

National News

Rajnath Singh pays tributes to martyred soldiers at Kargil War Memorial in Drass

Agency  
New Delhi, July 20,

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today paid tributes to martyred soldiers at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass as part of the week-long celebrations of 20th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Divas. He also signed the Visitors Book at the War Memorial. Mr Singh, in his message in the Visitors Book, wrote that on the historical occasion he salutes all those warriors of Kargil War who sacrificed everything for the sake of the nation. The courage and valour of the martyrs is a lesson to all Indians today, he added. The Defence Minister interacted with troops and reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China a short

while ago. Later in the afternoon, Defence Minister will inaugurate two bridge projects on the rivers Ujh in Kathua district and Basantar in Samba district of Jammu division. These two bridges are significant for border security and connectivity. The Defence Minister is accompanied by Minister of State, in the Prime Minister Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh. AIR correspondent reports that these two bridges are significant for border security and connectivity for locals. About One-kilometre long Ujh Bridge in Kathua district has been constructed at an estimated cost of 44 crore rupees. Its construction work was started in 2016. The bridge will connect numbers of the border villages with two districts of Samba and



Kathua and also connect neighbouring state Punjab with J&K. Basantar Bridge in Samba district of Jammu Division has been constructed by BRO at an estimated cost of 41.70 crore rupees. These two bridges will prove a boon for the people of the border districts of Samba and Kathua as they will now get improved connectivity with their district Headquarters. The border guarding forces like the Indo-Tibetan Border Force and Border Security Force today launched a week-long special

series of programmes that will showcase the tales of bravery of soldiers as well as police and paramilitary personnel. BSF will organize a weapons display event and camel safari for the youth so that they can be inspired to join these forces and serve the country. The Kargil war was declared over on 26th July 1999, after Indian soldiers pushed back the Pakistani troops, a bulk of them drawn from the neighbouring country's Northern Light Infantry, from the captured peaks.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh accepts Navjot Sidhu's resignation

Agency  
Amritsar, July 20,

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has accepted Navjot Singh Sidhu's one-line resignation and forwarded the same to the Governor. An official spokesperson disclosed that Amarinder, who had been indisposed for the last two days since arrival from Delhi, saw the resignation letter this morning before sending it to Governor VPS Badnore to complete the formalities. The chief minister had earlier, in Delhi, said he would see the resignation letter, which was

received at his Chandigarh residence in his absence, and take a decision. The letter, however, was just a single sentence resignation, with no explanation or elaboration, said the spokesperson. Sidhu had claimed to have sent his resignation on June 10 to Congress president Rahul Gandhi and tweeted the same more than a month later on July 14. Thereafter, he formally sent his papers to the chief minister's official residence when Capt Amarinder was in Delhi. Sidhu had been allocated the power ministry in a reshuffle post the Lok Sabha elections

but he refused to take over, forcing Amarinder to himself monitor his ministry's work during the ongoing crucial Paddy season that has seen the power demand rise to unprecedented levels in an unrelenting summer. Sidhu's resignation is the latest in a series of events widening his rift with Amarinder Singh. Sidhu, Last month, was stripped of his portfolios of Local Bodies, Tourism and Culture ministries after he skipped a cabinet meeting. Amarinder Singh had earlier blamed Sidhu's "inept handling" of the local

government department for the party's "poor performance" in Punjab's urban areas in the Lok Sabha elections. Sidhu had responded by accusing Amarinder of unfairly "singling" him out for the poor show. He had said that he "cannot be taken for granted" and was only "answerable to the people of Punjab". After he was reshuffled, Sidhu, even met Rahul Gandhi in Delhi. Several issues, including Sidhu's visit to Pakistan, where he hugged Pakistan army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and denial of Lok Sabha ticket to Sidhu's wife Navjot Kaur from Chandigarh are said to be behind the souring of relations between the two leaders.

Army monitoring Chinese activities in Doklam: Defence Ministry report

Agency  
New Delhi July 20,

India and China have reduced their presence on the Doklam plateau post the disengagement in 2017, but the India Army is monitoring Chinese activities in the area and is adequately prepared to respond to any contingency, the Defence Ministry said in a report. In its annual report 2018-19, the ministry also said that Pakistan should take "credible and irreversible" steps to stop supporting terrorists and terror

groups operating from territories under its control and dismantle infrastructure operated by them. It said India will continue to take "robust and decisive" steps to ensure its national security. Following the disengagement on August 28, 2017, after a 72-day standoff at Doklam, Indian and Chinese troops were redeployed away from their respective positions. This year, the number of Chinese transgressions have considerably reduced, so has the faceoffs, aggressive

interactions during such instances. "(But) the Indian Army is continuously monitoring Chinese activities in the area and is adequately prepared to respond to any contingency," the defence ministry report said. It noted that the situation along the India-China border has remained peaceful. There are a few areas along the border where there are differing perceptions of the Line of Actual Control. Both sides patrol up to their respective perceptions of LAC, it added.

NIA Amendment Bill 2019: Opposition parties betrayed people-Popular Front

IT News  
Imphal, July 20,

Popular Front of India secretary Abdul Wahid Sait in a statement has said that the passing of NIA Bill in both houses with nominal opposition is a proof that Indian parliament is getting tuned to authoritarian agenda of deep state. Only a few had the courage to question and vote against highly objectionable NIA Amendment Bill 2019. The opposition parties were tamed and intimidated regarding the Bill with the warning of Home Minister under the pretext of national security. The track record of National Investigation Agency is enough to prove Amit Sha's assurances against misuse of

NIA to be hollow. With existing powers, it has proved highly partisan and prejudiced against Muslims and weaker sections in the country. It often served the interests of those in power and has been incompetent in dealing with cases of Hindutva attacks in the country. The present amendment conferring additional powers to such a corrupt agency is therefore not merely a concern of minorities, but a concern of the whole nation. By voting in favour of the Bill, parties like Congress, SP and BSP have betrayed people who voted for them. Indian Union Muslim League decision to abstain from the voting on the Bill was also highly irresponsible. It was an opportunity for the party

which claims to represent the persecuted Muslim community to convey community's true sentiment by voting against it. Sadly, it chose to be on the wrong side and proved its impotence when it came questioning authoritarian agenda. Abdul Wahid Sait appreciated the courage expressed by parliament members belonging to AIMIM, CPI, CPM and National Conference who upheld their principled stand by voting against the Bill. It takes moral courage and true sense of democracy to tell truth even when you are massively outnumbered. Abdul Wahid Sait added that the stand taken by opposition parties in the parliament is enough to question their claim as the real alternative to BJP.

Mizoram also demands NRC

Agency  
Aizawl, July 20,

Except the Congress, all the local parties in Mizoram are demanding introduction of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the Christian-dominated state which shares border with Bangladesh and Myanmar. The ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), in its manifesto for the Assembly elections in November last year, had promised that it would initiate the exercise of NRC in the state on the lines of Assam. The MNF is a constituent North East Democratic Alliance, a BJP-floated grouping of non-Congress parties. The MNF pledge came in the

wake of several non-governmental organisations in Mizoram demanding an NRC to detect illegal immigrants after Assam published the final draft of the NRC in July last year. The NRC, first published in Assam in 1951, is being updated as per directions of the Supreme Court to segregate Indian citizens living in Assam from those who have illegally entered the state from Bangladesh after March 25, 1971. On May 18, the Mizoram Assembly unanimously passed a bill to create a register of all households in the state. While introducing the Mizoram Maintenance of

Household Registers Bill, 2019, Chief Minister Zoramthanga said the bill was necessitated by "the influx of foreigners into Mizoram through its porous borders". "In many cases the benefits of development and welfare programmes are found eaten away to a large extent by such foreigners," reads the bill's statement of objects and reasons, signed by the chief minister. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while speaking on the NRC issue in Parliament last Tuesday, favoured such an exercise across the country. The government would deport illegal immigrants from "every inch of the country's soil", Shah said in the House.

Sport News

'India to open athletics account in Tokyo Olympics with 3 medals'

Agency  
New Delhi, July 20,

The Athletics Federation of India is hoping to win three medals in 2020 Olympics with the likes of star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and long jumper Murali Sreeshankar emerging as strong prospects, its deputy chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair said on Friday. In a presentation during AFI's Annual General Body Meeting here, Nair claimed that India's track and field athletes could clinch 1 silver and 2 bronze in next year's Olympics in Tokyo. He also projected India to get 1 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze from athletics in the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

When he was later asked about the events from which India can win medals in Tokyo Games, he said, "We can win medals in men's javelin, men's long jump, mixed 4x400m relay and some chance in men's and women's 4x400m relay races." The 21-year-old Neeraj, who is recuperating from an elbow surgery, is currently ranked ninth in the world. He won gold medals in both the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games last year with efforts of 88.06m — national record — and 86.47m respectively. He has emerged as a truly a

world class athlete and a bright prospect for Indian athletic's elusive medal in athletics. The 20-year-old Sreeshankar jumped 8.20m last year, which is the national record, though his season's best so far is 7.97m. He is currently ranked 21 in the world. The gold, silver and bronze winners in the 2016 Olympics had jumped 8.38m, 8.37m and 8.29m respectively. The deputy chief coach also predicted better performance by Indian athletes in the 2022 Asian Games and Commonwealth Games as compared to 2018 editions. The medal target in the 2022 Asian Games is 10 gold, 8 silver and 8 bronze as against 7 gold, 10 silver and 2 bronze won in 2018 edition in Jakarta. The medal target for 2022 Commonwealth Games is 5 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze as against 1 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze in the 2018 edition in Gold Coast.

have to have qualified coaches. The AFI cannot keep on doing all these, don't depend on AFI for everything," he said. "The target should be for example 200 top javelin throwers, 400 top runners competing in 400m race like that, not only a few athletes at the elite level in each event. Only then we can achieve these targets for the Olympics," he said. Newly appointed High Performance Director Volker Herrmann of Germany also made a presentation where he stressed on using scientific training methods, building strong foundation of athletes, imparting correct coaching according to the age of athletes, avoiding early specialisation and providing nutritious diet. "Indian athletics is like a raw, uncut diamond of immense value but one that cannot be

International National News

US will ensure that steps taken by Pakistan against terrorist outfits are irreversible & sustainable: White House

Agency  
New York, July 20,

The White House has said that United States will ensure that Pakistan's steps against terrorist outfits are irreversible and sustainable and not just window dressing. A statement issued to this effect said, the US is not taking at face-value, Pakistan's actions against terrorist outfits, including the arrest of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed. The statement came from a senior Trump Administration

official, ahead of Prime Minister Imran Khan's first meeting with President Donald Trump. He added that the US wants to send a message to Pakistan that the door is open to repairing relations, if Islamabad changes its policies with regard to terrorists and militants. The official said the US remains concerned about terrorist groups that continue to operate in Pakistan, such as Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and the Haqqani network. The senior administration

official also ruled out lifting suspension of security aid to Pakistan unless it sees sustained, decisive and irreversible action against terrorist and militant groups. He added that US will consider changing that suspension on certain items, if Pakistan meets our security concerns both in Afghanistan and with regard to some of the externally focus groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. The Pakistan Prime Minister is scheduled to meet Trump at his Oval Office on Monday.

Voter ID card Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my voter ID Card bearing EPIC No. MPT0242800 on the way between Canchipur to Singimei on July 15, 2019. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Bandana Wangkheimayum  
Singimei Thongam Leikai  
Imphal - West  
Contact No. 9856731964