

Lt Gen Mm Naravane Relinquishes Command Of Eastern Command

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Lt Gen MM Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM relinquished the command of the Eastern Command on 31 August 2019 after a successful and eventful tenure of 11 months. The General Officer had assumed charge of the prestigious Command on 01 October 2018 and led Eastern Command in the most professional and dignified manner.

The formations under his command set highest standards of operational preparedness. It was his professionalism and farsightedness that ensured



peace and tranquility along the Borders. The General Officer, during his tenure, traveled

extensively to visit most of the far flung areas and interacted with the troops on ground.

*Under his watch, the Command which is pivotal to India's East East Policy, has contributed immensely to nation building in many ways, significant among them being effective counter insurgency operations thereby ensuring peaceful environment for developmental activities to reach the people. Methodologies to test bed various reforms have been formulated for implementation once sanctioned.

Lt Gen MM Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM moves on to Army Headquarters to assume the appointment of Vice Chief of Army Staff.

All you need to know about Meghalaya's jovial leader, PA Sangma

Courtesy TNT
Meghalaya Sep 1,

Purno Agitok Sangma, passed away on March 4 2016 morning at the age of 68. The former Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Chief Minister of Meghalaya died of a heart attack.

Here are a few facts about the man who had a very humble beginning but rose to the exalted office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha by sheer dint of his merit and determination.

HIS POLITICAL CAREER
Sangma was born on September 01, 1947 in village Chapahati in the picturesque West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya.

He finished his graduation from St. Anthony's College and went to Dibrugarh University in Assam for his Masters degree in International Relations. Subsequently, he also obtained a degree in Law. Sangma was a man with many

feathers in his cap. He had been a lecturer, a lawyer and a journalist before joining politics.

He began his political life as a worker of the Congress Party. In 1974, he became the General Secretary of the Meghalaya Pradesh Youth Congress; he also remained its Vice-President for some time. He was appointed the General Secretary of the Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Committee in 1975 and held that post till 1980.

Sangma entered into the national political scenario in 1977 when the country was preparing for the sixth General Elections. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Tura constituency in his home State on the Congress ticket. He was a member of the Lok Sabha for nine terms – in the 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th Lok Sabha.

Sangma was inducted into the Union Cabinet and assumed the office of the Deputy

Minister in charge of Industry in November 1980. After two years, he shifted to the Ministry of Commerce and held that post till December 1984. For a short while, he also functioned as the Minister of State for Home Affairs. Sangma took over as the Minister of State for Labour with Independent Charge in October 1986.

He was the Chief Minister of Meghalaya between 1988 and 1990. Sangma returned to the Lok Sabha in 1991 following the General Elections and was inducted into the Union Cabinet by Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. Sangma was given the Independent Charge of the Ministry of Coal. In February 1992, he was given the additional responsibility of assisting the Prime Minister in the Ministry of Labour. In September 1995, Sangma took over as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, the post he held till the General Elections to the

11th Lok Sabha. Sangma was elected to the Lok Sabha for the fifth time from the Tura constituency in the 1996 General Elections. On May 23, 1996, he was unanimously elected the Speaker of the 11th Lok Sabha with universal support cutting across all political parties.

He was expelled from the Congress on May 20, 1999, along with Sharad Pawar and Tariq Anwar for raising the banner of revolt against Sonia Gandhi over her foreign trip. After the expulsion, he went on to form the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) with Sharad Pawar and Tariq Anwar. He later split the NCP. He also founded the National People's Party on 6 January 2013.

He unsuccessfully contested Presidential election in which he was defeated by Pranab Mukherjee. At the time of death, he was representing the Tura (ST) constituency in the West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya.

News from the world of Medicine

E-cigarettes less harmful than conventional ones - Experts

By a Correspondent
New Delhi September 1,

To highlight and discuss upon the urgency of implementing tobacco harm reduction in India, bcpcb - The cancer Foundation organized a press meet at the India Habitat Centre. Present on the occasion were international experts Prof. Riccardo Polosa from Italy and Prof Ron Borland from Australia; along with Dr. Sameer Kaul, Sr. Consultant Surgical Oncology & Robotics, Apollo Cancer Institute, New Delhi.

During the meet, experts shed light on the existing statistics that tobacco is costing India many lives and nearly 1.3 million Indians (approximately 25,000 deaths per week, are related to tobacco. Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death and disease worldwide, killing one out of every two smokers. Globally, Tobacco Harm Reduction movement is picking up pace and many scientific institutes of repute have acknowledged that ENDS pose significantly less risk to health compared to traditional cigarettes or bidis. 69 countries have regulated ENDS, including 34 out of the 36 OECD countries. Giving examples of specific countries, the experts mentioned countries like the UK and Canada which have chosen to regulate ENDS alongside cigarettes and tobacco products. UAE, on the other hand, which had banned the category, recently overturned the ban after taking into consideration the increasing medical evidence. As an organization dedicated to cancer prevention and



control in India, bcpcb-The Cancer Foundation is determined to fight the current prevailing discourse to its logical end - appropriate regulations on ENDS. Building up on disease burden caused by tobacco consumption, Dr. Sameer Kaul, Sr. Consultant Surgical Oncology & Robotics, Apollo Cancer Institute & Founder President, bcpcb-The Cancer Foundation, New Delhi, said

"It is important to weigh the science and document the well-known damaging effects of smoking against the risks and harm reduction potential of e-cigarettes. Without regulating combustible smoking that is significantly more harmful, banning e-cigarettes that has proven social, economic and health benefits over combustible cigarettes, is not justified. ENDS present an excellent opportunity for India to accelerate a decline in smoking rates and adult smokers who want to quit but may be unable to, have the right to be able to access harm reduction alternatives such as ENDS".

Policy making should be based on scientifically sound evidence and where such evidence is in nascent stages, efforts must be focused on speeding up or encouraging research. In the light of this need, Dr. Kaul also announced the commencement of a nationwide, cross sectional, randomized study on Indian subjects, led by bcpcb-The Cancer Foundation.

Furthering the on-going discourse on the subject worldwide and the policy scenario in India, three renowned global experts including Prof Riccardo Polosa recently co-authored and published scientific evidence based critical appraisal of the white paper, in the Indian Journal of Clinical Practice.

While sharing his views, Prof. Ron Borland said "We want to encourage scientific authorities throughout India to review the available evidence with objectivity, fairness and an open mind, assessing both the potential benefits, risks of a new policy implementation and its potential impact".

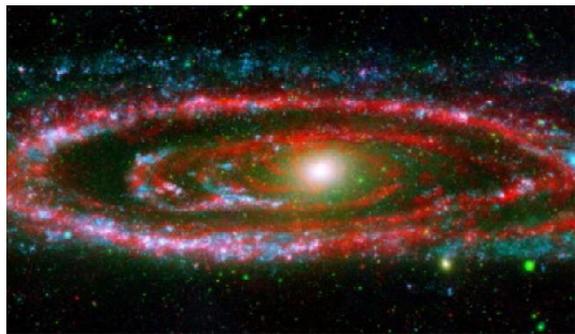
News from the world of Science and Technology

M 32 is not latest mobile phone but our galaxy sibling lost long ago

Courtesy India today
By :Prabhask K Dutta

On July 23, a group of scientists announced a spectacular discovery. It is called M32p. The name looks more like the new model of mobile phone. But it is not. M 32p is the lost sibling of our Milky Way galaxy.

Doesn't it look surprising that an entire galaxy, that too, a sibling of the Milky Way was invisible till date? This is long story. For decades, the scientists peeping into the vast expanse of universe wondered about a halo found around our next door galactic neighbour Andromeda. They just could not figure out why Andromeda, the largest galaxy in our Local Group, has a halo bigger than its own size. The puzzle was solved earlier this week. Richard D'Souza and Eric Bell of the University of Michigan's Department of Astronomy published their research in **Nature Astronomy** and issued a **press release** deducing that the halo is the remains of M 32, which they said, was cannibalised by Andromeda some 2 billion years ago. Some experts have tried to explain the latest discovery



with an analogy of a kid eating her breakfast on a dining table while her mother was away. Here the kid is Andromeda, also called M 31, and the breakfast was M 32. When mother (the scientists) returns after a while, she does not find the little kid on the dining table but sees breadcrumbs spread all over the floor over a much larger area than the size of the dining table itself. The breadcrumbs represent the halo around Andromeda - proof of existence of M 32. "Scientists have long known that this nearly invisible large halo of stars surrounding

galaxies contains the remnants of smaller cannibalized galaxies. A galaxy like Andromeda was expected to have consumed hundreds of its smaller companions," the University of Michigan release stated. M32 galaxy was at least 20 times larger than any galaxy, which merged with the Milky Way over the course of its lifetime. In its original size, M32 would have been the third largest galaxy in the Local Group after the Andromeda and the Milky Way.

Eric Bell, one of the scientists to make discovery calls M32 "a weirdo". Bell says "While it looks like a compact example of an old, elliptical galaxy, it actually has lots of young stars. It's one of the most compact galaxies in the universe. There isn't another galaxy like it." Can we see this "weirdo"? Answer is "no". Reason: none of the stars beyond Milky Way can be seen from northern hemisphere, a few can be seen from the southern hemisphere as fuzzy little blobs. The largest galaxy in this part of universe, Andromeda itself looks like a woolly spot in the sky.

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Why Is No One In Assam Happy With the Final NRC?

He said, "We hear that people are quoting various numbers said by ministers earlier about illegal immigrants residing in India. But those numbers had no scientific basis. Those were mere political statements. If Governor Sinha's report is quoted, it should also be mentioned that he claimed in his report that everyday, 6,000 persons were crossing over from Bangladesh to Assam alone." He added, "Even if we count it from 1998 onwards, the number should have been in crores today. I ask, where are those people whom the NRC couldn't find? If you look at the total number of Muslims in the state, then you know that he was incorrect." Seated next to him, AAMSU president Rezaul Sarkar, said, "Even my mother's name is not in the list. How can we accept it? We have been getting calls relentlessly from families living in different parts of the state saying while parents' names are there, the children's names are missing. In some cases, the entire family's names are there but only one son or daughter is out of it. More such cases will come forward in the next few days." Interestingly, political parties too expressed disappointment at the outcome of the final

NRC. BJP minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took to Twitter. However, if we go by the figure stated by Aabhijit Sarma of APW, the NRC authorities had already conducted over 20% re-verification in the four border districts. Reacting to the NRC list, former chief minister and Congress leader Tarun Gogoi too took the line that many "genuine citizens", particularly Bengali Hindus, were excluded from the list while several foreigners have been included. He told *NDTV*, "The BJP has to explain what went wrong with the NRC." Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), which was born of the Assam Accord, found the number "ridiculously small." Party president and state minister Atul Bora told reporters, "The people of Assam had hoped for a free and fair NRC but it now seems that the very existence of the Assamese will be further threatened." Senior Guwahati-based journalist Sushanta Talukdar said the decision to update the NRC was a social consensus between various stakeholder communities to solve the issue once and for all. "But the outright rejection of the NRC by the important civil society and student bodies will make it difficult to ensure its social

acceptance. With so many numbers already having been circulated by various governments, a perception had been created in the state that there were a lot of undocumented immigrants. So when the number of 19 lakhs came, it looked unbelievable," he said. "Also," he added, "Towards the end of the NRC update, there was increased talk in the media that names of genuine Indian citizens were being left out." "Some political parties like the BJP said the names of foreigners had been included but that of citizens had been excluded. It created another perception among people, that this will not be a correct one. The structural problems within the system also helped in creating that perception. So the consensus about having an NRC between different communities was weakened." Talukdar expressed his feeling that nationally, BJP would probably refrain from promoting the figure of the final NRC. This was something it could do with the final draft NRC as the number of people excluded was considerably higher. He admits that in Assam, however, "the growing perception among the people that it is not an error-free NRC will help it politically."