

## Education Minister chairs review meet on the work progress for implementing NEP, 2020

IT News  
Imphal, Aug. 11:

Education Minister Dr. Thokchom Radheshyam today chaired a meeting to review the work progress for constituting task force and to decide further course of action for fully comprehending the National Education Policy (NEP) and implementing the policy. The meeting was held at the Conference Hall, Samagra Shiksha, Babupara. At the outset of the meeting,

Commissioner, Hr. & Technical Education/SCERT, Shri M. Harekrishna apprised the Minister on the tentative list of persons to be nominated as members of the Task Force in respect of the Higher & Technical Education Department and SCERT. Commissioner, Education-S and Adult Education, Shri T. Ranjit Singh also expressed that creation of Task Force for the State is the most important step for expediting implementation of NEP. The Task Force will constitute

25 - 30 members drawn from experts, educationists, educational enthusiasts, social workers, prominent individuals in the field of Sports, Art & Culture, Dance, among others and should consist of representatives nominated by SCERT, Department of Education-S, Department of Higher & Technical Education, BoSEM, CoHSEM and also representatives or nominees of Departments of Health, Social Welfare and TA & Hills.

## MSU sets 48 hours deadline to form enquiry committee leading to death of student leader

IT News  
Senapati, Aug 11:

The Mao Students' Union (MSU) has set a deadline of 48 hours starting from midnight of August 11 to set up a formal enquiry committee to look into the medical lapses which led to the death of A. Mayili, Tribunal General and former President of the student body. In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Manipur, Marikho O'Leriina, President, Mao Students' Union expressed deepest regret and anguish over the untimely death of its Tribunal General and former President of the student body who succumbed to his injuries on the way to Imphal for lapse of medical treatment and lack of medical facilities in Senapati district. In the letter, it mentioned that on August 6 morning, (L) A. Mayili, the former student leader met with an accidental deep cut on right hand wrist for which he was rushed to Sub-district Hospital, Mao

where initial treatment was given. However, soon after admittance, he was referred to Imphal due to severity of the injury, lack of medical expertise and lack of adequate medical facilities to treat the patient. Significantly, the request for hospital ambulance to transport the patient to Imphal was allegedly refused by the hospital authorities. Through arrangement of a private car, the patient proceeded towards Imphal and on the way, he was reportedly taken to District hospital, Senapati due to the deteriorating condition. However, due to lack of adequate medical facilities, the patient was further referred to Imphal after attending basic medical treatment. A. Mayili succumbed to his injuries on the way to Imphal due to heavy loss of blood. Marikho, President of the student body stated that it is with shame and sorrow in the manner which their tribunal general have died due to lack

of medical expertise and medical facilities in spite of much claimed development from the state government, he alleged. Taking this to account, the student body demands the Govt of Manipur to set up proper enquiry committee within 48 hours to look into medical lapses that led to the death of the student leader. The student body further wants to take up to any form of democratic form of agitation if the state Govt does not respond to their demands positively adding the state Govt will solely responsible for any eventuality thereafter. Same copy of the student body addressed to the state Chief minister had also reportedly been given to Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Law & Legislative, Art & Culture; Minister, TA & Hills, Fisheries (MLA, 49 Tadubi A/C), Minister, PHED, Printing & Stationery (MLA, 48 Mao A/C) and the Deputy Commissioner, Senapati.

## Sachin Pilot back in Congress fold

By Raju Vernekar  
New Delhi, Aug 11:



Former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot, who had rebelled against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot with 19 dissident legislators is back in Congress following his meeting with former party chief Rahul Gandhi and Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday.

The meeting took place in Congress war room 15-GRG. The Congress MP and AICC member from Maharashtra Rajiv Satav, is stated to have played the role of mediator to bring back Pilot to discussion table with Rajiv Gandhi. Pilot, considered close to Gandhi has bitterly criticised Gehlot. Yet Gandhi had not commented on it.

This is the first time that Gandhi met Pilot since the latter left Jaipur after the Special Operations Group under Gehlot's ministry, issued him a show-cause notice in a case involving a plot to bring down the government. Monday's meeting took place nearly after a month after Pilot and

dissident Rajasthan legislators left Jaipur to rebel against Gehlot.

Senior Congress leader KC Venugopal told media that party Chief Sonia Gandhi has agreed to set up a three member committee to go into the issues raised by Pilot and his supporters and resolve the dispute before the Rajasthan assembly session scheduled to commence on 14 August, which is likely to feature a floor test.

After the meeting with Gandhi, Pilot told media that he was hopeful that their demands will be met with. The fight is not

for any position, but to ensure that those who strived hard to solidify the base of Congress in Rajasthan, should be accommodated properly in the government. The assurances given before Government formation should be full filled. He was aware that the party which gives you the post, can also withdraw it, he added.

Till now Pilot had insisted upon the removal of Gehlot as chief minister as a pre-condition for any sort of rapprochement, while the Congress had asked him and his legislators supporting him to give up the "hospitality" of the Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP) before starting a conversation on resolving the current impasse. While the Gehlot camp has been claiming the support of 102 legislators in the 200-member House, Pilot's camp was not able to increase its numbers from 19, although this number was previously claimed to be at least 30 by Pilot and his aides.

In the run up to the assembly session, the opposition BJP shifted 20 of its 72 legislators to Gujarat to prevent any poaching attempts by the Congress.

In the meanwhile the BJP has organised a meeting of its legislators and those belonging to its alliance partner, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) of Hanuman Beniwal on Tuesday. The Rajasthan high court is expected to hear a petition challenging the merger of six MLAs of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) with the Congress on Tuesday. These BSP legislators have since moved the Supreme Court seeking transfer of their case from Rajasthan high court to the country's top court.

## Second Covid Care Centre for Thoubal District inaugurated

DIPR  
Imphal, August 11

Minister District In - Charge, Thoubal and Kakching Districts, Dr. Thokchom Radheshyam today inaugurated the second 100 bedded COVID Care Centre (CCC) Thoubal for the district at Landing Higher Secondary School, Wangjing.

The Minister said that the second CCC was established in the district to enable the team of the District Administrations to work better in the management and treatment of the pandemic and to meet the expectations and fulfil the necessities of the

people. He added that the second CCC was established with approval from the State Government on proposal put up by the District Administration for the need of another CCC in the District. The inauguration of the CCC was attended by District Nodal Officer, Shri T. Ranjit Singh; Deputy Commissioner Thoubal District, Smt. N. Bandana Devi; Additional SP (Law & Order) Thoubal Lakshya Sharma; Chief Medical Officers Dr. N. Jayantakumar Singh and officials concerned of the District Administrations. Dr. Th. Radheshyam said that the pandemic of COVID-19

reached India and in Manipur too, affecting many lives. In containing the pandemic the team of the District Administration has so far managed efficiently. He expressed that with the increase in the number of testing of the people for COVID-19 the state witnessed an increase in the number of positive cases. Among the people there is reluctance and panic, he said, the team of District Administrations has been putting relentless efforts in carrying out the task of managing and fighting against the COVID-19. The Minister hoped that with the inauguration of the

second CCC the needs and necessities of the public will be fulfilled up to some extent enabling the health worker and District Administration to manage better. The district already has 30 bedded Isolation Ward for COVID patients at the District Hospital Thoubal and the 100 bedded CCC at GNM School of Nursing, Thoubal.

The Minister sought the support of the public and appealed to the people to extend help to the health workers and not stigmatise and discriminate against those who are the frontline warriors of the pandemic.

## Six major rebel groups of the WESEA region has called total ban on India's Independence day

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 11:

Six major rebel groups operating in WESEA region has called total ban on India's Independent Day.

A statement signed by Sainkupar Nongtraw, Publicity Secretary, Hynniet National liberation Council (HNLC), Ksh. Laba Meitei, President, Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), Jiban Singh Koch, Chairman, Kamatapur Liberation Organization, (KLO), N. Oken Chairman, Kanglei Yawol kannu Lup (KYKL), H. Uastwng Borok, President, National Liberation Front of Twipra, (NLFT), J. K. Lijang, Chairman People's Democratic Council of Karbilongri (PDCK) said that India is going to celebrate her

Independence Day on the 15th of August 2020.

Even though some Indian nationalist historians claimed her to have been an ethnic melting pot, she has never been able to attain the status of an ethnically harmonious political entity.

After 73 years of power-backed hectic national integration programs, she has still more than 2000 distinct languages. Even the Gangetic Hindi heartland and the adjoining Hindi knowing areas are not yet amalgamated thoroughly and uniformly. She has never been a country or a nation in the true sense of the terms. In the first half of the 20th century, Winston Churchill described India as "a mere geographical expression, a land that was no more a single country than the equator." Churchill being a

political animal, his description like this was imputed to political motives, not to factual and realistic judgement. But when Lee Kuan Yew of tiny Singapore spoke of India that "India is not a real country. Instead, it is 32 separate nations that happen to be arrayed along the British rail line.", no Indian nationalistic propagandist can churn out ulterior political motives. Pre-Gandhian nationalist leaders, like Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Surendranath Bannerjee, were more honest to say repeatedly that "India was a nation-in-the-making". India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, more of a scholar than a political leader, felt that India was held together by 'strong but invisible threads'. He conceded that 'she is a myth, and an idea,

a dream and a vision, and yet real and present and pervasive'.

Even in the 1920s, the first years of the advent of Mr. Mohandas Gandhi as an accepted pan Indian leader, India was a mere myth, an idea, a dream, developed gradually in the minds of some British-educated middle-class leaders in response to British colonialism and administration. In 1917, Rabindranath Tagore wrote, "India has never had a real sense of nationalism". English language, railway network and the Indian Civil Service served as the physical and human bases of a political imagination called India. Indian nationalism is the gift of British colonialism. After the pyrrhic victory in World War II, political, military and

economic exhaustion compelled the British empire to quit all unwilling colonies, including the South

Asian Sub-Continent, in friendly ways before freedom movements turned too hostile for future friendship. They left the South Asian sub-continent in a very haphazard way giving a large elbowroom to Indian leaders for maneuver and manipulation for unrestrained expansionist designs. The day she became independent, she turned herself into an inhuman and immoral imperialist monster, the ideology of which her leaders had fought against for decades. The new leadership bribed, cajoled, cheated, linguistically baffled, betrayed, physically threatened almost all of the 562 princely states and annexed them with India. The new

regime, formed by avowed votaries of non-violence, unabashedly invaded and occupied

1 Kashmir, Hyderabad and Junagadh. They arm-twisted and annexed Cochin, Behar, Manipur and Tripura. They left even British officials to betray Bhopal and Travancore. Out of frustration at the British complicity in such treachery, one top-ranking British officer even resigned. Churchill compared the logic of the new regime of India with Hitler's dictum on the invasion and occupation of Austria. In December 1961, the Indian Army invaded and annexed Goa. As late as April 1975, she annexed Sikkim with the help of some fifth columnists. Today the process of expansionism is being actively pursued with a veiled and more sophisticated

methodology. Smaller and weaker South Asian countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bangladesh are facing the onslaught of Indian hegemonism. The ideology of the ruling BJP/RSS duo is more outrageous. Their 'Akhanda Bharat' includes, in addition to the 6 South Asian countries, Afghanistan, Tibet and Myanmar.

But the very foundation of present India is structurally fragile and Armed forces are the only reliable bedrock. This and this alone is the strong thread that held India together; other invisible threads are either unreal or simply imaginary. India is not rational, so it cannot be real. This reality is manifested in the dominance of regional parties in more than 10 Indian states.

(Contd. on Page 3)

# ★ Editorial

## Cooperation rather than confusion- need for new approach of enforcement

The nation, as is in most places of the world, is under lockdown as part of the effort to combat the spread and transmission of Covid-19 which have hitherto managed to infect more than 23,000 people in the country, and still counting. Public curfew has been imposed and restrictions on travel and public gatherings are in place. State police and security forces are working overtime to enforce the government directives, while doctors and other healthcare professionals as well as volunteers are at the frontline against this insidious threat, performing beyond their call of duty and even risking their lives in the effort to contain and control the deadly march.

All these are measures and efforts to try and mitigate the damage inflicted by the deadly virus on the public. And while the state has been declared Covid-19 free after the two infected patients were tested negative following treatment, the public has yet to realize the potential threat of an outbreak in this tiny state. A sense of desperation and inability to grasp the importance and the implications of the present situation is still very pronounced. What has added to the confusion is the contrasting message of the state government in allowing retailers of 'essential' commodities to open shop for a limited period while imposing fine on the public for disobeying the lockdown. Evidently, the present crisis will persist for a few more months, if not years, and there is a pressing need to formulate and implement a systematic and pragmatic protocol for social behavior and interaction.

The exasperated expressions of the chief minister and the security personnel are understandable, and until the public comes to its collective sense, no amount of punitive action will bring in the desired result. Perhaps a change in the approach of community policing can be experimented, such as creating community immersion through a variety of ideas including reintroducing or elevating earlier community policing models. Forming community partnerships and coalitions with community leaders can assist in building relationships where tension might be forming. Involvement in community programs and neighborhood projects can bring the citizens together with police to create a conversation to build unity. Security personnel can become more cognizant of background differences and cultural sensitivity. Persons may become culturally encapsulated with no intention of bias, but it comes from being so ingrained in one's own norms and erudition. It is important for police officers to be sensitive to the factors in environment and cultural differences when communicating and interacting. Using more transactional model communication and active listening can improve cordiality. Police officers often engage in linear communication due to the nature of their work by giving orders or commands. This model of interpersonal communication is effective in dynamic situations or circumstances where officers need to gain compliance immediately.

Communication from an officer is frequently used to steer someone in a certain direction which makes it very linear, often eliminating other factors which make interactions more transactional or two-way. Citizens want to be heard and they want to trust the message. Therefore, when officers use active listening and allow feedback to go back and forth in open channels, their perception and contact experience leans more positive than negative. Rapport building is part of this process as well and comes with opening up communication into a more transactional model.

The present source of the threat is one which does not recognize or regard politics, caste, creed, religion or faith. Cooperation and not conflict is our only hope of surviving this pandemic, and trust, respect and discipline are our greatest weapons.

by: Onam Naobi  
PIB

Bamboo has been rightly called Green Gold or Magic Grass. Its fame is well deserved: it is used as food, medicine and as construction material, to name just a few of its numerous uses. In a recent episode of Man Ki Baat, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi even drew attention to it highlighting the bamboo tiffin boxes of the North East. While speaking at a function of inauguration of Imphal water supply, PM said: "The northeast has the potential to replace India's Bamboo import with local production. There is a huge demand for incense sticks in the country and we import billions of rupees worth incense sticks... Hundreds of crores of rupees are being invested under the National Bamboo Mission for Bamboo farmers, artists associated with handicrafts and other facilities. This will benefit the youth of the northeast and the startups here," he added. To understand Prime Minister's idea, consider the following facts: bamboo's global trade is around

60 billion dollars. In India, agarbatti industries imported around Rs 600 crore worth of incense stick and raw agarbatti. Agarbatti is in high demand in the national market. Bamboo furniture made by the local artisan can sell locally or globally. It can be used as school or office furniture. Its wide use in construction is well known. Bamboo can be converted into charcoal, purifier, vinegar, hand sanitizer, bamboo ethanol etc. Post-Covid, lots of bamboo pulp will be required for bamboo toilet papers and napkins.

As for its potential, we must understand the needs of commerce and the global markets. For example, the design has to change for convenience of transportation and handling. Almost 30 to 40 percent of bamboo handicraft work is done from the home of the artisans. This has to change. There is a need to form clusters and manage production in a proper way for quality control and maximum productivity. Working with bamboo has not been an easy task because of lack of technology, design and proper

management of production. Bamboo itself needs to be protected. Special measures are needed to prevent destruction from diseases and termites. It has to be 'treated' in a right way, lest it loses its value and quality.

There are other important issues to keep in mind. Bamboo needs time to mature - almost 3 to 4 years. Decorative items like bamboo cups, trays, mugs, pens, stands, curtains etc. are in high demand in the market but the artisans are not able to satisfy the demand due to lack of standardisation, proper finishing and mis-management. They cannot produce in bulk because there are no production clusters in Manipur. Assam has started working on it in different districts. In energy sector, bio-fuel plant, bamboo briquette, pellets are alternative to petrol, wood charcoal and coal. It is not only a replacement of charcoal, it helps reduce deforestation. The cost of bamboo pellets in the European countries is Rs 40/kg even doubles in the winters. There is a rise in pellet demand of around 5%-13% in residential, commercial as

well as industrial market.

In health sector, extracted silica from bamboo and some other chemical mixture are used in treatment of cough, bile, fever, leprosy and wounds. Bamboo ethanol can be used in handwash and hand sanitizers. Bamboo produces 10,000 litres per acre per year of ethanol. It is more profitable than sugarcane for producing ethanol. Bamboo provides more oxygen and wood than other plants. Therefore we need to plant more bamboo plants, not only for our own lungs and heart, but also for the health of our planet. North-East has a great opportunity for eco-tourism and health-tourism. We can establish bamboo parks where the aged and people suffering from lungs and heart problems can stay for health benefits.

As we said, Bamboo is a magic grass, the benefits of which are immense if we orient ourselves to harvest those benefits properly. Prime Minister has drawn attention towards its potential and now it is up to the implementing agencies to take the idea forward.

## BAMBOO: THE MAGIC GRASS

### The message of the dead

*The bodies burnt turns to ashes, and those that are buried kisses and ends up with the soil underneath.*



By -Janghaolun Haokip

Who knows where the dead go? Who knows what remains of a life when one stops to breathe? Who knows what happens to the bodies that are burnt and the coffins that are buried? Who knows what happens to us after we die? Who has seen it? Who can prove it? Who has gone to the Dead and came back alive? Who has seen the soul? Or who knows they have one?

Different people have different stories and myths, and systems of beliefs and creeds. But most of the major religions of the world believe that there is life after death. Maybe or maybe not,

I don't know. I haven't seen it. Maybe if beliefs are essentially facts, then maybe we will live again a life after we die - a life after death. But for now, I don't know. I don't know what happens to us after we die. All I know is that the dead have a lesson for all.

The other day I was at a funeral, a man who was in his fifties died of prolonged illness. My friends and I were digging the grave. As I sat by the grave, staring down the depth of the grave, I was lost into thoughts. I was thinking about death. I was thinking about life. How do we simply come and go - live a life that we don't know how to live and die a death we don't know how to take? I was lost in the thought of life and death, but my mind wouldn't comprehend - why do we die, and what happens to us then?

In the grave, they brought the lifeless body of the man. As the young men who were carrying the coffin lowered it into the grave, his wife was whimpering and reaching her hand out towards the coffin. His children were silently weeping, holding their mother as if they

were utterly confused why. In the grave, the coffin laid still, the lifeless body of a man: a husband, a father and a friend, who was dearly missed but forever gone. The pain and emptiness in his wife and the loneliness in his children makes me think that if I could, I would bring him back to life.

And before the burial procession started, I was watching at the coffin and thought of the man. He was alive, I thought, just like me but now he lays in the coffin, still and lifeless. How simple is life when one moment can bring a change forever, when one moment can separate us forever as the living and the dead, each unaware of the other. Because the other night he slept with his family, but since that night, he will sleep with the cold and sing and dance with the dark and the unknown. How simply can death change it all? Life is simply unfair, or so I believe, because the man died simply because he was poor. His house was half standing and half ready to fall. Of course he had laid a foundation to build his better house with all

his effort, but what comes when the system doesn't give opportunities to all. When one seeks for luxury, it pains me and baffles me to see one helplessly starving hard to survive. When one seeks for power, it pains me to see one becoming a victim to power and privileges he will never get to enjoy.

The pastor finished his prayer, but the wife still called, and the children still stood by the grave. If only the man could come back to life, but now the once loving husband and father could no longer console.

I learnt a lesson that day, "the message of the dead". This is the message of the dead that everybody must learn: *The old and young, the wise and the ordinary, and the rich and poor, death awaits us all. And nothing else that we worship is truly as much worth as to love and to live while we can.*

It pains me to think that I will someday lose a beloved, but I've learnt to love them more and help them live and help myself.

## Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches Krishi Megh

PIB Feature

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar today virtually launched the Krishi Megh (National Agricultural Research & Education System - Cloud Infrastructure and Services) along with the KVC ALUNET (Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Chhatra Alumni Network) and Online Accreditation System for Higher Agricultural Educational Institutions (HEI). The Union Minister emphasized that the Government of India-World Bank funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project is designed for strengthening the national agricultural education system in the country with the

overall objective to provide more relevant and high-quality education to the agricultural university students that is in tune with the New Education Policy - 2020. Shri Tomar accentuated the need to save and preserve the important research-based data in a prompt digitized form to enable its access anywhere in any corner of the country and the world. He also stressed on enabling private investments in agriculture. The Minister regarded the Krishi Megh as a step forward towards digital agriculture of New India as has been envisaged by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare said that 2-3

ICAR Institutes should be made research centres of international repute. He also stressed on providing the real time data to the researchers.

Shri Kailash Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare complimented ICAR for establishing the Krishi Megh that integrates the ICAR-Data Centre at ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi with the Disaster Recovery Centre at the ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad. The Minister regarded the initiative as a revolution in agriculture. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) underlined about 58 Universities which have been supported in various categories under the ICAR National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP). The Director General highlighted about

377 students (UG, PG and Ph.D.) who have received international training/ internships along with the training provided to around 120 faculty members in the various International Universities. He also stressed on maximizing the use of internet technology / digitalization. Dr. Mohapatra highlighted the main features of the Krishi Megh that is equipped with the latest AI / Deep learning software / tools kits for building and deploying of deep learning based applications through image analysis, disease identification in livestock, etc. He stressed that the Krishi Megh is a new chapter in digital India enabling the farmers, researchers, students and policy makers more equipped with updated and latest information regarding agriculture, research, education and extension in digital form generated by ICAR institutes and State Agriculture Universities. Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr.

R.C. Agrawal, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), ICAR briefed about the main objective of the programme. He highlighted the development of the KVC ALUNET that has been a result of an idea of social networking for the alumnus of the Agricultural Universities. He stressed that this shall enable the alumni of all the 74 Agricultural Universities in connecting with each other and making it possible to assist the students in internship, placements and to provide support to their alma maters. Mr Edward William Bresnayan, Task Team Leader, World Bank regarded the ICAR's initiative as a game changer that will bring a major transformation in the agricultural education system. The senior officials of ICAR and its institutes also virtually participated in the programme.

**Key Features of Krishi Megh**

1. For meeting the services

and infrastructure needs of Digital Agriculture of National Agricultural Research and Education System (NARES). The existing Data Centre (ICAR-DC) built during 2012 shall be strengthened with cloud computing infrastructure.

2. NARES - Cloud Infrastructure and Services with its constituents ICAR-DC and ICAR-Krishi Megh provide a robust and dynamic platform to meet the growing IT needs of the NARES system with the deployment of mission critical applications such as e-Office, ICAR-ERP, Education Portal, KVC Portal and mobile apps, ICAR institute websites, Academic Management System, Alumni Portal, e-Courses of UG and PG level etc.

3. Under NAHEP, the outreach of existing ICAR Data Centre is broadened to cover the Agriculture Universities enabling them to host their websites and IT solutions.

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## No new circular issued about train services: Railway Board

IT Correspondent  
New Delhi/Mumbai, Aug 11:

: In response to a fake message being circulated on social media that the train services will remain suspended till 30 September, the Railway Board on Monday clarified that no new circular has been issued about cancellation or resumption of trains and the trains will remain suspended till 12 August, till further notice.

The Board issued clarification in response to the fake notification dated 10 August 2020, purportedly issued in the name of the Chief Passenger Transportation Manager, Eastern Railway, which was doing the rounds on social media stating that all mail/express, passenger and suburban train services will continue to remain suspended till 30 September in the country.

The Railway Board clarified that there has been no change in the notification issued on 25 June, which had announced cancellation of all regular trains till 12 August 2020. "It has been decided

that regular time-tabled passenger services including Mail/Express, passenger and suburban services stand cancelled up to 12 August 2020. It has also been decided that all the tickets booked for the regular time-tabled trains for the journey date from 01.07.20 to 12.08.20 also stand cancelled and full fares will be refunded, the original notification had stated..

The train services were suspended from 22 March onwards in view of the COVID-10 induced lock down. Then the special Rajdhani, mail and express trains began operating from 12 May and first June respectively.

Then on 15 May, the Railways cancelled all trains scheduled for travel till 30 June and decided to refund the tickets. Subsequently the Shramik Special trains were run from first May onwards to transport migrant workers stranded in different states. Subsequently the special trains were run from 12 May onwards on Rajdhani route and from first June onwards the number of trips were increased on that route.

## EPFO ensures hassle free service delivery through UMANG during COVID-19 pandemic

PJB  
New Delhi, Aug 11:

The Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) has been a big hit among Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) subscribers enabling them to utilize services during COVID-19 pandemic from the comfort of their homes in hassle free manner.

Presently a PF member can access 16 different services of EPFO on their mobile phone using UMANG App. For availing these services an active UAN (Universal Account Number) and a mobile number registered with the EPFO is required. EPFO's member-centric services on UMANG App got a big thumbs-up from its subscribers during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

On UMANG app a member can raise claim, track claim and know the status of claim raised. During the COVID-19 pandemic period from April to July 2020, a total of 11.27 lakhs claims were filed online through UMANG App. This was a whopping 180% increase compared to pre-Covid 19 period from December 2019 to March 2020, where only 3.97 lakhs claims were submitted through the app. UMANG has enabled members overcome the mobility restriction induced by COVID-19 pandemic in accessing EPFO's services and thereby reduced the need to physically visit the offices of EPFO.

The most popular service availed by members through UMANG App is View Member Passbook. During the period from August 2019 to July 2020, this service attracted 27.55

core viewership's by EPF members through EPFO Member Portal whereas the same facility of view Member Passbook through UMANG App attracted 244.77 crore API hits. The ease of access with a click of a button on their mobile app has seen more members preferring UMANG app over the portal.

To ensure safe and secure delivery of its services at the door steps of its 66 lakh pensioners, EPFO brought the facility of View Pensioner Passbook as well as updation of Jeevan Pramaan Patra on UMANG app. Both the services receive enthusiastic responses from existing pensioners.

During the COVID-19 pandemic period from April to July 2020, 18.52 lakhs API hits were received on View Pensioner Passbook service while 29,773 API hits were recorded on updating Jeevan Pramaan Patra service.

Among the other key services UAN Activation registered 21,27,942 API hits while the eKYC services recorded 13,21,07,910 API hits on UMANG App during the period from April to July 2020.

With Smartphone penetration rising in India, EPFO has been able to extend access of its services to its members through mobile governance, thereby bridging the digital divide. This has enabled EPFO overcome the challenge posed by COVID-19 restriction in providing social security services to its stakeholders, especially when they needed it the most. In the process, EPFO has become the largest organization on UMANG accounting for more than 90% of the footfall on the app

## Maintaining peace with India a diplomatic priority, says China amid Ladakh border tension

Courtesy HT  
New Delhi, Aug 11:

Maintaining peace along the disputed boundary and deepening strategic trust with India is one of China's diplomatic priorities, the Chinese foreign ministry has said, adding that Beijing will try to expand "shared interests" with neighbours in the future. Responding to a query about China's diplomatic priorities as the Covid-19 pandemic impacts the world and international diplomacy, foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian briefly outlined Beijing's plans for way ahead in bilateral ties with the US, Russia, EU, Japan, and India.

"For the China-India relationship, the two sides should jointly safeguard peace and security in the border areas and maintain a steady and sound development of bilateral ties", Zhao said.

"We will continue to deepen strategic mutual trust and expand shared interests with our neighbours and other developing countries", he said in a statement published on the Chinese foreign ministry's website on Monday night.

Zhao was responding to a

question from the official Xinhua news agency on China's current diplomatic work and its diplomatic priorities looking ahead. The Chinese official did not make any reference to the ongoing tension between India and China along the line of actual control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

The two countries have held several rounds of diplomatic and military talks to de-escalate, but the process is yet to be completed.

A new statement from the Chinese foreign ministry to the Hindustan Times issued Monday indicated that the process of disengagement was not complete; the statement, however, did not share details of the situation on the ground.

The Chinese foreign ministry said the "...the frontline forces of China and India have been in close communication on controlling the situation".

"At present, the two sides have disengaged in most of the border areas and will continue to coordinate and consult through military and diplomatic channels to further ease the tension and maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas," the statement in Mandarin said.

On July 30, India had rejected China's contention that disengagement has been completed at most locations along their disputed border, and called on Beijing to work sincerely for complete de-escalation and full restoration of peace along the LAC. External affairs ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava had acknowledged there has been "some progress" towards disengagement and de-escalation along the LAC though the process is far from complete.

"There has been some progress made towards this objective, but the disengagement process has as yet not been completed," Srivastava said during the weekly virtual media briefing.

Srivastava was reacting to China's position, which had said earlier that frontline troops had "completed disengagement in most locations and the situation on the ground is easing". HT had reported from New Delhi on July 30, quoting people familiar with developments at the border, that a sizable Chinese troop presence at friction points, particularly Pangong Lake and Depsang, remains a concern.

## JFA mourns demise of veteran journalist Bijay Prakash Barua



IT correspondent  
Guwahati, Aug 10:

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) expresses its profound grief over the demise of veteran journalist Bijay Prakash Barua, 86, who breathed his last on 10 August 2020 in the city. The forum terms him as a sincere and honest journalist, who left a government job to join the media and also excelled in the field of Assamese literature and regional film production-appreciations. Born in Teok, Barua completed his education from Jorhat in eastern Assam and joined the State fishery department. However, he soon resigned from the post to start his career in journalism with Natun Asoniya (launched by

Neelkamal Bezbaruah). The soft-spoken journalist was involved with Dainik Janambhumi (launched by Kanak Chandra Sharma) since its early days and later worked for few other newspapers like Nilachal, Assam Express, Nagarik, Ajir Asom, Saptahik Samannay Barta, etc. Barua left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter along with a host of relatives and well-wishers. He will be specially remembered by the media fraternity for his meticulous reporting over the freedom movement of Bangladesh in 1971 from the soil of the then East Pakistan, said JFA president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava Thakuria adding that he was also among those scribes who comprehend the Assamese language thoroughly.

## Sushant Singh Rajput case: Rhea files fresh plea in SC, alleges unfair media trial

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai/August 11:

Actress Rhea Chakraborty on Monday, filed a fresh plea in Supreme Court complaining that she has been subjected to unfair media trial and attempts are being made to hold her guilty for the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

In her plea, she also alleged that Sushant's case is being blown out of proportion due to upcoming Bihar polls. She said that actors Ashutosh Bhakre and Sameer Sharma too

have committed suicide like Rajput in the last 30 days but there is not even a whisper in media about these cases. Notably, the apex court is also hearing another plea filed by Rhea in which she had requested that the case lodged by the Bihar police against her be transferred to the Mumbai police, which is slated to come up for hearing on 14 August. In the meanwhile CBI has already filed a charge sheet against Rhea and five others.

On Monday, Rhea reached the Enforcement Directorate (ED)

office, located in South Mumbai, along with her brother and father, for another round of questioning in the money laundering case linked to actor Sushant's death. Rhea, her brother Showik and father Indrajit Chakraborty reported at the office of the central probe agency in the Ballard Estate area around 11 AM in response to their scheduled summons for Monday.

Later, Shruti Modi, the business manager of Rhea and Rajput, also reported at the ED office. All the four were

questioned by the agency on 7 August too. After 2.00 PM, Rajput's friend and roommate Siddharth Pithani also arrived at the ED office. Pithani, an IT professional, had told various news channels that he was present in the Bandra flat on 14 June, when the 34-year-old actor hanged himself.

The ED's line of questioning, officials said, is revolving around Rhea's income, investments, business and professional deals, and links. Also under the ED's scanner is a property located in suburban Khar in North West

Mumbai and two flats at Ulwe in Navi Mumbai, both linked to Rhea, for the source of purchase and ownership.

In another development, no sooner Rhea(28), arrived at the ED office, #ArrestRhea started trending on Twitter with Rajput's fans urging the ED to arrested Rhea Chakraborty. "No mercy for her. She killed SSR by her own hands. Her hair can also be seen on SSRs neck. There was no other woman in SSRs life. Its her. the murderer #ArrestRhea," said a user on Twitter.

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## .....total ban on India's Independence day

The Congress Party could not surmount the rise of regionalism in the 1960s and 1970s, and later, it learnt to live with them. Even the so-called invincible juggernaut of BJP cannot make a dent in the popularity of many regional parties.

WESEA is a unique case in the totality of India. The peripheral rimland colonies are different from heartland India. WESEA is more different. Wesean people's craze for ruling political party of India is not a result of our emotional integration with mainland India. It is a product of the total economic dependence of WESEA on mainland India, which is the end-result of 70 years of planned machinations of military

subjugation, political domination, economic emasculation, social dislocation, moral putrefaction, infantilization and dehumanization. Our reality is irrational. No human group can live and survive in the manner we live now. The degree of dependence we are surviving with is not natural for human beings. If it continues, our collective death is inevitable. If we are to survive and prosper, we must do away with this unnatural variety of economy prevailing in our region. This is the basic foundation to build up our national freedom movement on.

On top of this, the proposition, that our

association with India pushes us to hell, is proven to be politically correct beyond all doubt by the recent happenings during the covid-19 pandemic in the major metropolitan cities of India. We, Weseans, were racially discriminated, spat upon, driven out of rented houses, refused to shop, to get medical treatment etc. Such acts were done, not by uneducated urchins, but by educated middle-aged middle-class people.

Racial discrimination against the Mongoloid-looking people of WESEA has been prevalent for a long time in mainland India. But we are compelled to continue to bear the unbearable racial discrimination, as we are

starved of employment and other opportunities in our own homelands. Our helplessness conditions us to be inured to such discrimination, as low caste Indians willingly accept inhuman oppression as the fruits of their own Karma. The heartland 23 Indians cannot accept us, Mongoloids, as their own. In their eyes, we are not more than another Nido Tania. Our land is, they claim, an integral part of their cherished Mother India, but our peoples are not a part of their 'imagined community'. So, there is no plausible ground for us, Weseans, to celebrate the Independence Day of their Motherland. Our land is under alien occupation. Resistance is the only natural

response to it. With a declared aim of liberating WESEA from Indian occupation, the entire WESEA region has resorted to armed struggle. In addition to armed struggle, peaceful non-cooperation is also a potent form of resistance. We, the undersigned representatives of our respective revolutionary organizations, declare to ban India's Independence Day celebrations. In order to actualize the ban, we call for total shut-down of the entire region for 11 hours, that is, from 6 AM to 5 PM of the day, the 15th August, 2020. We call upon all peoples of this occupied region to take responsibility to make this ban a success.

## Assam Rifles apprehends UG



**IT News**  
**Imphal, Aug 11:**

Troops of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) along with Bishnupur Police Commandos apprehended a Self Styled Lance Corporal of PLA/RPF on 09<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Based on specific intelligence inputs, a joint team of Tulihal Battalion and Bishnupur Commandos launched an operation and apprehended a

Self Styled Lance Corporal of PLA/RPF from Leimaram Bazar area of Bishnupur district. The cadre has been identified as Nigthoujam Kheta Singh @ Roshan, age 32 years, S/o N. Anganthomaba Singh of Waroching, Bishnupur district. The apprehended individual has been handed over to Nambol Police Station for further investigation.

## PM Modi reviews Corona situation with CMs of 10 states; Says working together, India can win the fight against COVID

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, Aug 11:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said with the collective efforts, India will win the fight against covid19. Giving closing remarks this afternoon in his interaction with the Chief Ministers of 10 states through Video Conferencing, Mr Modi said the most important thing is that people's confidence has also increased and the fear has gone down. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said efforts to contain the

COVID 19 pandemic are proving effective as the percentage of active COVID cases has decreased and recovery rate has increased. He said the states learnt a lot from each others' experiences through today's interaction. Mr Modi stressed on the need to increase testing in states where testing rate is low and positive rate is high, particularly in Bihar, Gujarat, UP, West Bengal and Telangana. The Prime Minister said Contact tracing, containment and surveillance are the most effective weapons against

COVID 19. He said experts are now saying that if cases are identified within 72 hours of onset, infection slows down to a great extent. He said that besides the testing network, Aarogya Setu App is also helpful in contact tracing, containment and surveillance. He interacted with the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Bihar, Gujarat, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh and he was apprised of the Covid19 situation in the respective states.

## Global coronavirus cases cross 2 crore mark

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, Aug 11:**

The overall number of global coronavirus cases has crossed the 2 crore mark, 2,00,01,019 to be specific, while the death toll has reached seven lakh 50 thousand. World Health Organization reports claimed that COVID-19 cases rose 200-fold, and have doubled in six weeks, since mid-

March. The US accounted for the world's highest number of infections and fatalities at 5,08,821 and 1,62,919, respectively. However, the World Health Organisation insisted that there was still hope of conquering the pandemic. It has stressed it was never too late to take action to suppress the COVID-19 crisis that has gripped the planet.

## Delhi Metro to reach its highest point at Haiderpur Badli Mor

**Agency**

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Metro is all set to scale new heights in Phase 4 as its viaduct at Haiderpur Badli Mor will be the highest ever in its network. In this project, while the height of the rail level will be 28 metres, the pier supporting the viaduct will be 25 metres, the highest till date. This will be much higher than Delhi Metro's present highest position at Dhaula Kuan, where the Pink Metro Line passes at a height of 23.6 metres. The height has been necessitated as at this location, the viaduct will cross the presently operational Yellow Line viaduct. The height of the new Metro line will be more

than the height of an eight-storey building. The Phase 4 platform at Haiderpur Badli Mor, which will come above the Phase 3 station, will also be the highest ever platform in Delhi Metro at a height of 23.5 metres. The Mayapuri Phase 1 metro station on Pink Line is at a height of 22 metres while the Karkardooma station is at a height of 20 metres. DMRC engineers are planning a detailed construction plan to execute this meticulous project. Construction of the pier and the subsequent launching of the spans will be done without impacting operations on the Yellow Line, one of Delhi Metro's busiest corridors.

## AR organizes tree plantation drive

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Aug 11:**

Mantripukhri, Keithelmanbi and Thoubal Battalions of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organize Tree Plantation Drive in their Garrisons and various Company Operating Bases over a period of three days.

As part of the afforestation drive and with an objective to contribute in preserving and promoting a pollution-free environment, tree-plantation was carried out in Mantripukhri Battalion in the Garrison, Koirengai, Sawombing and Singamei Company Operating Bases. Likewise, Keithelmanbi Battalion carried out tree

plantation at Keithelmanbi Garrison and all Company Operating Bases. Similarly, Thoubal Battalion carried out tree plantation in the Garrison and all Company Operating Bases. A total of 7827 saplings were planted in the drive which included fruit bearing trees and other saplings.

## Record number of 15 crore people downloaded Aarogya Setu App

**New Delhi, Aug 11:**

Aarogya Setu, the APP developed to track and trace COVID19 situation in the country has recorded 15 crore downloads till date. Due to its huge support from the people AROGYA SETU becomes the most downloaded Covid-19 contact tracing app across the world. The government-

promoted app has managed to achieve the feat in above three months from launch. A Sensor Tower report shows Aarogya Setu has the most installs to date followed by Turkey's Pandemic Isolation Tracking Project and Germany's Corona-Warn-App. The download numbers comprise figures from Google Play Store and the App Store.

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Forays into the Compact SUV Segment with its youngest SUV "Toyota Urban Cruiser"

**Imphal, Aug 11:**

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced its much awaited entry into the compact SUV segment in India with the all new Toyota Urban Cruiser. Toyota's youngest SUV. A unique offering from Toyota in India, the new Urban Cruiser exudes an 'Urban Standout Appeal' for those who love to 'Travel in Style'. The Urban Cruiser would endear itself to the discerning customers who are seeking more from a compact SUV. The company will launch the compact SUV in its India line-up during the festive season to cater to the growing demand for compact SUVs in India.

Commenting on the foray into the compact SUV segment, Mr. Naveen Soni, Senior Vice President, Sales and Services, TKM, said, "We are very excited to announce our plans to launch the Toyota Urban Cruiser this festive season. With a customer-first approach, TKM has always endeavoured to fulfil the aspirations of its customers with timely introduction of new products and the Toyota Urban Cruiser is another such effort to satisfy the evolving customer needs. Also, we hope that the Urban Cruiser gives us an opportunity to welcome a new set of customers who not only aspire to own a Toyota SUV early in life, but would also like to experience Toyota's global standards of sales & after-sales services. We will share more details about the car and the launch in the days to come".

*Slated to be launched in India this festive season  
Aimed at fortifying the brand's strong presence in the SUV segment*



### Overview of TKM:

<b>Company name</b>	Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited
<b>Equity participation</b>	TMC: 89%, Kirloskar Systems Limited (Mr. Vikram S. Kirloskar): 11%
<b>Number of employees</b>	Approx. 6,500
<b>Land area</b>	Approx. 432 acres (approx. 1,700,000 m2)
<b>Building area</b>	74,000 m2
<b>Total Installed Production capacity</b>	Up to 3,10,000 units

### Overview of TKM 1<sup>st</sup> Plant:

<b>Established</b>	October 1997 (start of production: December 1999)
<b>Location</b>	Bidadi
<b>Products</b>	Innova, Fortuner manufactured in India. Vellfire imported as CBU
<b>Installed Production capacity</b>	Up to 1,00,000 units

### Overview of TKM 2<sup>nd</sup> Plant:

<b>Start of Production</b>	December 2010
<b>Location</b>	On the site of Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited, Bidadi
<b>Products</b>	Toyota Yaris, Camry Hybrid
<b>Installed Production capacity</b>	Up to 2,10,000 units

### For Any Further Queries, Please Contact:

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### Current Global

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## .....review meet on the work progress for implementing NEP, 2020

During the meet, Dr. Th. Radheshyam instructed the officials present to organise a Consultative Meeting with representatives of Central Institutions imparting Higher Education and Principals of affiliated Colleges of DM University. He also opined that a meeting for all the Zonal Education Officers and Principals of Higher Secondary Education at a different schedule is necessary. He also

directed the officials to prepare proposals for conducting Seminars, Webinars and Discussions on National Education Policy, 2020. Emphasising on the need for thorough understanding of the policy the Minister asked the officials to distribute the booklets on National Education Policy, 2020 to as many stakeholders as possible and obtain feedback and suggestions.

The meeting was attended by the Director Education (S) L. Nandakumar Singh; Chairman COHSEM, L. Mahendra Singh, Joint Secretary Higher & Technical Education, Dr. L. Nivedita, Additional Director, Education (S) Hills, Shri Lerte Hmange Kom, Additional Director, Education (S) Valley, Smt. Ch Sachi Devi, and the officials concerned of the department.

## ...Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches Krishi Megh

4. In the present COVID-19 situation, 24x7 availability of IT applications through have made it possible to work from home as well as to collaborate with fellow scientists through video conferencing.

quality, availability and accessibility of e-governance, research, extension and education in the field of agriculture in India.

which is controllable in the data center environment.

5. ICAR-Krishi Megh at NAARM Hyderabad is synchronized with ICAR-Data Center at ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi. Hyderabad is also suitable as skilled IT manpower is available along with other suitable climatic conditions such as low humidity level

6. NAARM, Hyderabad has been chosen as it lies in different seismic zone w.r.t. ICAR-Data Center at ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi. Hyderabad is also suitable as skilled IT manpower is available along with other suitable climatic conditions such as low humidity level

7. This new Centre has latest AI/Deep learning software/tools kits for building and deploying of deep learning based applications such as disease and pest identification using image analysis, detection of maturity and ripening of fruits through image analysis, disease identification in livestock etc.

### Imphal Times needs your support

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Besides our hard copy circulation our web site is visited regularly from across 152 different countries around the world. Around 30,000 plus individuals had downloaded our Android App.

As generating revenue is now become compulsory to run our news organization we need your support. Your little contribution by subscribing our newspaper and by advertising for promotion of your products or business will help us serve you more.

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