and that it cannot circumscribe the ECI's powers under the Symbols Order. Under Article 324 of the Consti-

tuition, the ECI possesses plenitude of powers to deal with any situation which arises about political parties. Even assuming that the situation is not covered under the Symbols Order, the ECI can invoke its plenary powers under Article 324 to deal with the present situation. He also stated that over 1.5 lakh party members have sent their representations to the ECI supporting the Shinde group. Senior Advocate Mahesh Jethmalani and Maninder Singh pointed out that Thackeray had already resigned without facing a floor test in the legislature.

Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta representing Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari stated that after Thackeray resigned on June 29, given the stability of the state, the Governor invited Shinde to form the Government.

Senior Advocate Arvind Datar appearing on behalf of the ECI submitted that the Commission is an autonomous body to decide the issue of the party tag and symbol and is not affected by the

10th schedule since the disqualification of MLAs and such other issuers are related to the state legislature.

Maharashtra was thrown into a political crisis after Shinde and a rebel group of MLAs left Maharashtra and went first to and then to Guwahati, expressing its displeasure with the Shiv Sena's alliance with the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (MVA Government) on June 20.

The SC on June 27 granted interim relief to Shinde group by extending the time to file responses to the disqualification notices sent by the then Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal, till July 12. Subsequently, the Court on June 29 also gave the go-ahead to a floor test called for by the Governor. This led to the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray-led government and Shinde was sworn in as Chief Minister with the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on June 20. Now the ECI will decide the fate of the Thackeray and Shinde factions.

India records 3,615 new Covid infections, active cases decline to 40,979

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 28:

India added 3,615 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,45,79,088, while the active cases declined to 40,979, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday. The death toll climbed to 5,28,584 with 22 fatalities which includes eight deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.09 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.72 per cent, the

ministry said.

A decline of 1,378 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.12 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 1.55 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,40,09,525, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 217.96 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.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year. It crossed the four crore mark on January 25 this year.

The 14 fatalities reported in the last 24 hours include two from West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

SC postpones demonetisation hearing till Oct 12; Centre says 'nothing survives apart from academic interest'

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 28:

The Supreme Court on Wednesday deferred the hearing of pleas challenging the demonetisation of currency notes in 2016 to October 12. The pleas challenge the decision of the Narendra Modi-led BJP government in the Centre in 2016 to demonetise the Rs 1000 and 500 currency notes.

A total of 58 petitions have been filed challenging the Centre's decision to demonetise currency notes of Rs 500, Rs 1,000, in November 2016.

A batch of petitions was taken out of cold storage after 5 years and nearly 30 were lined up by the court for hearing.

The bench had framed a list of 10 issues which it identified for a streamlined and systematic hearing.

A five-judge Constitution bench comprising Justices S Abdul Nazeer, BR Gavai, AS Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and BV Nagarathna, at the outset asked the petitioners' counsel, whether the issue survives now?

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, submitted that for all practical purposes the issue will not survive, and it may be an academic exercise, for which he is ready to argue.

The top court said it is already burdened with pending cases, questioning the taking

up the matter for academic exercise.

The counsel representing several petitioners argued that the matter survives and the court should hear it. "The question is whether anything survives...", Justice Gavai asked.

The bench noted that there were two aspects in the matter - the validity of the action and the problem associated with the implementation of demonetisation. After hearing arguments, the top court fixed the matter for further hearing for next month.

The bench clarified that it will examine whether the petitions require consideration or it has become an academic exercise.

Rajasthan CM Gehlot to visit Delhi, meet Congress high command

Agency
Jaipur, Sept 28:

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will meet the Congress high command in New Delhi on Wednesday amid suspense over whether he will file a nomination for the post of party president, sources here said.

Gehlot's visit comes a day after the Congress issued show-cause notices to three of his loyalists - Rajasthan ministers Shanti Dhariwal and Mahesh Joshi, and Dharmendra Rathore - for their "grave indiscipline".

The party's disciplinary committee has asked the three to explain within 10 days why action should not be initiated against them after the observers for Rajasthan - Mallikarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken - in their report to party chief Sonia Gandhi charged them with "gross indiscipline".

The action came after 82 MLAs participated in a parallel meeting at Dhariwal's residence in Jaipur laying down conditions to the party and did not attend the official legislature party meeting convened for passing a resolution authorising the Congress chief



to appoint a successor to Gehlot, who was to contest the Congress presidential election.

With the Rajasthan episode posing a significant challenge before the party, the Congress president has initiated discussions with senior party leaders from across the country to resolve the crisis even as the fate of Gehlot who was considered frontrunner for the top party post remained uncertain.

Several names have cropped up for the probable presidential candidate including Kharge, A K Antony, Kamal Nath, Digvijaya Singh, Ambika Soni and Pawan Kumar Bansal, though most of them ruled themselves out of the race.

The name of Gehlot for the

top party post is, however, not completely ruled out yet, according to informed sources.

Among various senior leaders, Gandhi is learnt to have called Congress veterans A K Antony and Sushilkumar Shinde for consultations here. There is also a likelihood that fresh observers may be sent to Rajasthan and Shinde may be one of them.

Gandhi is considering resolving the matter after consultations with top party leaders who are keeping their fingers crossed on the situation.

After the developments in Jaipur, sources said Gehlot has reached out to Sonia Gandhi and is learnt to have explained his position, while his arch-rival Sachin Pilot rushed to Delhi ahead of any decision on Rajasthan.

Career Guidance

What changed in school education due to the Pandemic



By: Vijay Garg

Children who were born five years ago are now able to go to school at the age of five due to Corona. Those who were leaving earlier also lost communication with the school world during the last two years. Corona caused the most damage to children and their world. Exactly how much damage he suffered mentally and physically during Corona is yet to be ascertained. But almost everyone is of the same opinion that the emotional world of children is difficult to compensate for the damage caused by Corona.

The two years of the Corona period were challenging

for those involved in teaching, but there were opportunities as well. A new experiment witnessed by the society in that period brought us closer to technology. Through this an attempt was made to revive the dialogue between the teacher and the students.

In this sense, technology helped us in the crisis of Corona. If we look at the other aspect, it is definitely clear that there has been a negative change in the behavior of children due to technology. Epidemic During this period some people began to feel that technologization would completely change the educational structure. At this time many companies came up with educational products. He claimed that in the coming times there will be no need for teachers in the education system and after some time there will be no need for schools. To prove his point, he also gave advertisements with big names.

Some schools and parents were also attracted by his claims in the initial days. But

the lack of curriculum and lack of human sensibilities soon made the parents aware of this confusion. Turned away. As a result these companies are shrinking as fast as they were expanding. There were two reasons for this. First, traditional educational institutions reopened after Corona. Second, the products of these companies were not educationally complete. Academics and experience so far show that educational materials have a huge contribution in education. It is this educational material that made Super-30 popular all over the world without advertisements. That's why after Corona, when the society is coming back on its path.

Schools and people in the educational system are expected to revisit the curriculum and its presentation and focus on their development. One more important thing is visible in this that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started giving priority to school education. This signal was started from the National

Education Policy-2020. But just on September 5, when he announced the opening of 14,500 new Adarsh schools, it was confirmed again. These new model schools will be opened at the block level and their number will be two in each block.

Will be These schools will be in line with the recommendations of the National Policy on Education and will be developed by the Central Government at the level of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas. These new schools will not only motivate the children for education, but will also inspire the state governments to develop schools on the same lines. It is not possible to fully compensate the educational loss during the Corona period, nor can we return the children to their last two years.

But if we learn from our past experiences, we can lay the foundation of such an educational system. If you can face any problem like corona or corona in future, then it will be a big success in itself.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh asks State Governments to facilitate the Central Deputation of IAS and other All India Services officers

PIB
New Delhi, Sept 28:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today asked State Governments to facilitate the Central Deputation of IAS and other All India Services officers. Addressing the Annual Conference of Principal Secretaries of States/UTs looking after Personnel, General Administration and Administrative Reforms, the Minister said, Central Deputation is part of the federal structure in our country and urged the State Governments to cooperate with the Central Gov-

ernment to address the concerns in this regard. He said, an All-India Service officer is an important interface of the Government, both within the State as well as the Centre.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, there is already a laid down structure for Cadre Management of All India Services and the same needs to be followed in letter and spirit. A particular aspect in this regard is the deployment of the All-India Service officers at Centre, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh underlined that the Central Government, with the sole objective of weeding out the deadwood in order to maintain a high standard of efficiency and initiative in the State/Centre, carries out intensive review of service records of Members of the Services

which has been provided under Rule 16(3) of AIS (DCRB) Rules, 1958. The Minister solicited the co-operation of the State Governments in completing all such reviews pending with them expeditiously, under intimation to DoP&T.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that during the current year, the Central Government has successfully allotted 180 IAS officers through Civil Services Examination and around 434 vacancies have been determined for recruitment through induction from State Services that are to be filled up soon. The Minister said, he would also request the State Governments to follow the guidelines relating to effective service and vigilance management of All India Services officers circulated by the Central

Government from time to time.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that after the Covid Pandemic, this Conference is a revival of the tradition of Annual Conferences with State Secretaries in charge of personnel matters to discuss and engage on matters of mutual concern and interest.

Dwelling on the training aspect, Dr Jitendra Singh said, to get the best out of a government officer, he or she should be adequately trained and the Central Government has prepared effective training modules for training its officers. He said, the Central Government has also devised a module for State Government officials, particularly those working at cutting edge level and urged the State Governments to take full advantage of the same.

Assam Rifles conducts wreath laying ceremony for its braveheart



IT News
Imphal, Sept 28:

Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis HQ IGAR (South) organised a wreath laying ceremony to com-

memorate the supreme sacrifice by Rifleman (Late) Ran Marak in Keithelmanbi Garrison, Imphal West district of Manipur yesterday.

The Battalion honoured the Braveheart who made the

supreme sacrifice for the cause of the Nation on this day in 1969 at Kohima, Nagaland. All ranks of the Battalion paid their respect by laying wreaths & according guard of honour.

Contd. from Page 1

Centre bans PFI and eight.....

IT News
Imphal, Sept 28:

Rupai Battalion under the aegis of Spear Corps organised a tree plantation drive on the occasion of World Tourism Day with the theme "Rethinking Tourism". The event aimed at

promoting a cleaner environment amongst youth with the emphasis on revisiting, reviving and rethinking tourism.

The drive was conducted at Rupai Siding and the surrounding areas by 50 local college students and NSS volunteers in conjunction with the

troops of Rupai Battalion. The event acted as stimulus for youth to rethink about the environment related aspects of tourism.

On this occasion, a painting competition was also organised for the 35 students of Reflection Senior Secondary

School, Rupai. The event was attended by local residents of all age groups. This outreach programme was well appreciated by the locals as they acknowledged the efforts of Indian Army to remain in forefront towards the development of youth.

Assam Rifles organises interaction with CSOs

IT News
Imphal, Sept 28:

Churachandpur Sector of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) carried out interaction with CSOs of Churachandpur District at Tuibong today.

In keeping with undeterred effort of Assam Rifles to reach out to CSOs in the region, an informal interaction was carried out to develop a sense of security towards the AOR in view of

the multiple extortion threats being received recently.

During the interaction, DIG 27 Sector took a stock of the situation. They were assured of all types of assistance during these difficult times. A total of 05 CSOs of different org from Churachandpur district have attended the meet.

The CSOs appreciated the efforts of the Sector for conducting such an event which also helps in strengthening the co-operation and synergy with local populace.

AR conducts interaction with NEET

IT News
Imphal, Sept 28:

Churachandpur Sector under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted interaction and motivational lecture for students appearing for NEET and presently studying in Assam Rifles Centre of Educational Excellence, Kangvai today.

The students were briefed about the Security, Health education and Stress management while preparing for NEET examination.

They were also briefed about the nuances of the procedure for joining the Indian Armed Forces including physical and academic requirements and the selection process for various types of entries in the Armed forces as officers in medical corps.

The lecture was followed by an interactive session in which queries raised by the students were answered. A total of 30 girls are being trained for a duration of one year for the upcoming exam.

Sports

India suffer 3-0 defeat to Vietnam in international football friendly

Agency
Ho Chi Minh City, Sept 28:

India suffered a 0-3 thrashing at the hands of a higher-ranked Vietnam in the second and final match of the Hung Thinh Friendly Football Tournament here on Tuesday.

It was a reality check for the 104th ranked Indians after three convincing wins in June in the Asian Cup qualifiers and a 1-1 draw against Singapore in this tournament on Saturday as they were literally outplayed by the 97th ranked Vietnam in the second half.

Phan Van Duc (10th), Nguyen Van Toan (49th) and Nguyen Van Quyet (70th) scored for Vietnam to no reply from the Indians whose defenders had a mediocre outing, especially in the second half.

The Indians, however, were on equal terms with their opponents in the first half only to be blown away in the second session.

Vietnam won the tournament with two wins from as many matches. They had also thrashed Singapore 4-0 in their opening match.

India and Vietnam had



played many a memorable matches in the past, one among them being the 2002 LG Cup final which India triumphed 3-1 having come back from behind to win the trophy.

India and Vietnam last met in 2010 in an international friendly in Pune with the Blue Tigers running out 3-1 winners with Chhetri scoring a hat-trick.

But since then, Vietnam football has been on the ascendency and they have been able to compete with the top teams of the continent. Earlier this year, they reached the final round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers and also made it to the last eight stage of the 2019 Asian Cup.

The home side did not take long to surge ahead with Phan Van Duc finding the target in the 10th minute. The goal, though, could have been avoided had keeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and central defender Sandesh Jhingam communicated well.

Both Gurpreet and Jhingam, who was in the starting eleven after sitting out the last match due to late arrival on account of visa issues, went for the ball off a corner but the Indian goalie could lay his hands on it.

Jhingam's header somehow fell in the middle of the Indian box and Van Duc's sharp left-footer bulged the net even

as Gurpreet managed a faint touch.

Just a minute before the strike, Gurpreet had to dive full stretch to his right to save another shot from a Vietnam attacker.

Vietnam went on the offensive but India also gradually came to their own and they had two clear scoring chances in the first half, courtesy fine assists from Akash Mishra who was superb on the left channel.

In the 26th minute, Mishra was in the thick of an Indian counter-attack and he sent a superb pass to Ashique Kuruniyan, at the edge of Vietnam box on left side. Kuruniyan's volley beat the goalie but went inches wide off the Vietnam far post.

Even closer than Kuruniyan's effort was that of skipper Sunil Chhetri just before the half time whistle was blown.

Mishra chipped one from the wide left for Chhetri, who guided his header towards the far post, but missed it by a whisker. The veteran striker reacted with disbelief with hands on his head.

Sports Ministry extends last date of submission of application for National Sports Awards

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 28:

The Sports Ministry on Wednesday extended the last date of submission of applications for this year's National Sports Awards by three days to October 1.

Earlier, the ministry had set September 27 as the last date for online submission of applications.

This year onwards, applications are being invited only in online mode through a dedicated portal.

"The last date for receipt of applications has been extended from 27th September, 2022 to 1st October 2022 (Saturday)," the ministry said in a statement.

"The applications from the eligible sportspersons / coaches/entities/universities are invited for the award. They are required to self apply online at dedicated Portal dbyts-sports.gov.in.

"Indian Olympics Association/Sports Authority of India/recognised National Sports



Federations/Sports Promotion Boards/State and UTs Governments etc are also intimated accordingly. Nominations received after 1st October, 2022 (Saturday) will not be considered," it added.

Sports Awards are given every year to recognise and reward excellence in sports.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years, while Arjuna Award is bestowed for consistent outstanding performance for

four years. The Dronacharya Award goes to the coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events, whereas Dhyan Chand Award is for life-time contribution to sports development.

Rashtriya Kishor Protsahan Puraskar is given to the corporate entities and individuals, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development, while Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy is awarded to a university for overall top performance in inter-university tournaments.