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Nation can achieve absolute potential only when its borders are safe, says Rajnath Singh while urging the forces to keep the National Flag high

IT News
Imphal, August 19:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) at Mantripukhri in Manipur today and interacted with troops of Red Shield Division and Assam Rifles. He was accompanied by Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, GOC-in-C Eastern Command Lieutenant General RP Kalita and GOC Spear Corps Lieutenant General RC Tiwari along with other senior officers of Army and Assam Rifles. During the visit, the Defence Minister was briefed about the counter-insurgency as well as border management operations on Indo-Myanmar border to maintain peace and tranquility in the region.

Addressing the personnel, Rajnath Singh appreciated the officers and soldiers for performing their duty with courage and conviction despite



challenges posed by terrain & weather and improving the security situation in Manipur. It's a matter of great pride to stand amongst the Indian Army and Assam Rifles troops, he said.

The Defence Minister lauded the contribution of Red Shield Division ever since its raising in 1971 war, as part of IPKF in Sri Lanka or in its present role. He commended the stellar role

of Assam Rifles in the last seven decades and their immense contribution in internal security, securing Indo-Myanmar border and key role in bringing North East into the national mainstream. "For this

reason, you are called 'Friends of the North East People' and 'Sentinels of North East'," he stated.

Defence Minister exhorted the forces to keep the National Flag high through unflinching dedication, asserting that the Nation can achieve absolute potential only when its borders are safe. More than 1,000 troops of Red Shield Division and Assam Rifles took part in the interaction with the Defence Minister.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Chief Minister N Biren Singh over an elaborate breakfast on Friday at his Luwangshangbam residence.

The defence minister was given a rousing welcome en route to the chief minister's private residence. Indian Army chief General Manoj Pande, several state ministers and BJP leaders, including the party's state president A Sharda Devi, also attended the meeting.

Manipur media to boycott MPCC and its MLAs

IT News
Imphal, August 19:

All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU), Manipur Hill Journalist Union (MHJU), and Editors' Guild Manipur have jointly decided to boycott Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee along with its MLAs for failing to clear election-related advertisement bills. The boycott will take effect from 4pm on August 22. The President of MPCC had earlier assured the President of AMWJU to clear the pending advertisement bills. However, MPCC failed to fulfill its assurance on

several occasions, and the decision to boycott MPCC was taken in a meeting of the three organisations.

The press release by the three organizations further said, "If the MPCC fails to meet the deadline set by media organisations, all news-related MPCC, activities of its MLAs, and advertisements will be boycotted by media under the organization."

The media organization has been constrained to take the decision as MPCC has failed to clear Election related advertisement bills running into several lakhs even though the election is over three months now, the statement added.

Sports Ministry requests FIFA and AFC to let Indian club sides play AFC tournaments

PIB
New Delhi, August 19:

In keeping with its athlete-first approach, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has reached out to both the International Football Federation (FIFA) and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to allow Indian club sides, Sree Gokulam Kerala FC and ATK Mohun Bagan, compete in the tournaments as scheduled.

Before the FIFA suspension of AIFF was announced, Sree Gokulam Kerala FC had already reached Uzbekistan, ahead of its scheduled matches against a team from Iran on August 23 and one from the host nation on August 26 in the southern Uzbekistan city of Qashqi,

while ATK Mohun Bagan is slated to play the AFC Cup 2022 (Inter-Zone semifinals) on September 7 in Bahrain.

In its email to FIFA and AFC, the Sports Ministry has highlighted the fact that Sree Gokulam Kerala FC was already in Uzbekistan when FIFA's suspension of AIFF was announced. It has requested FIFA and AFC to therefore consider allowing the team to play in the AFC Women's Club Championship (West region) in the interest of the young players. Meanwhile, the ministry has also reached out to the Indian embassy in Uzbekistan to extend assistance to the team in all possible ways. The ministry is also in constant touch with Gokulam team's management.

41 Chandel MLA SS Olish had a review meeting with DLOs of the district



IT News
Imphal, August 19:

The MLA of 41 Chandel, SS Olish took stock of all the departmental and developmental activities of Chandel District, at a district level of-

ficers' meeting held at Hotel Classic Grande chaired by the MLA yesterday.

The reviewed meeting started with the presentation of detail developmental projects, schemes and other activities being taken up by

different departments in the district by the Deputy Commissioner Chandel, Mayanglambam Rajkumar.

Interacting with different District Level officers, the MLA said the Chandel being an Aspirational District, the

Chief Minister of the state has keen interest in the development of district. Expressing her faith in the hard works put in by the officials of the district, she opined that the district could not develop much due to the lack of political support as most of the political leaders of the district were in the opposition side in the government. She said that things have change now the district administration and other officials will have full support of the government. Chandel being populated by different communities, she asked the officials to work sincerely without any bias and also warn of any form of corruption, which will be dealt with strictly, and also urged the officials to work hard and sincerely and help to make

Chandel one of the most developed and best districts of the state.

As part of today's programme different District Level officers interacted and put forth their grievances and suggestions to the hon'ble MLA.

Deputy Commissioner Chandel, Mayanglambam Rajkumar, SP Chandel Pandey Hemant M, ADM/ADC Chandel Md. Firoj Khan, Addl. SP Chandel, SDOs of all the three sub divisions, all the District Level Officers and other officials attended today's meeting.

If other parties want, Nitish Kumar an option for Opposition's PM face, says JD(U)

Agency
Patna, August 19:

The Janata Dal (United) on Friday stated that Nitish Kumar is very much an option for the post of prime minister if other Opposition parties want so. JD(U) chief Lalan Singh said while Nitish is not a contender for the Opposition's PM face but he would not be averse to if other parties want so.

The JD(U) president told news agency PTI that what the Bihar Chief Minister wants is a united Opposition so that it can take

on the BJP. And he will work towards this, Singh added.

The remarks came as it emerged that the JD(U) has convened a national executive meeting of the party on August 29, to discuss the current political situation and other matters.

It may be recalled here that recently, Nitish Kumar ended JD(U)'s alliance with BJP and joined hands with Mahagathbandhan in Bihar to form a new government. Nitish continues as the CM while RJD's Tejashwi Yadav has now become the Deputy CM of the state.

Ever since, there has been buzz that Nitish could emerge as the Opposition's prime ministerial face.

When Singh was asked during the conversation in case other opposition parties support Nitish for the PM race, he answered, "If other parties decide and want so, then it's an option."

The JD(U) president said Nitish would travel to the national capital to hold talks with leaders from various parties after the vote of confidence in the Bihar Assembly is held next week.

Singh said after Nitish walked out of the NDA, several opposition leaders including Sharad Pawar and Arvind Kejriwal called to congratulate him.

All opposition parties should sit together to take a decision on the leadership issue.

"Or, all parties should fight unitedly to defeat the BJP and decide later who will be their leader. Both options are there. Nitish Kumar will work on bringing all other parties fighting the BJP on one platform to pose a united challenge to its rule," he said.

2-day literary meet organised by AMSU begins at Moreh



IT News
Imphal, August 19:

2-day literary meet organised by the All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) Tengenoupal district in connection with the 57th Hunger Marchers' day and also the foundation day of the school begins today at Eastern Shine

School Moreh, ward no. 7. The literary meet is a talent hunt programme from among the students.

AMSU Tengenoupal District Committee has assured to organise more talent hunt programme for the students in the coming days.

Painting & Ex-tempore Speech competition, Essay

Writing & Quiz Competition will be held in the literary meet which will conclude tomorrow. The competition will be held in two categories - Class I to VI and Class VII to X.

President of AMSU Tengenoupal District Committee, Ningthoujam Tomba said that as many as 196 students are taking part in the first day.

War of attrition between Narendra Modi and RSS intensifies

By Arun Srivastava

The political spectre looming over the country points to bad days. The recent political actions of Narendra Modi without any ambiguity underline the threat of India turning into an authoritarian state. Modi has turned so self-aggrandizer that he is reluctant to stand to his critics belonging to his own party.

He is on the drive to weed out such elements, though done behind the veneer of revitalising the party and honouring the stalwarts. What made Modi to suddenly realise the importance of rehabilitation of the old leaders whom he had removed from the scene is really intriguing. The fact cannot be obliterated that Nitish Kumar's jolt has unnerved Modi and he has been using all kind of machinations to boost his image and position.

Claims by his friends that in his speech from the Red Fort he has unveiled a new vision is an instance. But these people could not cite even one tangible instance. Even his friends cannot deny that Modi is in the prevailing political situation is held in low esteem. Obviously, the reply lies in the wisdom that he has failed to fulfil the popular expectation of the people that he would come up to their expectations and provide good governance and maintain personal integrity.

He has come to nurture the feeling that he is even superior to the RSS and he instead of taking calls from the RSS leaders could dictate them. Modi who already nursed egotism become more arrogant. He did not like to have any adversary even in his dreams. The latest move of dropping efficient union minister Nitin Gadkari and MP chief minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan from the Parliamentary Board of the party is a candid example.

In a major reshuffle ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP on Wednesday reconstituted its two top decision-making bodies, 11-member Parliamentary Board and 15-member Central Election Committee dropping Nitin Gadkari and Shivraj Singh Chauhan, indicating their diminishing stock in the party. Undeniably omission of Gadkari from the powerful board signals a major generational and political shift in the highest echelons of the BJP in the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah era. Modi has sent a clear message that he was not willing to tolerate any kind criticism to his leadership.

Gadkari is also a former BJP chief and by virtue of this he should have found a place in the board. The party keeps former presidents in the decision-making process. Gadkari is also known for his proximity to RSS, closer than Modi. The party made six new entries, including Punjab cadre IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura and Haryana leader Sudha Yadav, in the Parliamentary Board. Headed by President JP Nadda, the two panels include who's who of the BJP — Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh.

Significantly former Karnataka chief minister B S Yediyurappa and union minister Sarbananda Sonowal have found place in the new committees. Yediyurappa was forced to resign as the Chief Minister on the allegation of his being involved in corruption. Though his induction points to Modi's desire to expand in South India, it also aims at countering the domination of RSS.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, who led the BJP to an unprecedented second term in the state, has not been "rewarded". He is not on good terms with Modi-Shah. It implied that he has no role to play in the decision-making process.

Modi was working on the design to combine the RSS's traditional sense of organization with the populist nature of politics. Initially he succeeded to a large extent but now in the prevailing situation he is finding himself in a bind. Precisely this is the reason that he is trying to present his image larger than the image of the RSS. Modi had helped the party to win municipal elections. But these utterly lacked the economic issues. It was purely based on caste equations. In a way Modi has mastered the art of using caste and communalism. And this has done in the prevailing situation too. Using his skill, he strengthened the party's electoral base in Gujarat.

Modi has been blue eyed boy of RSS, but his desperation to out-grow has of late strained his relationship with the RSS. The most recent example is his call "Har Ghar Tiranga". This move of Modi had actually put the RSS in an embarrassing situation. Just ahead of the final day, August 15, some of the RSS leaders put flags on the houses. This ambivalence of the RSS leaders had prompted the Congress leader Jairam Ramesh to say; "We are putting DP of our leader Nehru with tricolour in hand. But it seems that the message of the prime minister did not reach his family only. Those who did not hoist the flag in their headquarters in Nagpur for 52 years, will they obey the prime minister?"

It is a fact that Modi's endeavour to flood social media profiles with the national flag has not moved RSS. It also did not obey Modi's directive to change the display profiles to the tricolour to mark the 75th year of Independence. The mood could be made out from the observation of a senior RSS functionary: "We don't take any decision under anyone's pressure. If the display pic of our official Twitter handle has to be changed, it will be in due course of time."

The RSS leadership is beleaguered with the sense that BJP leadership has been trying to deny its inherent right to oversee the BJP's morals and manners and it does not like drafting of the senior RSS leaders into the BJP. The party leadership is pursuing its own independent political line which are not approved by the RSS though it provides foot soldiers to ensure the victory of the BJP candidates in the elections. The feed backs received from RSS cadres working at the ground level has been quite disappointing and it feels that the BJP is losing ground, though Modi is the only vote getter.

(IPA Service)

Technological advancement in medical education



By: Vijay GarG

Healthcare education has been the forerunner in adopting innovative technologies because medical education and healthcare management have been intricately intertwined in the teaching-learning methodologies of the students. The advent of cutting-edge technologies in the 21st century accelerated the process of evolution of both hardware and software, leading to faster adoption of the same in medical education and the healthcare system.

Earlier, healthcare education was limited to the government sector. But this increased the demand-supply gap, and the availability of doctors was scarce. This led to the setting up of more medical schools in India, while a majority of private hospitals were set up.

Government vs private hospitals

The main teaching material in a healthcare campus is a patient. By and large, the patients admitted to government medical institutes have been undergoing free treatment, as the state bears the expenses for the same. Such a population has been always cooperative in assisting in teaching-learning sessions. With the advent of private medical schools, this equation has changed. Often, the patients would refuse to be a part of the teaching-learning environment since they are paying for their treatment. Moreover, in highly literate States, the patients would not be forthcoming in such circumstances.

Evolution of medical education

Medical education has rapidly travelled from blackboard and patients to smart classes and virtual patients. Technological transformation in medical education has transformed primary health care to state-of-the-art quaternary care, in the form of robotics. This has been possible due to the rapid evolution of medical education technologies by raising the gold standards of medical curriculum through mapping, blue printing, evolving specific learning objectives, application of teaching learning, assessment through virtual patients and other high-fidelity technologies which rapidly acceler-

ated during the global pandemic.

New technologies are imbibed into the healthcare system to benefit the patients. This includes patenting better drug delivery modes, nanotechnology/genetic studies, biotechnological advancements, robotics in laparoscopic surgeries and artificial prosthesis. Multiple organ transplantation and or hand transplantation requires newer methodologies and theories. Skilling doctors as part of these innovations is vital to healthcare training to avoid any disruptions. Highly accredited medical schools are conducting fellowship training programmes to ensure the same.

Electronic health records, AI, robotics, evolution of online classes through various platforms, application of modern technologies in biomedical research have augmented the medical education technologies along with newer and interactive assessment platforms as envisaged in various state of the art Learning Management Systems (LMS). Teaching and learning methodologies have been rapidly evolving even after the pandemic slowed down, as is evident with advent of evolving technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), envisioning a future where the physical and digital entities can be linked.

Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) has guidelines for asynchronous learning along with synchronous learning. Learning should not be confined to lectures or teaching hours. Students are encouraged for Self Directed Learning through exploratory methods, which can include online e-learning modules and published literature sources, and the role of the faculty member or teacher is a facilitator for the same. This promotes the learners to be self-reliant in the teaching-learning process and to be updated with the latest concepts.

The conventional lectures used to be didactic, whereas now they are interactive and are held in ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) enabled classrooms. Simulation centres built in medical schools help with simulation learning that ranges from small procedural interventions on models to a full-sized simulation patient. This helps the learners with hands-on experience of reality, without the involvement of an actual patient following CBME guidelines. The role of telemedicine in giving healthcare to remote locations is vital in healthcare training today. It has played a pivotal role given the involvement of online teaching-learning methodologies.

Bangladesh's role in promoting human rights

By: Mehjabin Bhanu

Bangladesh's success in protecting human rights is being appreciated in the international arena as well. Bangladesh has given shelter to the Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh due to brutal torture in Myanmar. Efforts are being made to involve the international community for the return of the Rohingyas to their own country with safety.

It will serve as an example to the rest of the world how our current prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, has treated refugees from all over the world and the Rohingyas who have been protected in Bangladesh. The current prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, is known as the "Mother of Humanity" in the international community. Sheikh Hasina: Mother of Humanity was the title of a cover story of a prestigious Dutch diplomat magazine. By agreeing to open the border with Bangladesh to provide sanctuary to Myanmar nationals forcibly fled from Rakhine State in Myanmar, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has saved the lives of millions of oppressed people.

If Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had not given shelter to the Rohingyas in Bangladesh, Myanmar would have suffered the worst genocide since World War II. And if that were the case, the international community was highly criticized. Bangladesh has smeared the face of many Rohingyas by sheltering them.

Bangladesh serves as a role model for the entire world by hosting refugees. Bangladesh exhibits compassion. Bangladesh can teach the rest of the world, because there are refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine and other countries. The global community must take Bangladesh's experience and apply it.

More than a lakh Rohingyas have received temporary housing from the government in Bhasanchar as part of the Arsayan-3 project. The project offers safe housing, comfortable living, and all contemporary amenities, including livelihood facilities, to the Rohingyas in Bhasanchar, Charaishwar Union, HatiaUpazila, Noakhali. Over a lakh Rohingyas will benefit from the creation of the Bhasanchar Arsayan-3 project, which will cost around Tk 3,95,00,000 crore in Bangladesh's Tak. To make Bhasanchar livable, the Bangladesh Navy has been tasked with overseeing infrastructure devel-

opment, afforestation, and security. The Rohingyas were temporarily relocated with the help of the housing project, which was implemented on 1,602 acres of the 6,428 acres of available land on the 13,000 square kilometer island. Humanitarian aid is being offered to the Rohingya as best as our administration can.

Bangladesh has been promoting and protecting all human rights of its population in a people-centric and 'whole of society' approach.

In the connection with that, we can mention about Bangladesh's significant progress in social development, human rights including that of women and girls, strengthening institutions and the rule of law, and in addressing global challenges such as terrorism and violent extremism, cybercrimes, drugs, and related crimes.

We can highlight the prompt and effective measures taken by the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to address the pandemic induced health risks and its imminent impact on the ongoing social economic activities, achievements of Bangladesh in the social sector.

With the aim of protecting human rights, Bangladesh has been continuing to cooperate in all fields, including modernizing the commission and increasing the capacity and facilities of the commission's officers and employees. As an independent and impartial institution, the commission is playing an active role in the protection of human rights in the country.

Bangladesh enacted the 'National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009' and established a full-fledged Human Rights Commission accordingly. The Bangladesh government has already increased the commission's manpower and budget allocation and other facilities to strengthen the commission.

For the first time the National Inquiry is being conducted by the commission to prevent violence and rape against women. The current government's 'zero tolerance policy' is playing a strong role in upholding human rights in creating a society free from drugs, terrorism and corruption.

The Father of the Nation rightly said in the General Session of the United Nations on September 25, 1974, "Bangladesh's struggle is a symbol of the universal struggle for

justice and peace." Therefore, it is natural that Bangladesh will stand by the oppressed people of the world from the beginning.

The main issue of human rights is to guarantee fundamental rights. Everyone should be assured of life. Treatment, food and drink, movement and work should be guaranteed. Clothing and accommodation should be arranged. Bangladesh has now achieved these. Country's children do not starve to death now. Bangladesh has built 18,500 clinics for healthcare. Various training arrangements have been made to eliminate unemployment. Bangladesh is ahead of many countries in terms of human rights.

In light of the recommendations from the authorities and organizations concerned with the development and protection of human rights, the government of Bangladesh has already taken various steps. The government is trying its best to protect human rights. As part of this, reforms have been brought in various fields including administration. The report also mentions that all violent acts of violence have been banned. Our government is working relentlessly for justice and peace of the common people. To confirm this, our Prime Minister has recently sent 31-point instructions to the District Commissioners. Not only that, recently during the Police Week, the Prime Minister directed that common people should not be subjected to any harassment or torture.

Since signing the United Nations Anti-Torture Charter, Bangladeshis very careful in following its conventions. For this purpose, Bangladesh has taken various steps in the law, administration and judicial departments. Not only that, it has also taken various initiatives with civil society and our development partners.

Bangladesh has reformed its prisons so that human rights are not violated. The authority of Bangladesh is very strict in stopping abuse of children and women. It is providing all kinds of support to abused women and children. Those who are involved in these tortures are being brought under strict punishment. Anti-torture committees have also been formed in neighborhoods.

Bangladesh has taken various steps in view of several resolutions adopted by the United Nations Gen-

eral Assembly. Bangladesh has enacted codes of conduct for law enforcement officials, guidelines for doctors, anti-cruelty to prisoners' laws and regulations related to torture prevention and punishment process.

The Torture and Death in Custody (Prevention) Act was passed in 2013. Bangladesh's criminal laws prohibit all forms of violence that amount to torture.

The Constitution of Bangladesh allows Parliament to make laws to protect fundamental rights. The Constitution also asks Parliament to refrain from enacting laws inconsistent with the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

In Bangladesh departmental action is taken against the police officer responsible for any misconduct including torture. Any aggrieved person can complain to a senior police officer about torture in or out of security custody.

Administrative action is taken against policemen under the Public Servant Disciplinary and Appeal Rules of 1985, Bengal Police Regulations of 1943, Police Officers Ordinance of 1976. Apart from this, ACC, Parliamentary Standing Committee, National Human Rights Commission and even the High Court are working to monitor the activities of law enforcement agencies.

Strict action is being taken if the allegations against any member of the law-and-order force are proved. 27 RAB members have been accused in seven murder cases in Narayanganj.

17 cases have been filed against members of the law enforcement agencies in the past years. Apart from this, many have been punished for different periods. Apart from the government, several statutory institutions like National Human Rights Commission, Law Commission, Legal Services Organization are playing an important role against torture.

Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony. The government attaches utmost importance to the security of religious minorities. In case of any kind of attack on minorities, strict legal action is taken against them. Civil society and bloggers in Bangladesh have the opportunity to freely express their opinions besides ensuring their safety.

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India records 15,754 fresh COVID cases; 39 deaths

Agency
New Delhi, August 19:

India saw a single day rise of 15,754 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,43,14,618, with the active cases increasing to 1,01,830, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,27,253 with 47 fatalities which includes eight deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprised 0.23 percent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.58 per cent, the health ministry said. An increase of 487 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.47 per cent,

and weekly at 3.90 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,36,85,535, while the overall fatality rate has been 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, a total of 209.27 crore doses of COVID vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, and 50 lakh on September 16, the same year.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, 2021, and four crore on January 25 this year.

The 39 new fatalities were composed of eight from Delhi, six from Maharashtra, four from Karnataka, three each from Punjab, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, two each from

Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, and one each from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.

Meanwhile, the country has conducted as many as 88.18 crore tests so far including 4,54,491 samples which were tested in the last 24 hours.

On the vaccination front, 209.27 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far under nationwide drive.

Mizoram reported 158 new COVID-19 cases on Friday, 8 more than the previous day, raising the state tally to 2,35,840, a health official said.

The single-day positivity rate increased to 23 per cent from 18.19 per cent on the previous day, he said.

The death toll remains at 717 as no fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, he said.

Ten crore rural households now connected to clean water facility through pipes, says PM Modi at 'Har Ghar Jal Utsav'



Agency
New Delhi, August 19:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that 10 crore rural households of India have been now connected to the facility of clean water through pipes.

Addressing the 'Har Ghar Jal Utsav' event in Panaji virtually, the prime minister said, "Today I want to share three big achievements of the country with all the countrymen. Every countryman will be very proud to know about these achievements of India."

"Today 10 crore rural

households of the country have been connected to the facility of clean water through pipes. This is a big success of the government's campaign to deliver water to each house. This is a great example of 'Sabka Prayas', he said.

"In the seven decades since the Independence, only three crore rural households had piped water. But in the last three years, since the announcement of this mission, our government has connected seven crore additional rural households through tap water," PM Modi said.

"The achievement of 10 crore milestone reflects the Centre's commitment towards provision of water and preservation of environment," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, PM Modi said that Goa has become the first state to be certified with 'Har Ghar Jal' (water in every household).

"The country and especially Goa has achieved a milestone today. It has become the first state in the country, which has been certified 'Har Ghar Jal'. Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu have also become 'Har Ghar Jal' certified Union Territories," he said.

The third achievement of the country is related to 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' (Clean India Movement). "A few years back with the efforts of all countrymen, the country was declared open defecation free (ODF). After this, we had resolved to make villages ODF plus. The country has also achieved important milestones in this regard. Now more than one lakh villages in different states of the country have become ODF plus," the PM said.

In his virtual address, the PM said it does not take that much effort to form a government, but hard work is needed to form a country. "We all have chosen the path of making the country, so we are constantly solving the present and future challenges of the country," he added.

Modi said that when he made the announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission, there were 16 crore rural families that were dependent on other sources of water.

"We could not keep such a big population struggling," he added.

Modi said the Jal Jeevan Mission's success is due to people's participation, partnership of stakeholders, political will and optimum use of resources.

Amit Shah asks police chiefs of border states to keep close watch on demographic changes in border areas

Agency
New Delhi, August 19:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asked police chiefs of border states to keep a close watch on the demographic changes taking place in the border areas.

Addressing the National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference 2022, Shah said it was the responsibility of the director generals of police (DGPs) to gather all technical and strategic information in their states, especially in the border districts.

"The DGPs of border states should keep a watchful eye on the demographic changes taking place in border areas," he said, PTI reported.

The conference held in Delhi focused on a range of

subjects like cryptocurrency, counter-drone technology, cyber and social media surveillance, emerging challenges due to 5G, demographic changes and growing radicalisation in border areas.

The two-day conference was attended by the top brass of the country's police forces.

Heaping praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah said that since becoming the prime minister in 2014, he has not only given a thrust to internal security of the country but has also strengthened the mechanism to face challenges.

He further said that under PM Modi's leadership, the BJP-led Centre has enacted many new laws, increased coordination with states, increased budgetary alloca-

tions and made optimum use of technology.

"The prime minister has tried to change the nature of the DGP conference since 2014, and we see that we have been successful in finding solutions to many problems," the Union Home Minister said.

He stressed on the importance of the issues related to national security and said this is the fight for the future of the country and the youth, for which everyone has to come together and win at any cost.

Shah also said that in the field of internal security, the government has achieved greater success in dealing with terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, various extremist groups in the northeast and Left Wing Extremism.

Revamped CoWIN platform with UIP to be launched in September

Agency
New Delhi, August 19:

A revamped CoWIN platform incorporating India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) is likely to be launched in pilot mode mid-September, with blood and organ donation features to be integrated in it in later phases.

The pilot project will be implemented in two districts of each state and Union Territories for three months, official sources told PTI.

The current purpose of

recording COVID-19 vaccination and issuing certificates will continue on the platform.

Once the UIP is included on the platform, the entire vaccination system including records will get digitised, easing the tracking of beneficiaries, they said.

Vaccination records under UIP are being maintained manually as of now.

"It will do away with the hassle of keeping a physical record. It will enable digitisation of session planning, updating vaccination status on a real time basis. Beneficiaries would be able to book slots for vaccination in advance. Also it will allow mobility. Also, once the whole immunisation programme is digitised, beneficiaries will get certificates on the spot and they can also download them if they want to. These certificates will be stored in digi lock-

ers," the sources said.

An effective surveillance system will help create an evidence base to enable planning and deployment of effective interventions.

"The National Health Authority is speedily working on incorporating features on the CoWIN platform to include UIP and the revamped platform is likely to be launched in a pilot mode in mid-September. It is likely to be rolled out at the national level after three months under a new name," the sources told PTI.

The UIP is one of the largest immunisation programmes in the world for protection of children and pregnant women from preventable diseases.

Under the UIP, the government is providing vaccination free of cost against 12 preventable diseases out of which 11 are given nationally for diphtheria, pertussis,

tetanus, polio, measles, rubella, severe forms of childhood tuberculosis, rotavirus diarrhoea, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia caused by hemophilus influenza type B and pneumococcal pneumonia and sub-nationally against Japanese Encephalitis. JE vaccine is provided only in endemic districts.

Integrating blood donation and organ donation processes with CoWIN over time will help connect patients with suitable blood donors around their location facilitating easy availability of blood and also bring in transparency around the system of organ donation, the sources said.

"One would be able to see which blood donors are available near their location like one can see now what Covid vaccines are available and book slots accordingly," they elaborated.

Contd. from Page 2 Bangladesh's role in...

According to the constitution, the protection of fundamental rights can be sought from the high court department. Any person can file a petition in the High Court in case of violation of human rights. The High Court Division can issue orders to any authority in the Republic to enforce human rights.

The decision taken by the Bangladesh Supreme Court is binding on all subordinate courts. In case of disobeying any order or direction given by the Supreme Court, then the Supreme Court can issue any order or direction to investigate the contempt thereof.

The Supreme Court has issued various directives to stop all forms of corporal punishment in primary and secondary educational institutions and to prevent sexual harassment against women in educational institutions and workplaces. The government is complying with these instructions of the court.

The best example of Bangladesh giving utmost im-

portance to protecting human rights is sheltering 11 lakh Rohingyas. When the Myanmar government perpetrated extreme torture on the Rohingyas, we opened the border thinking about human rights. Whenever there is talk of their return to Myanmar, the Bangladesh government has always remained firmly committed to a policy of non-forced repatriation. Bangladesh is steadfast in its commitment that they will be repatriated only when their security, safe life and basic human rights are guaranteed in Myanmar.

However, the High Court's play an appropriate role against extrajudicial killings and torture and pass necessary orders to ensure justice. But there might have some allegations of human rights violations in Bangladesh. Bangladesh needs to address these issues promptly. Bangladesh will have to move forward still.

(The author is a female school teacher in Bangladesh)

BSF Jawan injured in extremist attack near Shimnapur, Tripura

Agency
Agartala, August 19:

A BSF Jawan was left seriously injured after suspected extremist groups opened fire at the patrolling BSF personnel posted at Shimnapur BOP under Anandabazar police station of North Tripura district.

The incident took place near the Indo-Bangla borders located on the fringes of both Tripura and Mizoram.

The suspected militants shot at the BSF Jawans from the Bangladesh side of the fence.

BSF sources said, the injured person has been shifted to Agartala on a chopper and admitted to a private hospital for better treatment.

According to the sources,

BSF jawans of BOP-2 BOP were patrolling the border this morning as per daily routine. Suddenly, militants started firing on the border security personnel leaving one of the troops heavily injured.

The BSF jawans also retaliated against the ambush. As a result, the group of extremists fled away to their hideouts.

North Tripura District Superintendent of Police has rushed to the incident site with a large police team.

BSF DIG has also moved to the spot on a helicopter. The BSF has also started a combing operation in the area.

The condition of the injured personnel is learnt to be critical.

However, it is not yet known which group the militants belonged to.

Coins worth Rs 11-cr missing from SBI vaults; CBI searches 25 locations

Agency
New Delhi, August 19:

The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 25 locations in connection with a case of coins worth Rs 11 crore going missing from the vaults of an SBI branch in Karauli in Rajasthan, officials said Friday.

The central agency had registered the case on April 13 following an order of the

Rajasthan High Court, they said.

The searches were spread across 25 locations in Delhi, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Alwar, Udaipur and Bhilwara at the premises of around 15 former bank officials and others, they said.

The matter came to light after the State Bank of India (SBI) branch decided to carry out counting of money after

a preliminary enquiry indicated discrepancy in its cash reserve in August, 2021.

The counting was outsourced to a private vendor which revealed that over Rs 11 crore worth of coins were missing from the branch.

Only 3,000 coin bags carrying about Rs 2 crore could be accounted for and were transferred to the RBI's coin holding branch.

Durand Cup 2022 Manipur derby Opening Ceremony and inaugural match held

IT News
Imphal, August 19:

The 131st Edition of the Durand Cup 2022 Manipur Derby opening ceremony was held today at Khuman Lampak Main Stadium, Imphal. The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh declared the match open in the presence of Chief Minister N.Biren Singh, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande, GOC-in-C Eastern Command Lt Gen RC Tiwari, MoS RK Ranjan Singh and others Army high ranking and government officials. The Football tournament was organized by the Indian Armed Forces and supported by Government of Manipur.

Addressing the gathering at the opening function as Chief Guest Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the entire North-East region has ushered in a new era of fast-paced development

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The North-East has set new account in the fields of health, agriculture, transport, urban development, education and agriculture education, transport, agriculture and urban development in the past few years which is a testimony of development in the regions, he added.

The Defence Minister maintained that the Government believes in ensuring progress of all States/Union Territories and special emphasis is being laid towards infrastructural development in remote areas.

Further Rajnath Singh asserted that the first Durand Cup match in Manipur, at a time when the country is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', symbolises the rise of a 'New India', in which every region and state is moving forward hand-in-hand to



take the country to greater heights.

The Defence Minister Continued that the Government's resolve to encourage all kinds of sports, stating that due to the efforts in the last few years, India has scaled newer heights of suc-

cess in major sporting events such as Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Players from all regions in the country are now getting equal opportunities, the results of which are now visible, he said.

Further Minister Rajnath

Singh said that spirit of patriotism, discipline, team work, dedication, commitment and loyalty are some of the common features in sportspersons and Armed Forces personnel.

In his welcome address Chief Minister N.Biren Singh lauded Union Minister Rajnath

Singh for visiting and opening the football match. He also lauded the Sports Department and Armed Forces for their contribution towards making the tournament a success.

Durand Cup 2022 football tournament is going on at three venues for the first time.

Assam, Manipur, and West Bengal co-hosted the Durand Cup 2022.

During the opening ceremony a combined cultural programme on the theme of National Integration on, 'Fusion of Indian Cultures: An epitome of Synergy' was performed by various cultural Troupes.

It was mentioned that the former Foreign Secretary of British India, Mortimer Durand founded the Durand Cup in 1888. The Durand Cup was initially played only by the Armed services but in later years, the game was officially made open for the Professional Football Clubs. The Durand Cup is annually organized by the Durand Cup Football Tournament in association with the All India Football Federation (AIFF). The winner of the tournament is facilitated with three trophies the Durand Cup, the President's Cup, and the Shimla Trophy.

Nirmala Sitharaman to attend Nagaland CSR Investment & Banking Conclave 2022

Agency
Kohima, August 19:

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the Nagaland CSR Investment and Banking Conclave 2022.

The Nagaland CSR Investment and Banking Conclave 2022 is scheduled to be held from August 22 to 24.

Earlier, union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has postponed her visit to Nagaland for the event due to "unforeseen circumstances".

Due to postponement of her visit, the Nagaland government had deferred holding of its first-ever "CSR Invest-

ment and Banking Conclave".

Earlier, union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman was slated to attend the Nagaland CSR and Investment Conclave 2022 that was scheduled to be held on July 4 and 5.

The CSR conclave is the first of its kind in Nagaland, which is being organised by the Investment and Development Authority Nagaland (IDAN).

The conclave is designed to showcase the need for CSR investments in Nagaland.

Sitharaman will hold a meetings with the business community of Nagaland and women entrepreneurs during the course of the conclave.

'Centre working to destroy education, healthcare models of Kejriwal govt': AAP's big allegation as CBI raids Sisodia

Agency
New Delhi, August 19:

On a day when the Central Bureau of Investigation carried out raids at the residence of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in connection with the excise police case, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party levelled a big allegation against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.

AAP MP Raghav Chadha alleged at a press conference that the Centre is working to destroy two models of the Arvind Kejriwal government in Delhi which have been recognised internationally as well.

Chadha listed education

and healthcare as the two models which have been targeted by central agencies.

"We used to speak of two models - education and healthcare. To stop this, Health Minister Satyendar Jain was jailed and they're preparing to jail Manish Sisodia too. They want to destroy our models of Health and Education and arrest ministers so that the Kejriwal model is destroyed," the AAP MP said.

Chadha said the success and popularity of the Delhi CM have scared the BJP and the PM, which is why they have unleashed central agencies after party leaders.

"Seeing the public support and rising popularity of Arvind

Kejriwal, the BJP and PM Modi are scared. They've unleashed agencies like CBI on our people and leaders. There is only one goal - finish Kejriwal," Chadha alleged.

The AAP MP also dubbed as laughable the BJP's claim that the report on Delhi schools that was published on the frontpage of New York Times was a paid piece.

"It's laughable. No news of any BJP leader was ever printed there. BJP calls itself the biggest party in the world. It's the richest political party. They should appear on New York Times' frontpage daily if someone can buy them," he said, reacting to a tweet of BJP leader Kapil Mishra.

Gauhati University Controller of Examinations suspended over delay in result announcement

Agency
Guwahati, August 19:

The Controller of Examinations of the Gauhati University, Dr Dhruwajyoti Choudhury has been suspended over certain anomalies and delays in the Undergraduate examination results announcement.

An order issued by the Registrar and Disciplinary Authority stated, "Dr Dhruwajyoti Choudhury, Controller of Examinations, Gauhati University is placed under suspension with immediate effect until further order because of anomaly and delay in declara-

tion of results of the Undergraduate Examinations of Gauhati University in the year 2022."

He was suspended under Rule 6 of Assam Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1964, read the order.

Reports further stated that after Choudhury's suspension, the deputy controller has been assigned the additional duties of the CoE.

It may be mentioned that students have alleged that due to the delay in the results, most of them are not able to prepare for higher studies in other states or in the University itself.

Sports

Durand Cup 2022:

NEROCA wade over TRAU FC 3-1 in inaugural 'Imphal derby'; Mumbai City thrash Indian Navy 4-1

IT News/Agency
Imphal/Kolkata, August 19:

Manipur enjoyed a state-declared half-holiday on Thursday to commemorate the most festive occasions that evoke passion in these enchanted lands - a gritty game of football. The exciting local derby where Neroca FC defeated TRAU FC 3-1 was played out in front of a jam-packed stadium.

A huge number of fans turned up to witness the inaugural match played in Imphal's Khuman Lampak stadium, and the 6 pm kickoff had a run-up which witnessed traffic congestion in the city from as early as 2 pm. A large number of people were seen gathering outside the venue in the lead-up, and the filled stands erupted in exhilaration when Neroca FC's Nigerian forward John Chidi Uzodinma netted the final goal on the back of a defensive error.

Those who missed out, didn't hide their disappointment. Many fans were left gasping for tickets which were sold out a day before the inau-

gural match. "What's the point of declaring the day as half-holiday when many of the fans did not get tickets to witness the game", lamented M. Bishworjit, a football fan and resident of Iroisemba Imphal West district. The Khuman main stadium where the inaugural match was played has a capacity of only 25,000. Heaving as it was with exuberance of those who managed to get in, it couldn't obviously accommodate passions of the football-mad state.

Angva Ragui had put the Orange brigade of NEROCA ahead in the 16th minute, only for TRAU's Komron Tursunov to equalise three minutes later. But thereafter NEROCAdidnt lift foot off the pedal as Thomyo headed in the 36th minute to reclaim the lead, before the 50th minute cherry on the top from the Nigerian star.

The stadium had pulsated after NEROCA netted a goal 16 minutes into the match, while many of the ticket holders were seen still trying to get into the stadium. "I bought a Rs 100 ticket and have been waiting to get into the stadium for sev-



eral minutes even after the match started but I am unable to do so. I am told by the security at the gate that the stadium is already full," said Bungo, a resident of Top Leirak, Imphal East district.

Meanwhile a scintillating second-half display helped Mumbai City FC begin their Durand Cup 2022 campaign with a win as they beat Armed Forces side Indian Navy 4-1 in their opening fixture of Group B at the Salt Lake Stadium, here on Thursday.

Indian Navy's Adersh (43') opened the scoring of the game before Vikram Partap Singh's goal (45+3') at the cusp of the half-time cancelled out their lead. A Greg Stewart penalty (65') followed by two quick-fire goals from super sub-Lallianzuala Chhangte (89', 90+1') sealed the deal for the Des Buckingham-led side.

The Islanders got off to an attacking start from the get-go as Vikram's header flew past the goal from a Bipin Singh cross through the left wing. In

the tenth minute, the Indian Navy's defence was put to test as the pacey Vikram Partap Singh tried to get past his man with his skills but was brilliantly tackled by the armed forces defender.

Buckingham's men continued to pounce on the Indian Navy defence with a well-planned midfield link-up play through new signings — Alberto Noguera, Greg Stewart, and Apua, with the latter, almost putting his side through with a potent shot that

unfortunately hit the woodwork.

With loads of chances being created and constant pressure being mounted on the opponent, Buckingham's men were kept at bay by the towering presence of the Indian Navy keeper Vishnu who gave a run for the Islanders' attackers' money.

Having lesser possession, the Indian Navy managed to crack open the Islanders' defence to draw first blood with the help of Adersh who was left unmarked in the centre of the park, pulling a splendid finish from outside the box to make it 1-0 for the armed services side in the 41st minute.

Towards the end of the first half with three more additional minutes, the Islanders managed to pull one back through Vikram Partap Singh, who slotted one right above the keeper's head, after receiving a pass on the far right wing, to bring his side back in the game.

The second half continued similarly for both sides with Mumbai City FC constantly penetrating in their opponent's half while the Navy kept their

defence intact. Ahmed Jahouh came on and had a profound impact on their game, getting into the right positions and finding players in spaces and making the final pass.

Lacking the finishing power, Bipin Singh and Vikram Partap Singh failed to convert two back-to-back chances as Buckingham's men continued to have the majority share of the possession and dominated the field with their bolstering attack.

In the 65th minute, marquee signing Greg Stewart opened his goalscoring account in the Mumbai colours after making the keeper dive the wrong side from the penalty spot to make it 2-1 for his side. The Islanders were awarded a penalty as Alberto Noguera was tripped inside the box.

Substitute Lallianzuala Chhangte stepped into the attack to give his side a two-goal lead in the 88th minute after Jahouh found him open on the right, with the former casually beating past his defender and netting it towards the far corner of the goal from an acute angle.