

# India, China to have new defence MoU, check Doklam-like incidents

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Agency  
New Delhi August 24.

Nearly a year after the disengagement at Doklam, India and China have agreed to work towards full implementation of ongoing confidence building measures along the disputed border, besides drafting a new bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence exchanges and cooperation between the two countries. The two sides also agreed to handle Doklam-like incidents with sensitivity and resolve them through greater interaction at lower levels in the military. This was decided Thursday during bilateral consultations between the visiting Chinese delegation led by Chinese State Counsellor and Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Sources told the Indian Express that the two sides agreed that Doklam-like incidents should be handled with sensitivity, and handled with restraint, rationality and maturity. These incidents, the two ministers were said to have agreed, must be resolved by mutual discussion and

interaction at all levels between the two armies. Both sides referred to the strategic communications issued to the two militaries following the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at Wuhan in April. "It was decided to expand the engagement between the armed forces relating to training, joint exercises and other professional interactions. Both sides also decided to work towards a new bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence exchanges and cooperation to replace the MoU signed in 2006," Ministry of Defence said in a statement about the bilateral meeting. In order to ensure peace and tranquillity on the border, both ministers agreed on greater interactions at the working level, including operationalisation of the hotline between the relevant departments of the armed forces, the statement said. Sources said that the long-pending issue of a military hotline continues to hang fire as India wants a hotline between the DGMO at Army Headquarters in Delhi



with the Chinese army headquarters whereas China wants more than one hotline, which connects the military commands concerned on both sides. The matter has now been left for the officials to resolve among themselves, sources said. "This meeting was for the exchange of ideas which we will progress in field during flag meetings," sources said, adding that the idea for having greater interaction at all levels — at unit and brigade level — came from the Chinese. Officials from both countries will now work out a standard protocol for these meetings, sources said. According to sources, Sitharaman also said that border area development activities such as water supply

and provision of electricity should not be seen with any doubt by the Chinese as this is being done for development. The Chinese side said that it should not harm their interests in the border areas. General Wei is on a four-day visit to India along with a 27-member delegation, comprising key military officials. These include Air Marshal Dingqi Chang, Vice Chief of the Central Military Commission, and Lt General Guojing Rong, Vice commander of the Western Theatre Command which is responsible for the entire Chinese border with India. On Tuesday, General Fenghe had called on Prime Minister Modi who described India-China relations as a factor of stability in the world.

## Kerala floods: This landslide in Idukki buried 4 residents, home

Agency  
Cheruthoni August 24.  
As Kerala struggles to find its feet after the devastating floods, the ground zero of the deluge in Idukki district is still coming to terms with a grim set of numbers: 52 dead, 7 missing, 400 houses gone and at least 1,000 more residences urgently in need of repair or reconstruction. At Upputhode, near Cheruthoni where shutters of a dam was opened after 26 years on August 9, the horror of the calamity is captured on the tired face of G Wilson, a farmer. Wilson's neighbours — a family of three and a guest — were killed in a heavy landslide on August 17. One of the bodies is yet to be traced. The victims were Mathew (60), a retired bank employee, his wife Rajamma (55), a retired teacher, and their son Vishal (26), who worked for a private firm in Kochi. Vishal's friend Dint (26), who was previously employed in the Gulf, was also buried under the pile of rocks, sand and water. The landslide hit around 9.30 pm, minutes after they had reached home. They had spent the day at the relief camp in the



village to cook and serve food for those affected by the floods. Dint joined them as the relief camp had only limited facilities," says Wilson. The bodies of Mathew, Vishal and Dint were retrieved over the last week, Rajamma's body is still missing. "We traced Mathew's body to the foothills. Due to the heavy floods, we tied the body to a tree with bedsheets," says Wilson. It was a "narrow escape" for Wilson and his

family. "We were spared by a few metres. Hearing the sound of the landslide, my wife ran to me saying it might have been a helicopter crash as we were watching the news on our mobile phones about people being rescued in choppers. Then, there was a louder sound and our house shook. I ran out and saw that Mathew's house had completely disappeared. Everyone in my house ran to another compound nearby while I escaped through another route with my aged father," he says. "Along with the other houses, a road to my house was washed off, too. Luckily, there were no people in the two other houses that got buried," says Wilson. The Upputhode church was busy running a relief camp with 200 people when the landslide happened. "Hearing the noise, the church rang its bell repeatedly to alert people who ran to the site using the light of their cellphone screens," says Wilson. On Thursday, as many parts of the district remained cut off with bodies of several of those feared dead yet to be retrieved, a group of policemen and local residents

working to remove a roadblock near Cheruthoni town found a body under the mud. The victim is yet to be identified. According to officials, Idukki's death toll in the floods is the most for a district since August 8 — the total number of dead across the state thereafter has reached 242. With relief efforts underway, Kerala Electricity Minister M M Mani, who hails from Idukki, said the state government is planning to rehabilitate people in vacant government buildings. "The panchayats have also been asked to make buildings available on rent for those who lost their houses. The government will provide compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to those who lost both land and houses, and Rs 4 lakh each to those who lost houses," he said. Mani said a request has been sent to the government to approach the Army for constructing portable, pre-fabricated Bailey bridges to restore connectivity, including the Idukki-Cheruthoni and Periyavara bridges on the Munnar-Udumalpet route. Officials said at least 1,145 km of roads have been destroyed in Idukki district alone, apart from several bridges.

## Shimla: Four killed as car falls into gorge

Agency  
Shimla August 24.  
Four people were killed and three others injured when their car fell into a deep gorge in Nankhari tehsil of Himachal Pradesh's Shimla district, the police said Friday. The four were on their way to Dhanavali village from Nankhari when the incident happened near Dhona village late Thursday night. A police team reached the spot immediately and started rescue work. Three youths identified as Ashish alias Ram

Lal (25), Sunder (30) and Dalip Kumar (26), all residents of Dhanavali, died on the spot, the official said. One of the four injured Hemchand (27) later succumbed to injuries. The injured — including vehicle owner Suresh (35), Neeraj Kumar (32) and Sunder (25) — have been admitted to a community health centre at Nankhari, he added. On Thursday, eleven people were killed when a vehicle fell into a 200-feet deep gorge in Kullu district.

## Anganwadis in Assam: Probe found 14 lakh 'fake children' in beneficiary list, says Maneka Gandhi

Maneka Gandhi said ground level workers inflated the beneficiary lists leading to pilferage and leakage in funds.

Agency  
New Delhi August 24.

A recent state-level inquiry has revealed the presence of 14 lakh "fake children" in Assam's beneficiary list of anganwadis, Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi said on Thursday. She said following this finding the Centre asked all states to similarly weed out non-existing beneficiaries from the list of country's total 10 crore beneficiaries. The minister was addressing a conference on Rashtriya Poshan maah (national nutrition month). Under the supplementary nutrition scheme of Integrated Child Development Services, 14 lakh anganwadis provide home rations to a total of 4.6 crore infants and 1.9 crore mothers and hot cooked meals to 3.6 crore children aged between 3 and 6. "Thanks to Assam we found out how many children are really being fed in anganwadis. In the initial survey last year, it was found that there are 3 lakh fake children. Now again another survey in June 2018 has revealed that there are actually 14 lakh fake children," said Maneka. She said ground level workers inflated the beneficiary lists leading to pilferage and leakage in funds. According to a ministry official, at the rate of a minimum Rs 8 that is



day — 60 per cent share by Centre and 40 per cent by state — this amounts to a loss of more than Rs 1 crore every day. "For the first time since anganwadi programme started, every state will start counting children. Assam found a large number of children who don't exist. We are requesting every state to do the same during the Poshan month of September so that the money comes back into the system and can be used to improve quality of food. We have to count the children in the system and make sure these are real and not fake children," said Maneka. WCD Secretary Rakesh Shrivastava clarified that the fake beneficiary list had nothing to do with the National Register of Citizens (NRC). "Since Assam has shown the way, other states too should ensure they carry out a physical verification," he said. Stating that there is a need to change the system of procurement, supply, and quality control of food to

bring down cases of bribery and leakage, Maneka said, "It has been very difficult to control malnutrition. We put the entire burden on anganwadi workers. Now we wake up after 40 years and realise the system didn't work. The food isn't good, the anganwadi workers are underpaid and overworked. It's the child that suffers." Ministry officials said that 12 ministries will coordinate for the nutrition month focusing on issues such as antenatal care, anaemia, sanitation, food fortification, complementary feeding, breastfeeding, growth monitoring, and focus on girl's diet and age of marriage.

## Nagaland pays tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Agency  
Kohima, Aug 24.

Nagaland State BJP unit brought the urn containing ashes of the first BJP president and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee from New Delhi to Nagaland on Thursday. BJP State president Temjen Imna Along Longkumer received the urn from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday morning at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi. Party workers led by Dimapur district unit president L Bendang Ao and State Yuva Morcha president Benjamin Yephthomi received the urn at Dimapur airport from the party president.

## Mizoram Congress appoints Rathod, Bisht as members of state screening panel

Agency  
Aizawl, August 24.

Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Thursday appointed Deepak Rathod of Himachal Pradesh and Rajpal Bisht of Uttarakhand as the members of screening committee for Mizoram. Mizoram will be witnessing assembly election by this year-end, along with Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. The announcement was made by AICC General Secretary in-charge of Organisation Ashok Gehlot. Independent journalism is not about power but an unbiased approach, free from any kind of influence be it political or industry. While we endeavour

in our efforts for a northeast without influence of lobbyists and cooperates in our fight against paid news, fake news this battle becomes a lot easier through your support and contribution. Please consider donating towards this endeavour of ours and support independent journalism.

## Mark Sheet lost

I, undersigned, have lost my original mark sheet of my class XII examination bearing Roll No. 3628842 of 2012 issued by the central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi on the way between MM Higher Secondary School, Wangkhei, Imphal East and Konung Mamang Bazar, Imphal East District on July 20, 2018.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Riyannandan Nongmaithem (24 yrs)  
S/o Nongmaithem Sumila Kumar Singh  
Sagolband Moirang leirak Machin, Imphal West

### 53<sup>rd</sup> HUNGER MARCHERS' DAY

**On 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 (Monday)**

**Floral Tribute at Pishum Chingamacha**

**Public Meeting at D.M. College Multipurpose Hall**

**ALL MANIPUR STUDENTS' UNION (AMSU)**