

Internet mobile data resume

IT News
Imphal, August 09:

Following the improvement of the law and order situation in the state, the government of Manipur has order to restore the suspended internet mobile data from today.

State Home Department has issued an order for restoration of the internet mobile data with immediate effect.

Following spread of rumours and information that may incite violence among the people of the state in the aftermath of the arrest of 5 ATS/UM leaders, the Manipur state Home department has suspended all mobile data internet for 5 days starting from August 6, as per report of the DGP Manipur. However, after an agreement was reached between the ATS/UM and the government representative the 5 ATS/UM leaders were released yesterday and as agreed the economic blockade has been suspended.

In view of the restoration of peace, the state Home department relaxed the suspension of internet Data Service in the state of Manipur.

Nitish Kumar resigns as Bihar CM of NDA Govt, says consensus in JD(U) to walk out of alliance

Agency
Patna, August 09:

On a day of fast-moving political developments in Bihar, Nitish Kumar, who is JD(U) president, on Tuesday resigned as Chief Minister of Bihar and submitted a support letter of 160 MLAs to Governor Phagu Chauhan. Kumar has split with ally BJP for the second time in eight years and said, "All MPs and MLAs are at a consensus that we should leave the NDA". RJD leader Upendra Kushwaha in a tweet congratulated Kumar for leading a "new coalition in a new form", embracing the RJD-led 'Mahagathbandhan' (Grand Alliance) to continue in office.

A meeting of the RJD-led grand alliance, comprising the Left and the Congress, also took place at Rabri Devi's house, across the street from Kumar's residence where all the MLAs were said to have signed a letter of support to Kumar. Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav was expected to visit the CM's resi-



dence to hand over the letter of support any time.

Sources said that Tejashwi Yadav is demanding Home Ministry and Speaker's position for his party. On the other hand, JD(U) has sought an appointment from Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan.

The JD(U) today hailed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, its de facto leader, for assuming the "leadership of a new coalition", while the Left reiterated its support for him in a coalition sans BJP.

JD(U) parliamentary board president Upendra Kushwaha

wrote a post to this effect on Twitter, ahead of Kumar's meeting with Governor Fagu Chauhan later in the day. "Congratulations to Nitish Kumar ji for assuming leadership of a new coalition, in a new form", tweeted Kushwaha referring to the opposition Grand Alliance's support for the JD(U) leader. "March ahead Nitish ji. The country is waiting for you", Kushwaha added cryptically. JD(U) sources also told CNN-News18 that Union Home Minister Amit Shah dialled Nitish Kumar in the morning, but sources in Shah's office denied it.

Amid reports of fissures between the two allies, the Bihar opposition — Congress, RJD and Left — have declared open support to Nitish and JD(U).

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Suspected cadres of NSCN (K), ULFA (I) militants attack Assam Rifles camp in Indo-Myanmar border

Agency
Dibrugarh, August 09:

In the run-up to the Independence Day celebration, suspected militants belonging to proscribed outfits NSCN (K) and ULFA (I) attacked a camp of Assam Rifles at Pangsau Pass along the Indo-Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district on Tuesday morning.

There is no confirmed report of any casualties in the militants' attack, but some reports claimed that one Assam Rifles jawan was killed in the attack.

Sources said, a joint team of NSCN (K) and ULFA (I)

with heavy weapons attacked the newly built Assam Rifles camp located at Pangsau Pass on Tuesday morning at around 4.

In retaliation, the Assam Rifles fired on them and a gunfight broke out between them but no casualties have been reported, said a source.

Confirming the incident Changlang Superintendent of Police (SP) Mihin Gambo said firing was reported from the Pangsau Pass area this morning.

"It is immediately not known which insurgent groups were involved in the attack," SP Gambo said.

Meanwhile, security forces have launched a massive op-

eration along the Indo-Myanmar border in Changlang district.

Recently, Assam Rifles have carried out massive operations against the insurgent groups in Tirap, Longding and Changlang regions of Arunachal Pradesh and managed to nab several NSCN cadres.

Pangsau Pass area is one of the remotest areas in Arunachal Pradesh and shares boundary with Myanmar.

Most of the insurgent groups of the Northeast have set up their camps in the jungles of Myanmar and sneak into Arunachal Pradesh through jungle routes.

Silchar-Imphal flight connectivity to resume after 10 years, confirm Airport Officials

IT News
Imphal, August 09:

The flight services between Silchar and Imphal are set to resume after a gap of over 10 years, officials from the Silchar Airport revealed in a Twitter post. This will take place with effect from October 30 this year, under the Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik). According to the official airport sources, Alliance Air,

which is a division under the Air India Asset Holdings Private Limited, will be operating flight services on a daily basis from the Silchar Airport in Assam.

"The much awaited Silchar - Imphal flight connectivity is getting resumed w.e.f 30.10.2022, after a long break of more than 10 years. We welcome Alliance Air once again at #IXS. The Flt no. 91 743/742 will operate daily and the STA/STD is

1305/1330 hrs," said the tweet by Silchar Airport announcing the development.

Silchar Airport is a Civil Enclave situated on the foothills of the Barail Hill range. According to the Airports Authority of India, it is the second busiest airport (with 70 civilian flights per week) in Assam and the 4th busiest in the northeast after Guwahati, Agartala and Imphal.

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District Agriculture Fair at Senapati District

IT News
Senapati, August 09:

District Agriculture Fair, 2022 under the theme "Organic farming" was held today at Multipurpose Hall, Senapati. It was jointly organised by Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and District Agriculture Office, Senapati.

Speaking as Chief Guest, Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Senapati said like the horticulture department which have recently exported a large

quantity of pineapples outside the state, there is a lot of potential in the agricultural sector as well. He also urged the farmer to come forward and take maximum participation in interacting with various field experts.

Todinang Panmei, Additional Director, Department of Agriculture, Manipur on his guest of honour speech urged the farmer in the district to take up High Yielding Variety for producing more quantity of crops; Soil Health Card for obtaining the status of soil health; and, Crop insurance to cover the

loss incurred by the farmer due to reduction yield.

S. P. Lovejoy Anal, District Agriculture Officer, Senapati in his speech said 9 schemes are being taken up in the district to increase the zeal of the farmers. He also said various seeds crop are given free of cost whereas machinery for farming are given out at subsidy rates to the farmer. He also urged the farmers to attend various awareness programmes and camp to keep oneself updated with the latest knowledge.

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SOREPA calls General Strike on August 15, pay tributes to Martyrs Anglo Manipur war

IT News
Imphal, August 09:

Armed rebel group Socialist Revolutionary Party, Kangleipak (SOREPA) while paying tribute to the martyrs of Anglo Manipur War in connection with the Patriots Day observed August 13, has called general strike in August 15 - The Independence Day of India.

In a statement SOREPA said that August 13 has been remembered and will be remembered as it is the day of the martyrs of Manipur who had sacrifice for protection for the freedom of the erstwhile nation. It said that all those martyrs who have sac-

rificed their life for the freedom of the Kanglei community will be always honour.

"We pay our respect to Martyred Koirang, Epu Thangal, Chongthang Mia, Chinglensana, Chirai Thangal and others unsung heroes who have sacrifice for the freedom of our country", the statement said.

The statement also said that the SOREPA also honours those freedom fighters who have sacrifice and still fighting for the restoration of the Independence of Kangleipak after the British left Manipur after being a Protectorate state on August 14, 1947.

The SOREPA said that the

so call "Har Ghar Tiranga" is a direct challenge to the freedom struggle of the people of Manipur and there is no reason for the people to participate the August 15 Independence Day of India as WESEA Region including Kangleipak has been colonized by the India after annexing the region. The SOREPA appealed the people of Manipur to stay away from participating the Indian Independence Day. The SOREPA said that the General Strike will be enforced from 4 am to 6 pm of August 15, 2022. It also said that other form of protest against the Independence Day of India will be supported by the SOREPA.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (VALLEY-2) ENGINEERING CELL, HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Imphal, the 9th August, 2022

Clarification regarding construction of drain and compound wall at Wangoi Veterinary Hospital, Imphal West, Manipur

Our attention has been drawn to the lead story in the "Imphal Times of 05th August, 2022 titled, *Broad daylight robbery at Vety. & A.H. Services*".

The story alleges that TP Cell (Valley-II) handed over an incomplete wall and drainage construction for the compound of Wangoi Veterinary Hospital to the concerned department with remarks "Completed."

On the contrary, the Technical and Promotional Cell (Valley-II) would like to clarify as follows:

The Directorate of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services sanctioned Rs. 19.45 Lakh (inclusive of taxes) to execute the work "Construction of drain and compound wall at Wangoi Veterinary Hospital." The work order for the aforesaid work was issued on 20th March, 2021 in favour of Shri O. Anil Singh, First class contractor with work order value of Rs. 16,74,970/- (including 10% GST) after deducting taxes and applicable charges.

The work was successfully implemented under the supervision of one Assistant Engineer, one Section Officer and site supervisors and handed over to the Director, Vety. & A.H. Services on 11th October, 2021 after completion.

As clarified above, the allegation regarding some portion of the wall left incomplete at the northern side of the compound is not related with the works taken up by this office. However, as per site conditions, the western side of the wall was constructed with wire netting on CC footings in view of the road expansion which is likely to arise in the future. And the item is included in the work order itself.

Due to limited amount sanctioned, the plastering item has been excluded and is reflected in the work order.

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer
Engineering Cell,
Valley Div-2, H & FW Dept.,
Govt. of Manipur

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer
Engineering Cell,
Valley Div-2, H & FW Dept.,
Govt. of Manipur

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Engineering Cell,
Valley Div-2, H & FW Dept.,
Govt. of Manipur

Think of the Students “Technical glitches in CUET”



By: Vijay Garg

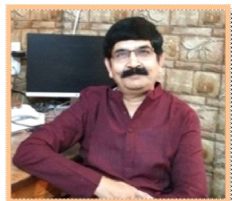
Students are not only upset due to the disturbances in the Common University Test, but this examination is becoming a cause of stress for them. While NTA has attributed this to technical glitches, the UGC chairman has expressed apprehension that these irregularities seem to have been done deliberately.

NTA has said that the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) will now be held till August 28. This last round test from August 24 to August 28 was arranged for those students. Those who have been affected by the cancellation of examinations due to technical glitches and other reasons last week. If seen, this year is proving to be an endless series of tensions and uncertainties for many students pursuing 12th.

After overcoming the uncertainties of the pandemic, a new examination of CUET came to the fore that the 12th examination did not go through. When the date of the examination came and reached the examination center, even then the problems did not give up. There was a server problem, there were difficulties in downloading the paper and security those protocols were still a disaster. After all this, the examinations of about 10 percent centers were canceled. The reason for this has been attributed by NTA to technical glitches.

The chairman of the UGC is saying that there have also been reports of deliberate malpractices and in the midst of all this; this decision has been taken keeping the interests of the students at the center.

Ragging an evil – Let’s say “NO” to it



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

The vicious practice of ragging has not only become rampant in our educational institutions but also acquired hideous proportions costing the sanity of the institutions and life of some of the students. Even today, students from the rural areas have a lingering fear when they go to cities for higher studies. To dispel such fears, colleges should prominently display a banner saying their campus is free from ragging.

Those who indulge in ragging look for temporary pleasure but end up destroying many lives. Students alone can put an end to it. Anti-ragging steps should be strictly enforced. Parents and teachers are equally responsible for eliminating the virus. Service organizations and NGOs should too launch awareness campaigns against the menace in educational institutions. The cantankerous behaviour of some students in colleges is often the offshoot of indiscipline in the schools in which they studied, and uncaring families. Instead of attempting to classify the acts of ragging as “soft” and “hard,” we should employ the guidelines of the committee in letter and spirit. If faculty members communicate more informally with them, a healthy academic environment can be created.

Ragging and abetting the crime on the college campus will remove the lurking fear in the minds of freshmen, especially those who opt to stay in hostels. The authorities should not stop with just making rules but take effective steps to implement the same and highlight the ill-effects of ragging through the visual media. The move will implant fear and discipline in the minds of senior students who indulge in ragging. Even today, students from the rural areas have a lingering fear when they go to cities for higher studies. To dispel such fears, colleges should prominently display a banner saying their campus is free from ragging. Those who indulge in ragging look for temporary pleasure but end up destroying many lives. Students alone can put an end to it. Anti-ragging steps should be strictly enforced. Parents and teachers are equally responsible for eliminating the virus. Service organizations and NGOs should too launch awareness campaigns against the menace in educational institutions.

There was not much awareness in those days and ragging in the past was one way of familiarizing freshers with senior students. But now, the increased incidents of ragging have exposed the errors in our education system which may be successful in churning out academically brilliant students, but has failed to inculcate proper values in them.

The cantankerous behaviour of some students in colleges is often the offshoot of indiscipline in the schools in which they studied, and uncaring families. Instead of attempting to classify the acts of ragging as “soft” and “hard,” we should employ the guidelines of the committee in letter and spirit. If faculty members communicate more informally with them, a healthy academic environment can be created.

It is also noticed that those who indulge in ragging do not plan in advance. On most of the occasions, things go out of control. The guilty should not only be expelled but also barred from admission to any other college.

Looking to the increase in ragging incidents, active involvement of media and the civil society is essential in tackling the problem of ragging. The mindset of the student has changed and now we need to focus on enforcing stringent measures like rustication of a student, withholding of scholarship, debaring a student from appearing in any test. If possible students who involve in ragging must be put in jail instead of just being suspended or expelled. An example needs to be set.

World’s indigenous peoples day and mother Earth



By: N. Munal Meitei

World indigenous peoples day has been celebrated on 9th August every year since 1994. This day is celebrated to strengthen international cooperation for solving problems faced by the indigenous peoples in areas such as culture, education, health, human rights, environment, social and economic development. The indigenous population across the world stays in close contact with nature and they share much on environmental protection. The day also recognizes the contributions made by them to protect the world’s environment.

Recently, a Civil Society Group claimed for 25 groups of people in the state to be identified as the indigenous peoples. One of the basis for the claim of being the indigenous peoples is for those groups of people for whom there is no place to return back. In India, indigenous peoples are also called scheduled tribe. However, all tribal peoples are not indigenous to the areas where they live now. But in my article, my main emphasis is on the indigenous peoples and the environment.

The indigenous peoples have a unique set of languages, traditions, cultures, and governing systems. They followed the ancestors’ sys-

tems for centuries that stood the test of time by serving them with positive outcomes as on today. Many indigenous people’s special bond and connection with nature have also led to the protection of the general environment.

The theme for 2022 is “The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge and the call for a new social contract.” Indigenous women are the backbone of indigenous peoples’ communities and play a crucial role in ancestral knowledge banking. They have an integral collective and community role as carers of natural resources and keepers of scientific knowledge. Many indigenous women are also taking the lead in the defence of lands and territories and advocating for indigenous peoples’ collective rights worldwide.

Small but significant progress has been made by indigenous women in decision-making and standing at the frontlines for defending their lands, their cultures, and their communities. The reality, however, remains that indigenous women are widely under-represented, disproportionately affected by decisions made on their behalf, and are too frequently the victims of multiple expressions of discrimination and violence. But the major issues encountered by indigenous women, particularly noting the high levels of poverty; low levels of education and illiteracy; limitations in access to health, basic sanitation, credit and employment; limited participation in political life; and the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence.

The places that indigenous peoples reside in are home to around 80% of the world’s biodiversity and occupy 28% of the global land area and make up 500 million which is less than 5% of the world’s population but account for 15% of the poorest. World’s indigenous peoples estimated to speak 7,000 languages and represent 5,000 different cultures. The significance of indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge is widely acknowledged. Long before the development of modern science, indigenous peoples have developed their ways of knowing how to survive and also of ideas about meanings, purposes and values.

The efforts of indigenous peoples to maintain their territories have been critically important in providing global environmental benefits. Given the inextricable bond of indigenous peoples to the land, any loss of natural resources threatens their identity and impoverishes their communities. Many indigenous peoples believe the natural world is sacred, consider themselves as one element of the natural world, and that it needs to be kept for the future generations.

Many indigenous peoples are giving up their traditional lifestyle and taking up farming and cattle ranching in the forest areas causing irreparable damage. Such people, formerly the protectors of forests, are gradually becoming threats to the forests and wildlife.

Environmental health of present and future generations which cannot be excluded when it comes to indigenous peoples issues. The problems of indigenous peoples include lack of knowledge, lack of ca-

capacity to deal with the issues, lack of expertise, lack of awareness for interventions to environmental degradation and lack of knowledge of relevant legislation.

Traditional uses of plant species and regular consumption of “wild” foods for indigenous peoples have significantly been affected due to the exposure to chemical and biological contaminants. This in turn has affected the traditional lifestyles and food habits of these peoples.

Indigenous peoples have an important role to play in realizing the ambitious goals in combating climate change. Their traditional knowledge, which cuts across the numerous aspects of sustainability and resilience, has increasingly gained recognition at the international level as a vital way forward. These traditional knowledge systems, rooted in them, are important in shaping a low-carbon economy, traditional occupations ranging from agriculture to hunting, with the transformations being experienced in societies, economies, institutions, technologies and the climate.

Indigenous peoples have high accuracy of the biophysical animate and inanimate of the human senses, as well as “spirits” which helps in forecasting weather patterns including the plants and animals of their surroundings.

Thus, with the coming of the International Day of World’s Indigenous Peoples, we all nations should take the major role to protect the traditional rights and occupations of the indigenous peoples for the sake of mother earth and the future generations.

(Environmentalist. Email-nmunall@yahoo.in)

India has World’s Highest Number of ‘Extremely Poor’ Denizens Under Narendra Modi, Crony Capitalism Flourishes as Poverty Worsens

By: Sushil Kutty

Droupadi Murmu has taken oath on July 25, the 15th President of India. Her salary: Rs 5 lakh per month, plus perks. But why talk of the President’s salary? That is because there’s a big gap between what Prime Minister Narendra Modi picks for high office earner and what the electorate that elected him to office makes. Also because after eight years in office, Modi is taking issue with opposition parties, grudging the “revadis” (lollipop) ladled out to the poor by these parties to win elections.

The Gujarat elections are on Modi’s mind. The BJP is nervous that Arvind Kejriwal’s AAP might do a Punjab on Gujarat and divest Modi’s home-state from Modi’s 30 year grip. Imagine Modi losing Gujarat to freebies after enriching the richest Gujaratis with eight years of the ‘Gujarat Model’. Modi is in fact the Harbinger of the freebie culture in north Indian politics. Hark back to 2012-13 and there was Modi promising ‘ache din’ and “Rs 15 lakh in every Indian’s bank account”. It was an incentive to vote for ‘akibaar Modi sarkar’. It worked and Modi took the oath.

In 2019, Modi got a replica of 2014, and March 22 this year came news that India had beaten Nigeria for the most number of the extremely poor! The Modi Government was busy planning a national jamboree to celebrate 75 years of India’s independence. The World Poverty Clock tracks poverty worldwide. And the “extremely poor” it clocked are people living on less than \$2 a day.

The biggest Independence Day takeaway from eight years of Modi-rule is that the WPC is clocking more extremely poor Indians than the exchequer is running up dollars for rupees. India had 73 million ex-

tremely poor against Nigeria’s 87 million in 2018. Four years on, the numbers favour Nigeria, 70 million against 83 million. In 2020, 80 million Nigerians were living on one dollar a day. Clearly Modi’s Nigerian counterpart was setting the example, and not the world’s ‘Vishwaguru’.

India’s slavering electronic media laughed it off, asking what’s 83 million against the projected 1.40 billion population — a drop in the Indian Ocean! The fact is, the World Poverty Clock counts only the extremely poor. What about the “very poor”, the “poor” and the “emerging poor”?

Why, even the lower middle class and the so-called middle class are not in a happy position to celebrate August 15 this year. Prices are on the rooftop, and fuel prices are rocketing. On top of that, now there’s GST even on packaging. The Modi government’s tyranny runs up very high bills for all and sundry. And this is when BJP-ruled Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is adamant Indian households should buy and hoist the national flag atop his/her house to prove he/she is patriotic.

The plan is to get 20 crore families to prove their loyalty to India in a single outpouring of patriotism. Sama forgot to mention that a standard khadi tricolour costs Rs 16 apiece. Can the WPC 83 million who live on \$2 a day afford to be patriotic?

There’s a blanket of misleading information enveloping India’s poverty status. The Modi government is not questioned enough. Instead, the media trots out every billion-dollar in the wealth of Ambani and Adani. The crumbs or the lack of crumbs on the poor man’s plate does not make it to page 1, unless it’s

Modi addressing a ‘garib’ rally in a poll-bound state.

Modi’s emerging superpower India is a chimera. Disparity in incomes and wealth is a global phenomenon, but India displays this disparity with callous disregard for the poor man’s lot. There was poverty in British India, too. Mahatma Gandhi mentioned ‘antodaya’ in his speeches, and poverty was tied to the Freedom Struggle. Later, BR Ambedkar insisted that democracy could not be possible without economic emancipation. Also, he put this in the ‘Directive Principles’.

But poverty stays rooted and economic emancipation remains elusive. Therefore, it’s hard to believe that India’s BJP rulers are over the moon, asking citizens to fly Rs 16 apiece tricolours from their households when poverty is a decrypt way of life for millions of Indians even in this diamond jubilee year of India’s independence.

Modi cannot hide India’s poverty behind expensive shawls he sports to the wasteful events he squanders India’s hard-earned money on. The constitution makers were more aware of the poverty, inequality and the exploitation Indians faced. Lip service to poverty alleviation covers up the staggering losses to the economy when public money is squandered on mega events and wasteful projects.

Modi is a habitual offender. If in 2013, it was extravagant spending on billboards and posters proclaiming ‘ache din’ and ‘akibaar Modi Sarkar’, it’s wasteful expenditure now on ‘Hargharitiranga’ and ‘Azaadika Amrit Mahotsav’. The children of the WPC-extremely poor, the very poor and the poor, would be given paper-tricolours to pin to their undernourished pigeon chests,

and that will be all.

The Modi government would for the eighth year counting get away with trivializing poverty behind slogans while expunging criticism of the government from parliament debates. Modi wants history to remember him as a clean politician, acceptable to all. The problem is, there is disquiet that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal would take away Gujarat, and how!

The question boils down to the grinding poverty that afflicts India and which has always been a vote-catcher. The BJP under Modi has used poverty to the hilt. Misery wins elections, and Modi is good at addressing misery though some would say not that good at tackling misery. Last heard, the Yogi government had ended the 35 kilo food-grain largesse for each family that had won the BJP the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The other question that is troubling is how much poverty does the BJP and Modi government practise its vote-catching strategy on? While the World Poverty Clock gives a certain idea, the Modi government has restrained itself from getting a right account. There is a dispute whether it is 11 percent or 26 percent. Those who live and breathe Modinamma insist the goal is \$5 trillion and once that is achieved poverty by itself will go away.

The reality is Modi’s poverty alleviation schemes are more one-time trophies than lasting remedies. The free LPG cylinders, for instance, is a joke played on unsuspecting housewives who have to beg, borrow and steal to pay for the refills month after month, now costing Rs.1053 per cylinder. Nope, the BJP state governments will not help. Not if the vote has been cast and the next elections are two years away. (IPA Service)

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India begins trial run for trans-shipment of goods to NE via Bangladesh port

Agency
New Delhi, August 09:

India on Tuesday began trial runs for the trans-shipment of goods to the north-eastern states using two key ports in Bangladesh, with a vessel arriving at Mongla port with two containers of transit cargo.

The trial runs were initially scheduled for July, but were pushed to August in order to enable Bangladesh authorities to complete certain arrangements, including customs procedures.

The development comes ahead of a planned visit to India by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the first week of September.

Announcing the start of trial runs for operationalising a bilateral agreement signed in October 2018 for the transit of goods from India via Chattogram and Mongla ports in Bangladesh, the Indian high commission in Dhaka said the vessel carrying two Indian transit containers had arrived at Mongla port on Monday.

The vessel MV Rishad Raihan with cargo bound for the northeastern states was subsequently flagged off by the chairman of Mongla Port Authority, Mohammed Musa, and India's assistant high commissioner in Khulna, Inderjit Sagar.



The trial runs are being undertaken by Maersk India Ltd and will be done on two routes — Mongla-Tamabil-Dawki and Mongla-Bibirbazar-Srimantapur. After being transported by riverine routes in Bangladesh, the goods will enter India through border check points at Dawki in Meghalaya and Srimantapur in West Bengal.

These two routes are among eight approved routes for transit of goods under the 2018 agreement.

India had earlier carried out a trial trans-shipment of goods from Kolkata to Tripura via Chattogram port in southeast Bangladesh in July 2020.

The onset of the Covid-19

pandemic delayed plans for further trial runs.

The Indian high commission said the transit and trans-shipment of goods under the 2018 agreement will reduce both time and cost for transporting cargo to the northeastern states. It will also create economic gains for the logistics and services industry of Bangladesh as only Bangladeshi trucks will be used for moving freight.

The trial runs will help iron out any rough spots and align the immigration and customs set-ups in both countries, people familiar with the matter said. The two sides are looking at several land routes leading to the northeastern states

of Meghalaya and Tripura for movement of goods, they said.

The land route between Kolkata and key cities in north-eastern states is more than 1,200km and the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports for trans-shipment will cut the distance to almost half. The trans-shipment arrangement will facilitate the movement of heavier cargo at a lower cost.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had reiterated her country's offer to use Chattogram port for trans-shipment of goods to India's northeastern states and to increase connectivity at a meeting with external affairs minister S Jaishankar in Dhaka on April 28.

India registers 12,751 new COVID cases, active infections decline to 1,31,807

Agency
New Delhi, August 09:

With 12,751 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,41,74,650, while the active cases have declined to 1,31,807, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The death toll has climbed to 5,26,772 with 42 fatalities which includes 10 deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.30 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.51 per cent, the ministry said.

A decrease of 3,703 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.50 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 4.69 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease surged to 4,35,16,071, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 206.88 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on

August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year. It crossed the four crore mark on January 25 this year.

The fresh fatalities include six from Delhi, five from West Bengal, four from Maharashtra, three each from Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, two each from Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan and one each from Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Inducts 18 Ministers in his cabinet

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, August 09:

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde expanded his cabinet with the induction of 18 ministers, comprising nine ministers each from the Shinde faction and BJP at a swearing ceremony held at Raj Bhavan in South Mumbai on Tuesday.

The new ministers were administered the oath of office and secrecy by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari in the presence of Shinde, Fadnavis, Leader of Opposition Aji Pawar, other legislators from various political parties, and officials.

The team-BJP: Chandrakant Patil (Kolhapur), Sudhir Mungantiwar (Chandrapur), Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil (Ahmednagar), Girish Mahajan (Jalgaon), Atul Save (Aurangabad), Vijaykumar Gavit (Nandurbar), Mangal Prabhat Lodha (Mumbai), Suresh Khade (Miraj, Sangli) and Ravindra Chavan (Dombivli, near Mumbai).

The Shinde camp: Dada Bhuse (Malegaon, Nashik), Sandipan Bhumare (Paithan, Aurangabad), Uday Samant (Ratnagiri), Tanaji Sawant (Madha, Solapur), Deepak Kesarkar (Sindhudurg), Shambhuraje Desai (Patan, Satara), Abdul Sattar (Sillod, Aurangabad), Gulabrao Patil (Jalgaon rural), and Sanjay Rathod (Digras, Yavatmal).



Abdul Sattar was given entry into the cabinet at the eleventh hour, despite allegedly being involved in the TET scam. The names of Sattar's two daughters appeared among the list of candidates debarred by the Maharashtra State Council of Examination for their involvement in the teacher eligibility test (TET) scam in December last. However, Sattar maintained

That his daughters had failed the TET in 2020. Sattar, who joined the Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena late, blamed his political opponents for dragging his family into the cash-for-marks scandal. He had termed it a calculated move ahead of the Cabinet expansion to diminish his prospects.

Similarly, Sanjay Rathod had to resign from the MVA Government over an allegation of his alleged clandestine relationship with a young woman Pooja Chavan who eventually committed suicide in Pune last year. Reacting to his induction, BJP leader Chitra Wagh in a tweet

said that it was unfortunate that such a man with a shady character was given the ministership and her fight to seek justice for the unfortunate victim would continue.

The names of the new ministers were finalized by Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in an overnight meeting that went on till the wee hours on Tuesday. However, no woman minister finds a place in the new cabinet.

NCP MP Supriya Sule said that this was an insult to "Nari Shakti" (women's power), whereas former Minister Yashomati Thakur (Congress) accused the Shinde Government of a reflection of the male-dominated society.

The Shinde-Fadnavis expanded the cabinet after 39 days after they took over on June 30 as the CM and DCM respectively after the collapse of the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi government headed by former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Monkeypox cases driven 'underground' by anti-gay stigma in India

Agency
New Delhi, August 09:

About two months before India officially reported its first cases of monkeypox, Mumbai doctor Ishwar Gilada urged two of his patients to get tested. Both — a gay man and a male who identifies as bisexual — refused, even though their sexual partners caught the disease.

Gilada, who opened India's first AIDS clinic in 1986, understood the challenges that lie ahead. In parts of the world where LGBTQ people face stigma and bias, patients are reluctant to seek testing or treatment for a disease that has recently afflicted gay and bisexual men. They didn't want to be the first monkeypox cases in India, Gilada recalled. "They are going underground."

Since May, the disease has afflicted more than 28,000 people, and while it can spread

through all kinds of close contact, among the cases in the US for which detailed epidemiological information is available, 94% reported male-to-male sexual or close intimate contact during the three weeks before symptoms appeared, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on Friday.

India's official tally stands at nine cases, according to global health.

Social stigma

In countries where homophobia and life-threatening discrimination is rife, many people may not seek help, World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned, "making the outbreak much harder to track, and to stop."

In India, stigma remains a pervasive social barrier. The country decriminalized homosexuality in 2018. The same year, a survey of 290 students attending Calcutta National

Medical College in Kolkata found that, although overall attitudes toward homosexuality were positive, 16% believed that homosexuality was an illness and 27% saw it as an "acquired behavior."

Virus backfire?

To hunt for additional monkeypox cases, health authorities have deployed the world-net contact tracing methods used to track people exposed to Covid-19. Twenty individuals, including family, friends, household domestic staff and people the deceased patient had played soccer with, were identified as being "high-risk primary contacts." Another 165 who traveled on the same airplane were told to watch for symptoms.

In the context of monkeypox, where infections are currently occurring mostly via sexual networks, identifying contacts is a sensitive issue, especially if it forces people to disclose their sexual

orientation, Gilada said. "They're contact tracing every 'Tom, Dick and Harry' they have come in touch with," he said. "You are identifying people indirectly."

'Trusted relationship'

In India and other countries where men who have sex with men, or "MSM," face discrimination, sensitive and non-judgmental public health campaigns are needed to help persuade people to come forward for testing, said Sanjay Pujari, director and chief consultant at the Institute of Infectious Diseases in the west Indian city of Pune.

Cases will be reluctant to provide information about their contacts unless a "trusted relationship" has been established, he said. "Community involvement, including MSM organizations, need to be included in the planning and implementation of the entire public-health response to monkeypox."

Fatigue, headache among top lingering symptoms months after COVID-19: Study

Agency
London, August 09:

Fatigue and headache were the most common symptoms reported by people an average of over four months after recovering from COVID-19, according to a study.

The research, recently published in the journal Brain, Behavior, & Immunity — Health, found that muscle aches, cough, changes in smell and taste, fever, chills and nasal congestion were next in the long line of linger-

ing symptoms.

The findings support the growing evidence that there are chronic neuropsychiatric symptoms following COVID-19 infections, the researchers said.

"There are a lot of symptoms that we did not know early on in the pandemic what to make of them, but now it is clear there is a long COVID syndrome and that a lot of people are affected," said Elizabeth Rutkowski, a neurologist at Augusta University in Georgia and the

study's corresponding author.

The preliminary findings involved 200 patients, who were recruited on average about 125 days after testing positive for COVID-19.

Eighty per cent of the participants reported neuropsychiatric symptoms with fatigue, the most common symptom, reported by 68.5 per cent, and headache close behind at 66.5 per cent.

Just over half reported changes in smell (54.5 per cent) and taste (54 per cent)

and nearly half the participants (47 per cent) met the criteria for mild cognitive impairment, the researchers said.

As many as 30 per cent people demonstrated impaired vocabulary and 32 per cent had impaired working memory, they said.

Around 21 per cent participants in the study reported confusion, while hypertension was the most common medical condition in addition to bout with COVID-19, according to the researchers.

No participants reported having a stroke, weakness or inability to control muscles involved with speaking, and coordination problems were some of the less frequently reported symptoms, they said.

Twenty-five per cent met the criteria for depression, and diabetes, obesity, sleep apnea and a history of depression were associated with those who met the criteria.

Anemia and a history of depression were associated with the 18 per cent who met

the objective criteria for anxiety.

While the findings to date are not surprising and are consistent with what other researchers are finding, Rutkowski said the fact that symptoms often did not match what objective testing indicated, was surprising.

For example, the majority of participants reported taste and smell changes, but objective testing of both these senses did not always line up with what they reported.

A higher percentage of those who did not report the changes actually had evidence of impaired function based on objective measures, the researchers said.

While the reasons are not certain, part of the discrepancy may be a change in the quality of the participant's taste and smell rather than pure impaired ability, the researchers said.

Either way, the data suggests a persistent loss of taste and smell following COVID-19, they added.

Raksha Bandhan

IT News
Imphal, August 09:

Manipur governor La. Ganesan greets the people on occasion of "Raksha Bandhan" which falls on August 11.

In his message the Governor said that Raksha Bandhan is observed on the last day of the Hindu lunar calendar month of Shraavana. The expression Raksha Bandhan, literally, "the bond of protection, obligation, or care," is now principally applied to this ritual. Large numbers of married Hindu women travel back to their parents' homes every year for the ceremony. The brothers serve as lifelong intermediaries between their married sisters and parental homes, as well as potential stewards of their security.

Among women and men who are not blood relatives, there is also a transformed tradition of voluntary kin relations, achieved through the tying of rakhi amulets, which have cut across caste and class lines.

The Governor wishes all on the auspicious occasion and express confidence that this festival will help to strengthen the bond of love among brothers and sisters in the country.

Mass Sale/Distribution of National Flags

IT News
Imphal, August 09:

As per the instruction given by Koshoni Phimu, Deputy Secretary, General Administration Department (Welfare Section) Government of Manipur that Mass Sale/ Distribution of National Flags to Government Employees as part of Har Ghar Tiranga under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' will be held on August 10, 2022 at 1st Bn. Manipur Rifles Parade Ground Imphal at 3:30 pm. So, all Heads of Department shall attend the function without fail along with atleast 30 Officers/ Employees each of the respective Departments and DGP to participate along with atleast 100

AMUCO team departed Imphal for the Bir Tikendrajit Statue's inauguration



IT News
Imphal, August 09:

A team led by AMUCO President Pheiroijam Nando Luwang left Imphal today for Hojai to dedicate a new Bir Tikendrajit statue. The statue will be dedicated on August 13th, during a Patriots Day observances organised by the Village Development Committee and the Shivapur

Nabajyoti Club of Hojai, Assam.

The AMUCO team will visit and speak with Meetei and Meetei Pangal, who have settled in various parts of Hojai and Lanka, in

order to strengthen the bond of brotherhood. Since its inception, AMUCO has worked to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood among Manipur's various communities.

No need to panic, says Delhi CM Kejriwal on rising Covid-19 cases

Agency
New Delhi, August 09:

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that the Covid-19 cases are rising in the city but there is no need to panic as most new cases were mild in nature.

"Covid cases are rising in the city. We are keeping a watch on it and whatever steps needed will be taken. But most cases are mild and there is no need for panic," Kejriwal said during a programme ahead of Independence Day.

To commemorate the completion of 75 years of Independence, 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is being celebrated all over the country. Chief Minister Kejriwal on Tuesday unfurled the 115-ft high 500th Tri-color flag.

On AAP's application against PIL in Supreme Court on freebies, Kejriwal said on the sidelines of the event that our only point is that giving free education, free treatment is not a freebie. "This is the job of any responsible government. Waiving off Rs 10,000 crore debts and to waive off the taxes are freebies," he stated.

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister also announced that his party had received state party status in Goa from the Election Commission on the basis of performance review in the February assembly polls. Citing an official communication from the poll panel on social media, party convener Kejriwal said, "After Delhi and Punjab, AAP is now a state recognised party in Goa too."

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Nitish Kumar resigns as Bihar CM....

The RJD, which was in an alliance with JD(U) earlier, said that it was ready to embrace Nitish Kumar and his party if he snapped ties with the BJP. Nitish had in 2017 pulled out of an alliance with RJD over corruption charges levelled against then deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav.

Meanwhile, the RJD has dissolved its media panel and advised all senior functionaries to refrain from making any statement. Sources say that if the RJD and JD(U) sort out

who should get the complex issues of who becomes the chief minister and who controls the home department, then the JD(U) will induct RJD ministers without the need to sworn-in fresh chief minister.

The Congress, principal rival of the BJP nationally but a spent force in Bihar, also went into a huddle. "All party MLAs have unanimously resolved to support the new formation that comes into being if Nitish Kumar breaks away from the BJP," AICC secretary and MLA

Shakil Ahmed Khan said.

AICC in-charge Bhakt Charan Das, who is on a scheduled visit, expressed similar sentiments prior to the legislature party meeting but said "no idea" when asked about reports that the Bihar CM has spoken over phone to Sonia Gandhi and sought an appointment on August 11. Allies since the 1990s, JD(U) and BJP have in the recent past squabbled on issues ranging from Agnipath, caste census, population law and ban on loudspeakers.

Silchar-Imphal flight connectivity to....

Alliance Air is a keen participant of UDAN, or Regional Connectivity Scheme, which is a flagship scheme by the government of India. The scheme plans to connect the underserved airports in the country to the key airports through flights costing around Rs. 2,500 per hour. The first UDAN flight was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Shimla-Delhi sector on April 27, 2017,

with Alliance Air being the launch carrier.

The success of the RCS initiative is also leading the airline to expand its network in the northeast and southern sectors and will help improve its destination reach. The air carrier has operationalized 75 RCS out of the total 109 awarded routes under the government's UDAN scheme. They recently expanded their aerial connectivity in northern

India introducing their Dehradun-Lucknow-Dehradun route effective from August 10, this year.

Alliance Air was founded in April 1996 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines. In February 2011, Indian Airlines was merged with Air India. Earlier this year, Air India had announced that Alliance Air will not be handled by them from April 15 this year.

District Agriculture Fair....



In today's programme, various outstanding farmers were also felicitated for their outstanding achievement. They were H. Sania from Tadubi block, Dilip Kumar Bhupral from Saitu block, Ph.

Keturah from Paomata block, Kala from Willong block and Sana Lucy from Kangpokpi block. Altogether 14 exhibition stalls were also opened showing casing the farmer product.

In the technical session,

there was an active interaction between the farmers and farmers scientist.

The programme was attended by many farmers and beneficiaries related to agriculture.

Sports

Birmingham Commonwealth Games ends, countdown starts for 2026 victoria

Agency
Birmingham, August 09:

Achanta Sharath Kamal and Nikhat Zareen were Team India's flagbearers for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony on Monday.

A shortlist of flag bearers was drawn up by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Secretary General Rajeev Mehta, Acting President Anil Khanna, and Team India's Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Chef de Mission Rajesh Bhandari, with gold medalists from the wrestling and weightlifting teams also considered. The final decision was made by Mehta and Khanna. The fact that the wrestling and weightlifting teams have already left for India was also factored into the final stage of decision-making.

IOA Acting President Anil Khanna: "It is with great pleasure we announce Achanta Sharath Kamal and Nikhat Zareen as our flagbearers.



Sharath has served table tennis brilliantly all these years and his medals, including a mixed doubles gold, at Birmingham 2022 speak of the class and quality he brings to the highest stage along with his longevity. "Ms Zareen, the reigning

world champion and Team India's gold medalist in the light flyweight boxing category at these Games is one of our best talents who continues to go from strength to strength, inspiring many, including young girls in India."

On the last day, Indian shuttlers owned the badminton arena by winning all three titles on offer on the day while paddler Sharath Kamal yet again reminded everyone of his class and awe-inspiring longevity with a coruscating show, as the

country wrapped up its CWG campaign with 61 medals to finish a creditable fourth. It was expected that Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and the formidable pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy would end up on top of the podium but what provided the icing on the cake was the 40-year-old Sharat Kamal's gold medal-winning show against an equally good opponent in Liam Pitchford.

That performance took India's gold medal count to 22, which is four less than the 2018 edition, but this time the sport of shooting was missing from the roster. The shooters had contributed seven golds in Gold Coast's 66-medal haul, and considering that, India certainly put up a good show. However, with the 0-7 hammering of the men's hockey team by Australia, when at least a spirited fight was anticipated, the Games ended on a somewhat disappointing note.

Rahim Ali extends stay at Chennaiyin FC until 2024

Chennai, August 09:

Chennaiyin FC are delighted to announce that Rahim Ali has extended his contract in a new deal that will keep him at the club till 2024.

Rahim Ali is one of the handful of members of the Chennaiyin squad that reached the Hero ISL final in the 2019-20 season. He has made 40 appearances for the club spanning over three years scoring four times and assisting twice.

On committing to the club for two more years, Rahim Ali said, "I'm very happy to sign a new contract with Chennaiyin FC. There was never a doubt in my mind. I'm not going anywhere."

The forward was also a part of the famous squad that took part in the U-17 World Cup that took place in India in 2017. He made three appearances including one start against Colombia U-17.

Rahim has also made 31 appearances for I-League outfit Indian Arrows FC, which is largely considered as a home for India's biggest young talents.

The 22-year-old is also a current member of the Indian National team, having made six appearances since his debut in September 2021.

"Over the years Rahim moulded himself into one of the most exciting young talents in the country. Valuable experience with the Indian national team and youth on his side, his extension is a huge positive for our team," co-owner Vita Dani said after the extension of the 22-year-old's contract.

Rahim was also part of the squad that won the SAFF Championship in 2021, coming off the bench in three games including the final against Nepal where he assisted India's third and final goal.