

Quit India Day

IT News
Imphal, August 08:

Manipur Governor La. Ganesan extends his greetings on the 80th anniversary of Quit India Day on August 9, 2022.

In his message, "the Quit India Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi in Bombay, 1942 demanding to end the British Rule and to grant freedom to India. The Movement was able to spark the light and sow the seed of freedom struggle in each and every Indian.

The Governor salute all the freedom fighters who took part in the historic Quit India Movement and appealed the people to make India a country our freedom fighters are proud of."

Slow Loris rescued

IT News
Imphal, August 08:

A rare wild animal Yong Ikaithibi Slow Loris was rescued by the staff and inmates of Anouba Punsikol IRCA (Drug Rehabilitation Center) located at Bishnupur Khuman Ward No. 6 last night. Later after contacting Peoples For Animal a team of District Forest Office Bishnupur came to the centre. The rescued Slow Loris has been handed over to Forest department office, Bishnupur officials for its safe release.

SOREPA condemns US diplomat's visit to Taiwan

IT News
Imphal, August 08:

The Socialist Revolutionary Party (SOREPA), Kangleipak has strongly condemned the visit of US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy D'Alessandro Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

A statement issued by the outfit's publicity secretary MC Yaiphai remarked that Pelosi's visit to Taiwan not only dishonoured but also challenged China's 'One China Principle'.

It said that SOREPA always supports the 'One China Principle'.

Speaker Pelosi's visit to Taiwan on August 2 was a transgression into another country's sovereignty, it said.

Taiwan has been a part of China for many years but the Government of Taiwan was formed by some Kuomintang leaders who opposed the Chinese people's movement for an egalitarian society, SOREPA said.

It maintained that the issue of Taiwan is an internal matter of China and no external force has any authority to interfere into the matter.

The US strategy to divide Chinese people politically is an attempt to suppress other countries and establish a permanent military power-base in Asia-Pacific region, particularly Taiwan Strait, it continued.

It added that all the countries of the world including the USA ought to respect China's 'One China Principle'.

Government says ATSUM leaders to release before 4; eco-blockade released

IT News
Imphal, August 08:

Government of Manipur had assured to release the five arrested student leaders of the All Tribal Students' Union Manipur (ATSUM) before 4 pm today. A minister of the N. Biren Singh Government said that the arrested students will be released before 4 pm today after an agreement was reached between the Government of Manipur and represen-

tatives of the ATSUM. The agreement was brought after a marathon talk between a ministerial team of the state government led by TA Minister Letpao Haokip and members of the ATSUM late yesterday.

Talking to a news channel, TA Minister Letpao Haokip said that the government has reached an agreement with the ATSUM leaders and following which the ATSUM will lift the

economic blockade, and all the five members of ATSUM in Judicial Custody will be released before 4 pm today. However, till 4.00 pm, there is no report of the five ATSUM leaders being released from judicial custody.

When this newspaper tried to contact the representative of ATSUM to ask whether they would lift the economic blockade or not, none could be contacted.

Schools reopen today after being shut due to rising COVID cases

IT News
Imphal, August 08:

Schools reopen today as per the recent orders by Manipur Government. All schools will be resuming offline classes from today since they were closed due to rising COVID-19 cases.

Schools were earlier closed till July 24, 2022 as a precautionary measure after the state reported many new COVID-19 cases. Since the COVID positivity rate was shooting, the government decided to close schools for students upto class 7.

However, with situation

coming under control, schools - all government-run, government-aided and even private schools, have been asked to reopen from today for offline classes. These new orders also mention that everyone must follow COVID-19 safety protocols on the campus for everyone's safety.

According to the orders, all students and teachers will be required to wear face masks at all times, especially when on campus. They are also advised to maintain social distancing and avoid overcrowding in common areas. In case, someone falls sick or reports of having any symptoms,

they must avoid coming to schools

Schools have also been instructed to let parents know about these guidelines. Needless to say, even parents have been asked to keep a check on their wards and not send them to schools, in case they report of any COVID-19 symptoms.

Further, all heads of schools have been asked to take steps to ensure that students and staff are vaccinated and they get their booster shots, if eligible. All these decisions were taken by Manipur Government after a COVID-review was carried out.

PM bids farewell to Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu in Rajya Sabha

"When we mark 15th August this year, it will be an Independence Day with the President, Vice President, Speaker and Prime Minister born after Independence; And each of them from very simple backgrounds"

PIB
New Delhi, August 08:

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi participated in the farewell to Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu in Rajya Sabha today. The Prime Minister paid rich tributes to the Vice President who is ex-officio Chairman of the Upper House.

The Prime Minister remembered many moments that were marked by the wisdom and wit of Naidu. Noting the change of complexion of leadership in New India, the Prime Minister said "when we mark 15th August this year, it will be an Independence Day when the President, Vice President, Speaker and Prime Minister would have been born after Independence. And that too, each of them belongs to very simple backgrounds." This has a great symbolic value and is a glimpse of a new

era, he added.

The Prime Minister recalled the Vice President's continuous encouragement to the youth of the country in all the roles he undertook in public life. He always promoted young Members in the House also. "As our Vice President, you devoted a lot of time to youth welfare. A lot of your programmes were focused on Yuva Shakti", the Prime Minister added. The Prime Minister noted that 25 percent of the Vice President speeches, outside the House, were among the youth of India.

The Prime Minister underlined his close association with M. Venkaiah Naidu in various capacities. He appreciated the Vice President's ideological commitment as party worker, work as MLA, activity level as a parliamentarian, organizational skills as the President of BJP, his hard work and diplomacy as Minis-

ter and his dedication and dignity as the Vice President and the Chairman of the House. "I have worked with M. Venkaiah Naidu Ji closely over the years. I have also seen him take up different responsibilities and he performed each of them with great dedication", the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister said that people in public life can learn a lot from M. Venkaiah Naidu.

The Prime Minister highlighted the wit and word power of the Vice President. He said "your each word is heard, preferred, and revered... and never countered" The Prime Minister continued "The one liners of M. Venkaiah Naidu Ji are famous. They are wit liners. His command over the languages has always been great" The Prime Minister said that both in the House and outside, massive expression skills of the Vice President have made a great impact.

"There is both depth and substance in what M. Venkaiah Naidu Ji says, it is as direct as incomparable, there is both wit and weight, warmth as well as wisdom in what you say", he said.

Referring to the humble beginnings of the political career of M. Venkaiah Naidu in South India where his chosen ideology had no immediate prospects, the Prime Minister said the Vice President's Journey from a political worker to the President of his party is a reflection of his indomitable steadfastness in ideology and tenacity. "If we have feelings for the country, art of putting forward our views, faith in linguistic diversity then language and region never become obstacles for us and you have proved this", the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister also touched upon the love for the mother tongue of the Vice President. He said

"One of the admirable things about Venkaiah Ji is his passion towards Indian languages. This was reflected in how he presided over the House. He contributed to increased productivity of the Rajya Sabha".

The Prime Minister pointed out that the systems established by the Vice President, his leadership gave new height to the productivity of the House. During the years of the Vice President's leadership, productivity of the House increased by 70 percent, attendance of the Members increased, and a record 177 bills were passed or discussed. "You have taken so many decisions that will be remembered for the upward journey of the Upper House", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister lauded the tactful, wise and firm conduct of the House by the Vice President and

praised him for holding a firm belief that beyond a point, disruption in the House becomes contempt of the house. "I see the maturity of democracy in your standards", the Prime Minister said. He appreciated the adjustment, communication and coordination with which he kept the house going even during the difficult moments. The Prime Minister praised M. Venkaiah Naidu's view 'let Government propose, let Opposition oppose and let the House dispose'. This House has the right to accept, reject or amend the proposals from the other House but our democracy does not envisage stalling the proposals received from the other House, he said.

The Prime Minister thanked the Vice President for his guidance and contributions to the House and the country.

CorCom boycotts Independence Day celebration

Appeal all not to hoist India's Tri-Color Flag as a part of the India Independence Day Celebration

IT News
Imphal, August 08:

CorCom, the proscribed umbrella organization, has announced that it will impose a total shutdown on August 15 from 1 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., as it has done every year. The general strike will not apply to medical and essential services, electricity, water supply, fire services, the media, or religious matters.

In the press statement, M. Sak-hen, Media Coordinator of CorCom, stated that after forcibly integrating WESEA and Manipur, all the democratic institutions were abolished and the indigenous people were made dependent on India. All the indigenous customary laws for self-gov-

ernance were torn into shreds

and the Indian central will was enforced on the sons of the soil, the outfit claimed. For the past 72 years, Manipur has been existing as a colony of India after it was forcefully annexed as a part of India's expansionism on October 15, 1949, the release stated. Therefore, it added that there are no grounds for the people of Manipur to celebrate the Independence Day of India.

Attempts are still underway to transform the indigenous cultures of WESEA through the imposition of Hindu ways of life, the popularisation of the Hindi language, and the population invasion of Hindi-speaking Indians.

"India is waging a major war of racial discrimination over the indigenous populations of WESEA. The RSS-BJP's ideology of 'one nation, one religion, and one language' should be fought tooth and nail by the rising indigenous peoples," opined the outfit.

It stated that the implementation of CAA, the scrapping of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir without the consent of the people of the states show India's arrogance and blatant disregard of democratic principles.

Further, CorCom appeals to all not to hoist India's Tri-Color Flag as India's independence has nothing to do with Manipur.

CWG-2022 Gold Medalist Saikhom Mirabai Chanu feliciated, celebrates birthday

IT News
Imphal, August 08:

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, India's gold medalist winner at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games-2022, was feliciated by 29 Bn BSF at her residence in Nongpok Kakching, Imphal East. Mirabai's 28th birthday was also celebrated along with the felicitation ceremony.

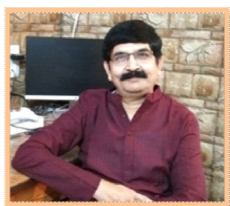
At the felicitation program, Sh. Dinesh Singh Rawat, DIG, SHQ BSF CI (Ops) Manipur, S. Sonam Chhering, Comdt. 29 Bn BSF, Md. Rashid Reza, DC (G), SHQ BSF CI (Ops) Manipur, officers, SOs, troops of 29 Bn BSF, family members of Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, village chiefs, villagers, and



school children took part. On behalf of the Border Security Force, Sh. Dinesh Singh Rawat, DIG SHQ BSF CI (Ops) Manipur, extended the heartiest congratula-

tions to the Commonwealth Games-2022 Gold Medalist during the ceremony and presented a memento as a token of remembrance and appreciation.

World Champion Boxer Nikhat Zareen of BOI family Shines



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Kudos to Bank of India Officer and Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen for clinching the gold medal in the ongoing 2022 Commonwealth Games after an emphatic win over Northern Ireland's Carly Mc Naul in the women's Light Flyweight final bout. Hailing from Telangana's Nizamabad, Zareen first came to limelight in 2011 after she became World Junior boxing champion in 50 kg. She also came into the news when she challenged the World Champion Mary Kom and the Boxing Federation of India for Mary Kom's selection for the 2019 World Championship without trials. However, when the trial was finally held, she was defeated by Mary Kom by 9-1.

Before Nikhat, the legendary MC Mary Kom (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018), Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006) and Lekha KC (2006) bagged a gold medal at the Women's World Boxing Championships for India. Nikhat Zareen won a gold medal at the 2022 IBS Women's World Boxing Championships. At the international boxing association (amateur) Women's Youth and The Junior World Championship in Antalya, she won the gold medal. She also won a bronze medal at the second India Open International Boxing Tournament field in Guwahati. This time this 26-year-old Indian boxer has won a gold medal by 5-0 against Carly Mc Naul of Northern Ireland in the finals. Nikhat is reigning World Champions in the Women's Over 48kg-50kg (Light Fly) category and have once again brought glory to the with another medal. This was her major competition after the World Championships and people expected her to win Gold here. Now her job is to land punches inside ring and make India proud.

Nikhat was fascinated by boxing art when her father introduced her to the sport at a young age. He has always been in favour of her boxing. Initially, she trained herself by watching her uncle train her cousin's brothers. Later, seeing her interest, her father trained her for a year and then inducted her into the Sports Authority of India in Vishakhapatnam in 2009. There she was trained under I.V Rao, a Dronacharya awardee. Her father made lot of sacrifices in his life for Zareen's sake. He moved out of Saudi Arabia quitting his job since boxing required her to wear shorts and shirts which was not allowed there which was recalled by Zareen in one of her interview. A win or a loss doesn't matter to her. She just want to gain as much experience as she can put her best in Paris Olympics.

Bank of India - Telangana Zone had celebrated her success at the Zonal office and wished her to win medals in upcoming boxing events such as Commonwealth, Asian Games, and Olympic Games. It was really an iconic moment for the Bank of India as its own officer has won a Gold Medal for the country in boxing for second first time in the history. Nikhat's win was among the top accomplishments for Indian sport in recent years.

Zareen has received huge praise from all over India for her remarkable achievement. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the boxer to raise the Indian flag high at the World Championships podium.

Every Indian sportsperson dreams of standing on the Olympic podium and Nikhat Zareen is no different. Everyone has one dream - to win a gold medal at the Olympics and she is also living in that dream and she will carry out her dream. Super whistles to Nikhat Zareen on landing this great feat with a punch.

Marching ahead with the spirit of Swatantra Bharat

By: Nava Thakuria

It was probably two decades back, when a group of journalists and Guwahati-based patriots marched on a street of Guwahati to celebrate the Independence Day. As a number of separatist armed militant outfits imposed a general strike on the day (that was the way the ethnic insurgents made them visible in the public domain continuing their decades long armed struggle against New Delhi) the entire city wore a deserted look. Markets, business centers, private vehicles and even the roads were empty as the militants, through their media statements (which were published with special focus in the local morning newspapers), threatened the people not to join the observation.

The group raising a single national flag (Tri-colours) were unavailable at that time in the market and even the people did not keep the flag in residences as it was then assumed as a volatile article to procure from any sources) marched from Ambari to the bank of historic Dighalipukhuri. A photojournalist took a snap of the march and it was then sent to a Delhi-based editor for use. The editor, who might have had no idea of the then trouble-torn northeast India, asked a strange question, why there was so little number of participants in the march. In reality, the editor missed the valid point that the small group of people came to the street defying the dictate of armed militants, who were trying to run a parallel administration in the alienated region.

One may raise an intriguing question, were the editors of Assam sensitive and responsible enough. The newspapers (private news channels were yet to fully bloom in the region) in Guwahati probably were sensitive but not responsible. Prior to I-Day or Republic Day, as if the editor (or concerned reporters) were eagerly waiting for the statement from separatist militants boycotting the auspicious days. It always made newspaper headlines, but when the brave and patriotic citizens tried to raise voices against the militants' dictate, the same editors behaved as unwanted items. So when the small group of patriots started observing the sacred days by hoisting & unfurling the Tri-colour, most of the editors either

avoided the news or gave it an insignificant space.

The situation did not improve, even when the Assamese satellite news channels entered into the scenario after some years. Rather they started often misrepresenting and disrespecting the spirit. As usual, the news channels repeated the militant's version 'why celebration of I-Day and R-Day was useless' prior to both the revered occasions. Many news channels later made it possible for some top militant leaders to address their audience 'live'. The reporters, equipped with high resolution cameras, callously asked the students what were their programs on I-Day and R-Day (as those were simple holidays because of the militant's imposed total shut down), but they did not simply remember that one Assamese young girl sacrificed her life for the same Tri-colour. The reporters (from both the print and electronic media) and their editors hardly formulate a simple question to those young people, had they not heard of Birbala Kanaklata!

For some times, it was a large number of outlawed militant outfits including United Liberation Front of Assam, National Democratic Front of Bodoland, Kamtapur Liberation Organisation, Manipur People's Liberation Front, Kanglei Yao Kanna Lup, Kangleipak Communist Party, People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak, People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak/Progressive, Revolutionary People's Front, United People's Party of Kangleipak, United National Liberation Front of Manipur, Tripura People's Democratic Front, National Liberation Front of Twipra, Hynniewtrep National Liberation Front of Meghalaya, Garo National Liberation Army, etc which declared the general strike across northeast India on both the national days on 15 August and 26 January and called upon the people to boycott as well as prevent the celebration as a mark of solidarity against New Delhi.

But braving the gun-toting militants and their threats, Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) appealed to the north-eastern people to celebrate both the days defying the militants' decree. JFA argued that a number of martyrs from Assam including Piyali Phukan, Maniram Dewan, Piyali

Barua, etc stepped up movements against British domination. Extraordinarily brave Kanaklata Barua, Mukunda Kakoti, Kushal Konwar, Tilak Deka, Bhogswari Phukanani, Nidhanu Rajbanshi, Kamala Miri, Lerela Boro, Madan Barman, Rauta Kachari, Hemoram Patar, Gunavi Bordoloi, Thagi Sut, Balaram Sut, etc laid down their lives for the honour of Tri-colour. JFA president Rupam Barua, who conceptualized the model to oppose the rebel's diktats, asserted that Tri-colour is the symbol of our common strength. If we ignore the sacrifice of martyrs it would only indicate our ungratefulness to them. Once started with a small group of journalists (including this writer), the celebration at the city-based press club premises slowly attracted more like-minded fellow Guwahatians, including many children, to join in the occasion (simultaneously with the government celebrations), where the Tri-colour continues to be hoisted with fanfare.

Veteran author-journalists Dharendra Nath Bezboruah, DN Chakravarty, Naresh Rajkhowa, Kanaksen Deka, Nirupama Borgohain, Sabita Goswami, Preeti Barua, etc took the lead and senior scribes Hiten Mahanta, Ranen Kumar Goswami, Ajit Patowary, Geetarth Pathak, Champak Borbora, Mukul Kalita, MK Goswami, Bhupen Bargohain, Sabita Lahkar, Rubie Barua Das, Raman Bora, Bijay Bora, Anup Sarma, DN Singh, Pranabjit Doloi, Kamal Krishna Das, Girindra Kumar Karjee, Manish Goswami, Prasanta Majumder, Kumud Das, Anjanil Kashyap, Dipankar Devsarma, Anirban Choudhury, Biswajit Nath, Samir Sandilya, Nayan Bhuyan, Sanjay Paul, Hiren Chandra Kalita, Prabhath Sarma, Manjit Sarma, Chandra Barua, Digambar Patowary, Dixit Sarma, Sujit Guha, Bhupen Goswami, Manoj Agasti, Pulin Kalita, Bipul Sarma, Nayan Pratim Kumar, Rajeev Bhattacharyya, Biman Hazarika, Mihir Deuri, Pankaj Deka, Partha Goswami, Atulya Madhab Goswami, Pallabi Bora, Devol Nath, Chinnai Roy, Baldev Pandey, Dilwar Hussain, Rupen Sarma, Anita Kalita Goswami, Newaprasad Yadab, Bikas Singh, Mamata Mishra, Jesim Raja,

Sewali Kalita, Iswar Mahanta, Chandra Kr Barua, Nripen Rajbongshi, Akhymala Thakuria, etc joined in the mission.

Patriotic citizens like Ajay Dutta, Nirmal Choudhury, Dhiren Barua, Jagadindra Raychoudhury, JP Saikia, Jaharlal Saha, Uttam Barthakur, Kishor Giri, Jeemoni Choudhury, Kailash Sarma, Mrinal Ali Hazarika, Pradip Thakuria, Ujjal Saikia, Ranjan Dutta, Apurba Sarma, Pramod Kalita, Basistha Bujarbarah, Khagen Saikia, Sankar Das, Jogeswar Goswami, Ranjib Sarma, Abhijit Sarma, Sanjib Priu, Utpal Dutta, Namrata Dutta, Pranab Sarma, Basanta Barthakur, Nabanita Mazumdar, Bhaskar Medhi, Ravi Ajitacharya, Anjali Kumar, Utpal Das, Purabi Barua, Rubi Barthakur, Md Farid, Nekib Kazi, BR Das, Hydar Bora, Chandana Doloi, Tarali Chakrabarty, Purabi Gogoi, Mrinmoy Bhuyan, Jayanta Gogoi, Azlina Khanam, Kuntala Chakrabarty, Kartik Choudhury, etc also energised the mission paying homage to those freedom fighters who fought against the colonial British forces during the freedom movement.

But gone are those days. Now everyone (or majority of in the society) prefers to celebrate both the auspicious days with utmost conviction to pay tributes to hundreds of thousands of known & unknown martyrs who laid their lives for a sovereign nation. The ethnic insurgents have lost their support bases in the last few years and their mentors in the media have also disappeared, thanks to the aggressive social media outbursts against those self-centered intellectuals in the recent past. As we are observing the 75 years of India's independence and the forthcoming I-Day is going to witness millions of Tri-colours hoisted across Bharat, the small group of Guwahatians today deserve appreciations as their dream has turned into reality and hundred thousand proud residents in the alienated north-eastern region are also eagerly waiting to salute the Tri-colour and pay heartfelt admiration to the martyrs.

(The author is a Guwahati-based journalist and a vivid appreciator of Tri-colour, who along with a section of working journalists once faced the wrath from separatist militants)

What return should India's Mamata Banerjee provide to Bangladesh against the PM' Sheikh Hasina's 'Mango Diplomacy'?

By: Samina Akhter

Most Bangladeshi and India media report read that the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has received 600 kg of mangoes from Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as part of her "mango-hilsa diplomacy."

Hasina delivered mangoes to President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week, according to the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in this country.

According to a Bangladesh official high commission office in Kolkata, a few more chief ministers in the eastern region will likely receive similar gifts. President Kovind, Prime Minister Modi, and the chief ministers of West Bengal, Tripura, and Assam received mangoes from Prime Minister Hasina last year as well. Hasina delivered mangoes from Rajshahi, including kinds like Golapphas and Amrapali, as it is the peak season for the delectable fruit in Bangladesh.

India is a longtime friend of Bangladesh. Keeping that friendship intact, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

sent mangoes for her friend Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, just like last year. On Friday afternoon, 1,200 kg of Amrapali mangoes were delivered to the residences of the President and Prime Minister of India.

The mango was delivered as a gift to the respective diplomatic channels by the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's gift of mango and hilsa is further strengthening the diplomatic relations and friendship between the two countries.

Last year too, during the mango season, Sheikh Hasina sent 'Amrapali' and Haribhanga mangoes as gifts to the President of India, Prime Minister, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Bishwa Sharma.

Since last year, Sheikh Hasina has started mango diplomacy. A day before the meeting of the Joint Working Group (JCC) between Bangladesh and India last week, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sent man-

goes. Foreign Minister attended the JCC meeting. Abdul Momen has completed his visit successfully. The JCC meeting was held in Delhi on June 19. The JCC discussed the overall issues of bilateral relations, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's upcoming visit to India. Incidentally, Prime Minister Modi and President Kovind visited Bangladesh last year to attend the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence and the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur. And Narendra Modi has recently invited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to visit India through External Affairs Minister S Jayashankar.

According to media reports, On September 6 and 7, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will travel to India to meet with her Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi. The schedule has been set by Delhi and Dhaka, and the Prime Minister verbally approved.

The Joint Consultative Commission meeting between Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Bangladeshi Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on June 19 included discussion of the Prime Minister-level meeting's itinerary.

According to a representative of the foreign ministry, the two nations

will hold a Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) meeting before the PM-level summit in New Delhi. The JRC has not met at the ministerial level in the past ten years, despite the fact that the sharing of water from transboundary rivers is a major concern for the two nations. In October of this year, Prime Minister Hasina last traveled to India.

The PM's visit is vital for the two nations' bilateral ties, which have significantly improved over the past 15 years, particularly in light of Bangladesh's role as India's gateway to its northeastern states. India has also praised Bangladesh's involvement for upholding a zero-tolerance attitude toward the insurgents who had previously caused unrest in the northeastern states of India.

India and Bangladesh are attempting to improve regional collaboration, particularly in connecting South and Southeast Asia, in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak and the Russia-Ukraine war, which severely interrupted the global supply chain.

In order to ensure early preparation for any natural catastrophes like floods and storms, Bangladesh also requests India's assistance in managing the transboundary river basin

as a whole and in exchanging weather data.

Since the Sylhet region is experiencing severe flooding mostly as a result of high rainfall in the Indian hill states of Meghalaya and Assam, the issue has become more crucial than ever.

PM Hasina has made an admirable gesture Both last year and this year, we had a good crop of mangoes. They are more than welcome if they assist to deepen bonds and improve the harmony between the two nations. It should assist in resolving any bilateral difficulties.

The Teesta water-sharing agreement is one of the many persistent disagreements between Bangladesh and India. Since a few years ago, there has been talk over the Teesta water-sharing deal between Bangladesh and India. However, there is no longer a Teesta problem. The sharing of Teesta River water became the most crucial topic of dispute following the Ganges Treaty in 1996. At the two nations' ministerial-level conference in August 1983, the Teesta water-sharing issue between Bangladesh and India was first raised.

Manmohan Singh, who was India's prime minister at the time, traveled to Dhaka in September 2011. A

Teesta water-sharing deal was scheduled to be inked at that time. The temporary agreement had a 15-year term. The agreement establishes Bangladesh's entitlement to 37.5% of the Teesta's water and India's right to 42.5% of it. However, Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal, blocked the treaty from being finalized.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina traveled to India later in 2014. The Teesta Treaty was anticipated to be signed following this trip to India. The PM met with Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal, during the trip. Even so, the West Bengal Chief Minister was not on board.

She claimed that the primary factor influencing her disapproval was her unwillingness to provide water to Bangladesh at the expense of North Bengal's residents. Even in 2015, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi traveled to Dhaka alongside West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Despite the Teesta Treaty receiving great press at the time, nothing came of it. There are 54 rivers that cross the boundary between Bangladesh and India. In 43 of these, India controls the majority of the seas, which is essentially unjust to its neighbors.

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All states had Covid fight role, federal structure is a model for world: PM Modi

Agency
New Delhi, August 08:

Every state has played a "crucial role" in India's fight against Covid and the country's federal structure and cooperative federalism have emerged as a "model for the world" during the pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday.

Speaking at the NITI Aayog's Governing Council meeting, the Prime Minister also gave credit to state governments which, he said, focused on grassroots delivery of public services to the people through cooperation across political lines.

"Every state played a crucial role according to its strength and contributed to India's fight against Covid. This led to India emerging as an example for the developing nations to look up to as a global leader," the Prime Minister said, according to a press release issued by NITI Aayog.

This was the first physical meeting of the Governing Council since the onset of the pandemic, with the 2021 meeting held via video conferencing.

Sunday's meeting was attended by 23 Chief Ministers, three Lieutenant Governors and two Administrators, and Union Ministers. The Chief Ministers of Bihar, Telangana, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Mizoram,

the L-G of Puducherry, and the Administrator of Chandigarh, did not attend the meeting.

Telangana CM K Chandrashekhara Rao had said on Saturday that he would skip the meeting to protest "the Centre's attitude", and objected to the Prime Minister "dismissing welfare schemes as freebies". Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai had cancelled his trip to Delhi for the meeting after testing positive for Covid on Saturday.

The meeting was held primarily to discuss issues such as crop diversification, implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) and urban governance. It started at around 10 am and went on till 4.30 pm, with

interventions by CMs and L-Gs on these issues and others lasting for around five hours. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh moderated the states' interventions. And External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar gave a presentation on India's presidency of the G20 summit from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023.

While NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery said discussions on the ongoing controversy around "freebies" did not take place during the meeting, several states raised concerns around minimum support price for farmers, a shortage of IAS officers, a review of GST and increased allocation of funds for states, among other things.

India logs 16,167 new Covid cases in 24 hours; positivity rate at 6.14%

Agency
New Delhi, August 08:

India once again witnessed a marginal decline in daily Covid-19 cases on Monday, with the country recording 16,167 new infections in the past 24 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry data. With this, the active caseload of the country currently stands at 1,35,510.

The data shows that a total of 15,549 people recovered from the coronavirus infection in the last 24 hours, taking the country's cumulative recoveries to 4,34,99,659. The recovery rate remains consistent at 98.50%.

In India, the daily positivity

rate is 6.14%, while the weekly positivity rate is 4.64%. The country has conducted over 87.81 crore Covid tests till date whereas 2,63,419 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.

Under the Covid-19 nationwide vaccination program, a total of 34,75,330 doses were administered in the last 24 hours while more than 206.56 crore vaccine jabs have been inoculated to the eligible beneficiaries in the country so far.

Meanwhile, the central government has provided more than 197.63 crore (1,97,63,11,575) vaccine doses to States or Union Territories, out of which, over 7.07 crore (7,07,24,170) balanced or unutilized jabs are still avail-

able with them, the health ministry added.

Maharashtra on Sunday reported 1,812 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the state's tally up to 80,59,732, according to the health department data, while the national capital logged 2,423 new infections yesterday. The positivity rate in Delhi also surged to 14.97%, marking the highest percentage since 22 January this year.

In view of the rising Covid-19 cases, Rajesh Bhushan, union health secretary, wrote to the health secretaries of Delhi, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, to step up vigil as mass gatherings are expected during various up-

coming festivals.

Worried about the fresh rise in cases in the country, the central government had flagged concerns to states and union territories showing an surge infections and positivity rate and low levels of testing and vaccination.

The health experts have recommended various measures to mitigate the situation of rising Covid-19 cases in the country. An expert has said the Covid-19 cases are definitely rising but symptoms are mild, stating, "The Covid cases are definitely on the rise, Delhi also reported more than 2,000 cases yesterday. But most of the patients are having very mild symptoms."

Career Guidance

Earth is not another, save it only



By: Vijay GarG

We all should contribute in preserving and nurturing nature. In this regard, the statement of Sunderlal Bahuguna, environmentalist and leader of the Chipko movement, is relevant that ecology is a sustainable economy. In fact, the need to save the environment came due to the haphazard exploitation of natural resources by humans. In the beginning, man made land for cultivation by leveling the earth and made full use of forest, water and land for livelihood. Over time, human needs and population increase, she started exploiting nature indiscriminately, due to which there was a negative change in the ecosystem which is proving fatal today. Indeed, unless consumerism is controlled, there will be no reduction in the exploitation of nature.

Now the time has come to reconsider our activities, how man can use natural resources in harmony with nature. Otherwise the day is not far when we will all be unable to save ourselves from the wrath of nature. Somewhere there will

be heavy rain There will be drought, somewhere people will crave for water and somewhere they will throw away all the wealth in the water. This has also been seen in the last several decades. Glaciers are drying up, rivers are shrinking, deserts are expanding, fertile land is becoming barren. There is very little potable water left under the ground.

Now many questions arise about preserving the environment, how can we convert the barren land into fertile land again? How to restore cut forests to their shape? How to save glaciers from melting? how wild animals Can you provide accommodation? In fact, there are examples of some great people of the world who devoted their lives to developing the ecosystem. The first name in this context is that of Padma Shri Jadav Molai Payeng, known as the 'Forest Man of India' who, over the course of several decades, planted trees on a sandbar of the Brahmaputra river and turned it into a forest sanctuary. This forest, called Molai forest, is spread over an area of 1360 acres in Jorhat, Assam. Next name is Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Awardee Devaki Amm of India who have been protecting biodiversity by bringing and nurturing plants from different parts of India. He has raised public awareness about the environment.

There are more than 3000 trees of different species in the forest planted by Devaki

Amma. There are also some rare plants like Lakshmi Tharu, Chinese Orange etc. He has saved 200 types of trees and shrubs that supply fruits, vegetables and flowers. In this episode, Chewang Norphel, who is called Ice Man, born in the year 1935, is an Indian civil engineer from Ladakh, who 15 artificial glaciers have been created. Another such figure is Karnataka environmentalist Padmashree Salu Marada Thimmakka, who is noted for planting 385 banyan trees for four kilometers along the highway between Hulikal and Kudur.

Everyone knows that Sunderlal Bahuguna was an environmentalist and a hero of the Chipko movement. He fought for the conservation of forests in the Himalayas, first as a member of the Chipko movement in the 1970s, and later leading the anti-Tehri Dam movement from the 1980s to early 2004. there uttarakhandin D, Prabha Devi has planted more than 500 trees which stand as the guardian of Palasat village. There are also some other women working towards restoring the ecosystem, taking inspiration from whom students and teachers together make similar efforts, it will be good for the environment. One of them is Latika Nath who is known as Tiger Princess. Latika is the first wildlife scientist in the country to receive a doctorate degree on tigers. Such is the name of Prema Singh Bindra who is a conservationist, jour-

nalist, author and are workers. Prerna works with forest officials, rangers and NGOs in protected areas for wildlife such as the Nandaur Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttarakhand and the Naina Devi Himalayan Bird Conservation Reserve.

Similarly, Poornima Devi Burman, a renowned environmentalist from Assam, is working towards saving the Greater Adjutant Stork, or Hargila, from extinction. Another inspiring personality is Kriti Karanth. They are wildlife conversationalists, who study species distribution and extinction patterns, the impacts of wildlife tourism, a is researching rehabilitation outcomes, land-use change and human-wildlife interactions. She is working on a project called Wild Save, which has helped thousands of families file wildlife-compensation claims and get their due benefits.

Actually every day of the year should be celebrated as Environment Day and each one of us should contribute in protecting the environment. To protect soil, water, plants, air and animals and to save life on the planet, we need to plan and do continuous concrete work. Is it simply means to say that there is no other earth? We have to stay on this earth in any case and have to beautify and decorate it. This goal can be achieved if every citizen, organization and governments of all countries of the world join together in this continuous program.

The first ever US Navy Ship arrives in India for repairs



Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar and other officials on Board US Navy Ship Charles Drew. (Inset): Dr. Ajay Kumar, L&TDSST CEO JD Patil and Vice Admiral SN Ghormade.

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, August 08:

As part of the Indo-US strategic partnership, US Navy Ship (USNS) Charles Drew arrived at L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli, Chennai to undertake repairs and allied services on August 07, Sunday.

The ship will be at the Kattupalli shipyard for 11 days and undergo repairs in various areas. The arrival of US ship for repairs to India is considered a major boost to "Make in India" and "Self Reliance in Defence".

The US Navy has awarded a contract to L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli for undertaking maintenance of the ship. Indian shipyards offer wide-ranging and cost-effective ship repair and maintenance services, using advanced maritime technology platforms. The arrival of US ship for repairs signifies the capabilities of Indian shipyards in the global ship repairing market, an official release stated.

Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar, Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, Flag Officer Commanding Tamil Nadu & Puducherry Naval Area Rear Admiral S Venkat Raman, and other senior officials of the Defence Ministry visited the shipyard to welcome the vessel. Consul General in Chennai Ms. Judith Ravin and Defence Attaché at the US Embassy in New Delhi Rear Admiral

Michael Baker were also present.

On the occasion, Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar termed the event a red-letter day for the Indian shipbuilding industry and the Indo-US defence relationship. "We are pleased to welcome US Naval Ship USNS Charles Drew to India, for making her voyage ready. It marks the beginning of a new chapter for deeper engagements", he said.

He described the arrival of the US ship for repairs as a sign of maturing Indian shipbuilding industry and added that today, India has six major shipyards with a turnover of nearly \$2 billion. "We are making ships not only for our requirements. We have our own design house capable of making all kinds of state-of-the-art ships".

"The country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant is a shining example of the growth of the Indian shipbuilding industry. Under the innovation ecosystem, vessels capable of undertaking autonomous missions have been built by Goa Shipyard Limited and some of our start-ups. The shipbuilding industry today is not just carrying out conventional things, but is also amalgamating the latest technologies with it," Dr. Ajay Kumar said.

"Indian defence exports which were worth about Rs 1,500 crore in 2015-16, have

now grown by 800% to around Rs 13,000 crore. A major destination for Indian exports is the US," Dr. Ajay Kumar said and thanked the US partners for their cooperation and support to the Indian defence industry.

US Consul General in Chennai Ms. Judith Ravin said: "In April, at the US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin affirmed their intention to explore utilizing Indian shipyards for repairs on US Navy vessels. This inaugural repair of USNS Charles Drew is a landmark development to be celebrated as a symbol of our strengthened US-India partnership."

Defence Attaché at the US Embassy at New Delhi Rear Admiral Michael Baker said: "Our shipping industries positively contributes to a free and open Indo-Pacific by partnering to deliver effective, efficient, and economical repair of military vessels."

Member of the Executive Council and Advisor to the CEO of L&T for Defence and Smart Technologies (L&TDSST) JD Patil said, the Marine Sealift Command of the US Navy had undertaken a rigorous evaluation of select shipyards in India and cleared L&T for undertaking repairs on their vessels. It is a recognition of the modern infrastructure at the shipyard built to global standards.

Contd. from Page 2

What return should India's Mamata Banerjee provide....

In essence, refusing to sign the Teesta River accord is a denigration of the good neighborly relations between India and Bangladesh. India had to keep in mind that Bangladesh is a reliable ally in the area. It is frequently claimed that the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India are at their peak right now. Bangladesh has however made it clear that it still views India as its most crucial neighbor and ally.

As Bangladesh PM has been practicing and showing her liberal neighborhood mindset towards India particularly through 'Hilsa-Mango' diplomacy, it is India's especially West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee should show such kind of proactive reactions. India's central government always maintained a narrative that West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's continuous opposition has been the key obstacle in signing the

Teesta deal. So, there was a subtle hint that only Mamata could be a welcome relief to break the stalemate. As per her quotation, I love Bangladesh but Bengal is my priority. But Mamata must be understood and agreed the reality. Bangladeshi people deserve the right on the river. Not signing the treaty is belittling the unneighborly spirit between India-Bangladesh. As crucial as collaborative cooperation is for the two countries; effective river water management, it's also necessary for Indian counterparts to assess Bangladesh's shared rivers. Making one's life simpler shouldn't come at the expense of others. As Bangladesh PM is set to visit to India this year, Mamata Banerjee should give green signal to the center to sign the long-pending treaty because this is the long pending promise of India to Bangladesh. A successful resolution to

the Teesta issue will boost bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh while also helping Bangladesh's economy. India will gain a lot from the Teesta Treaty. If this bilateral agreement is implemented, it will be able to satisfy all Bangladeshi stakeholders. India will undoubtedly be able to fortify its position as Bangladesh's staunch ally and develop a solid diplomatic and economic alliance. The bondage between the two Bengalis from two countries would be further strengthened. Thus, we can understand easily what the return should India's Mamata Banerjee provide to Bangladesh against the PM's Sheikh Hasina's 'Mango Diplomacy. Only the answer is 'the sign of Teesta water' agreement between two brotherly neighbours.

(The writer is a Dhaka based women and human rights activist)

Congress must stand up to Modi Government's ED terrorism

Ideological clarity, robust organisation need of the hour

By Amulya Ganguli
New Delhi, August 08:

The enforcement directorate's relentless pursuit of the Congress and other opposition parties can prove to be counter-productive in the long run.

For a start, the impression can grow that the supposedly autonomous agency is being less than professional in its targeting of the non-BJP parties. The narcotic bureau's botched inquiries into the drug-related charges against Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan, can substantiate this belief.

Besides, the Congress's determined resistance to the probes against it can have two effects. One is to rev up the party's generally moribund organizational structure, and the other is to spread the message of the government's "misuse" of the so-called caged parrots against the BJP's political opponents. It is a charge which will not be disbelieved by sizeable sections of the population.

That the BJP is uneasy about the perception of playing hooky with the rule book is evident from its irate response to the Congress's comments on the arrests being courted by the party's senior leaders as well as the rank and file.

Otherwise, the BJP would not have wheeled out a senior leader like Ravi Shankar Prasad to argue that the Congress's references to inflation and unemployment were nothing but "bahana" or excuses to take to the streets to protect the Nehru-Gandhi family from the accusation of wrong-doing.

The BJP also has a ready answer to the charge against it of undermining democracy, as levelled by Rahul Gandhi. It is to recall the Emergency of 1975-77 which remains an albatross

round the Congress's neck.

However, since two wrongs do not make a right, it is doubtful for how long the BJP can depend on the references to the Congress's misdeeds of nearly half a century ago to deflect attention from the allegations of questionable policies today.

The Congress may derive some satisfaction from its capability to mobilize fairly large number of supporters in Delhi and other towns to protest against the enforcement directorate's action against the party's first family.

But what is bound to bother it nevertheless is how the BJP can manage to ride the choppy waters of inflation and unemployment despite the Congress's strenuous efforts.

None of the latter's diatribes on the Rafael aircraft deal and the Pegasus snooping device have succeeded in unsettling the "chowkidar" (guard) who is supposed to be a "chor" (thief). Evidently, either the people pay no heed to such allegations against the BJP or the ruling party's credibility is too solid for the charges to breach it. On both counts, the failure is the Congress's, for it has been unable to earn the people's trust or undermine the BJP's reputation.

The Congress's present tactics are, of course, defensive in nature. It is seen to be battling against heavy odds since the party has been unable to rally any other opposition party to come to its aid. A probable reason for the Congress's loneliness is the Nehru-Gandhi family's stranglehold on the party.

It is no secret that many of those who have drifted away from the Congress like Sharad Pawar or Mamata Banerjee or Amrinder Singh have done so

because of the family's unwillingness to accommodate them.

This is also true of Himanta Biswa Sarma and Jagan Mohan Reddy, both of whom are today chief ministers of their respective states. If the Congress had been openminded enough to give them enough political space, they might have remained in the party and made it much stronger than it is today.

As long as the family monopolises its grip on the Congress, making it impossible for anyone in the organization to rise to the top, the party will not be able to hold the BJP to account on its many faults, including the worldwide belief that its reign is eroding India's democratic standing. It is for this reason that it is said that the family is the BJP's greatest asset.

However, there are curious similarities between the BJP and the Congress in this respect. Just as the Congress is sorely dependent on the Nehru-

Gandhis to stay afloat, the BJP cannot do without Narendra Modi. It is patent enough that the party will enter a rocky, uncertain phase in Modi's absence.

True, virtually all Indian parties revolve round one person - whether it is the Trinamool Congress or the DMK or the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Ravi Shankar Prasad has mocked the Congress for the lack of internal democracy. But this is true of all parties.

Unless the parties develop robust organizational structures based on an ideological base - not the BJP's polarising communalism or the Trinamool's vacuous "ma, mati, manush" chant (the Congress's ideology remains unclear) - they will be afraid of falling apart in the absence of a dominant figure. This fear also makes some of them susceptible to the "misuse" of investigative agencies by a ruthless adversary.

(IPA Service)

Assam Rifles conducts meet with Meira Paibis at Canchipur

IT News
Imphal, August 08:

Keithelmanbi Battalion of Assam Rifles, under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised an interaction with all Manipur Meira Paibis at Canchipur Company Operating Base in Imphal West district of Manipur on August 6, 2022.

Various initiatives towards youth empowerment, security and education were discussed and deliberated upon to put in place sustained and coordinated ef-

forts.

This meet provided the platform for discussion on important issues including drug menace and working in harmony with Assam Rifles towards achieving common goal of peace and development. The civil society organisations (CSOs) appreciated the continuous efforts of Assam Rifles on all fronts towards ensuring harmony and tranquillity and assisting local populace in myriad ways. A total no 20 Meira Paibis attended the meet.

Assam Rifles inaugurates the Capt (Late) N Kenguruse, MVC Centre of Excellence & Wellness

IT News
Imphal, August 08:

Lt Gen P C Nair, AVSM, YSM, Director General Assam Rifles inaugurated the Capt (Late) N Kenguruse, MVC Centre of Excellence & Wellness at Chieswema, Kohima today. The Project has been conceived by Assam Rifles to empower the youth of Nagaland through education and secure a better future for them.

During his address, DG Assam Rifles appreciated the efforts of IGAR (North), NIEDO and Axis bank in coming together towards this humanitarian cause which will not only fulfil the drive of immensely talented youths of Nagaland but will also usher prosperity and happiness in the society and the state. He further stated that Nagaland as a state has had certain impediments in terms of higher education due to its remoteness and societal challenges evolving out of insurgency. These impediments have prevented students to realise their aspirations and true potential. This project would be able to bridge this gap & provide students an opportunity to achieve their dreams and contribute positively to the society, state and nation.

He highlighted that the mentoring will provide value-based education, including soft skill training, critical life competencies, leadership capabilities, personal conditioning, wellness programs, vocational training, personality development and end to end grooming to the selected students to help them in becoming a productive human resource for the Nation. Having been an IGAR in Nagaland earlier, Lt Gen P C



Nair had felt the necessity and significance of reaching out to the very remote areas of Nagaland. This project was thus conceptualised to nurture the talent of the vast numbers of under privileged youth that reside in these areas and give wings to their aspirations.

Maj Gen Vikas Lakhera, SM, the current Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) at Kohima, while addressing the students about this pioneer and generous drive highlighted that this project will provide a genuine opportunity for quality education to these selected children through specialised mentors. As per him, this initiative will also set precedence for more such collaborations in future and would have a meaningful impact on the education rendered to the relatively weaker sections of the society and in turn their lives. He thanked Axis Bank and NIEDO for joining hands on such a noble initiative.

The project has been conceptualized as a year-long residential coaching and mentoring facility for students from economically weaker and under-privileged sections of Nagaland for prestigious competitive examinations like NEET and JEE. The MOU be-

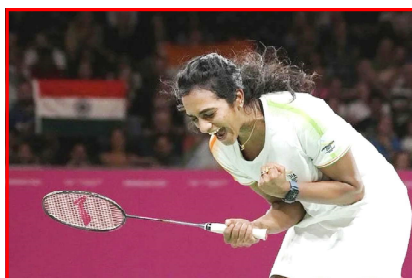
tween Assam Rifles, Axis Bank & NIEDO was signed on 13 May 22 which commenced the arduous journey of selecting 30 meritorious students from the entire state of Nagaland. The students underwent various stages of testing to be finally selected amongst the top 30.

The spade work of this project was started in 2020 by Brigadier Abhinav Gurha, then Commander of 5 Sector AR. He identified the training partner and pushed forward for early execution of the project. Thereafter Brigadier Herjinder Singh, present Commander of 5 Sector AR took this project to finalisation by signing MoU with the corporate partner, Axis Bank and training partner, NIEDO, a NGO on 13 May 22. Post this extensive efforts were undertaken throughout Nagaland to identify the deserving meritorious children.

Over the last two years, Assam Rifles has been using education to facilitate the youth of North East to get better educational and employment opportunities. Assam Rifles in Nagaland, in the last one year, has trained 294 students for Sainik Schools, out of which 40 students have already been selected for Sainik Schools across the country.

Sports

PV Sindhu thrashes Michelle Li in straight games to clinch historic gold; Lakshya Sen wins Gold Medal, defeats Ng Tze Yong at Commonwealth Games 2022



Agency
Birmingham, August 08:

All eyes were on badminton superstar PV Sindhu when the World No.7 squared off against Canada's World No.13 Michelle Li in the final of the women's singles event at the action-packed Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022 hosted by Birmingham. Double Olympic medallist Sindhu and Indian debutant Lakshya Sen had earlier assured India of at least two more medals before contesting their respective finals on the final day of the CWG 2022.

World number 10 Lakshya Sen lost his way after a domi-

nating start against 87-ranked Jia Heng Teh of Singapore. Sen however recovered to complete a 21-10, 18-21, 21-16 win in the men's singles semifinals.

In the first men's singles semifinal, Sen was stretched by his Singaporean opponent. He relied on relentless attack to put his Singaporean opponent on the backfoot and he was able to do that in the first game. A couple of forehand smashes on the Singaporean's right helped him take a 1-0 lead in the match.

Making an impressive start in the high-voltage clash, Sindhu made early in-roads by getting the better of the Cana-

dian in the first game. The World No. 7 secured the first game (21-15) in the gold medal match. After wrapping up the first game in her favour, Sindhu thrashed her opponent in the second game (21-13) to enter her name in the history books. By virtue of her flawless win over Li in the women's singles final on Sunday, ace shuttler Sindhu has secured her first-ever gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.

Completing a hat-trick of wins over Canada's Michelle, Sindhu outclassed the World No.13 to open India's medal account on Day 11 of the CWG 2022 in Birmingham. Sindhu

also improved her head-to-head record (9-2) over the Canadian superstar. Earlier this year, Sindhu had played two matches against Canada's World No.13. Prior to her monumental win in the women's singles final at CWG 2022, Sindhu had emerged victorious in both of her previous two encounters this year.

Sindhu has joined Kidambi Srikanth and the duo of Treasa Jolly- Gayatri Gopichand by becoming the fourth Indian medallist in badminton at CWG 2022. Earlier, World championships silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth signed off from the CWG 2022 with a

bronze medal in the men's singles event. After the women's singles gold medal match in Birmingham, India's Lakshya squared off against Malaysian shuttler Tze Yong Ng in the men's final.

The momentum shifted towards Jia in the second game as he slowed the pace of the game. A drop shot followed by a backhand winner made it 8-8 before Jia went into the interval with a 9-11 advantage. A slew of unforced errors from Sen saw Jia take the next five points to make it 9-16. Sen tried to hang in the game, but after the Singaporean took a shoe change break at 15-18, he was able to level the match when Sen hit a forehand long.

Sen built an 11-7 lead in the decider though Jia made the Indian work hard for every point. The Singaporean was also given a last warning for delay in between points. Sen got four points and converted the first one with a deft drop shot that set up a backhand winner.

"I didn't get in the rhythm in the second but I managed to pull it off in the end. The

COUNTRIES				
	G	S	B	
1 AUS	66	57	54	177
2 ENG	56	61	53	170
3 CAN	26	32	34	92
4 IND	20	15	23	58
5 NZL	19	12	17	48

crowd support also helped a lot in the first game," said Sen. "It was a tough game today. I have played him before, so I was expecting a good, fast-paced match."

"I wanted to control the net much better, but overall and from the back, the defence was very good. That was a really good match before the final," said Sen. Earlier, former world champion Sindhu, who has a silver and a bronze from the 2018 and 2014 editions, was clearly the better player on display as she kept a firm grip on the match.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated P V Sindhu on winning the Gold medal in Badminton at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister said;

"The phenomenal @Pvsindhu1 is a champion of champions! She repeatedly shows what excellence is all about. Her dedication and commitment is awe-inspiring. Congratulations to her on winning the Gold medal at the CWG. Wishing her the best for her future endeavours."