

Security Forces apprehend one KYKL

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

Combined troops of Keithelmanbi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South), Manipur Police has claimed arrest of one member of proscribed group KYKL in Imphal East district, Manipur today.

A statement said that the apprehended insurgent was actively involved in unlawful activities on behalf of the proscribed group in the valley, but did not disclose his name.

The apprehended insurgent was handed over to Parompat Police Station for further investigation, the statement added.

AR felicitates UPSC rank holder

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) interacted with Mr W Punshiba Singh, who successfully cleared UPSC Exam-2021 and got AIR 238, at Nambol, Bishnupur district in Manipur today. Mr Punshiba has been selected for Indian Administrative Service and will be joining Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration at Mussoorie, Uttarakhand in the first week of August. Punshiba completed his studies from New Delhi.

The interaction was followed by felicitation of Mr Punshiba and his parents by Commandant, Keithelmanbi Battalion. Father of Punshiba is also serving in CAPE. This honour will encourage other aspirants to excel in the future.

SMSU appeals

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

Shillong Manipuri Students' Union (SMSU) has appealed newly admitted students in University, colleges or schools in Shillong, Meghalaya to enroll their names to the Union as members.

The Students' Union (SMSU) is here to represent, to advocate and to support students, particularly in Shillong. One of our key functions is to uplift the well-being of Manipuri Community and Students in Shillong, a statement by SMSU said.

SMSU further stated that the Students' Executive Body member team who are students from various colleges, institutions in Shillong and they are elected or nominated every year via election. It is mandatory to enroll in the Union for any assistant or help in the future from the Union. Registering the students would help in identifying the student in time of emergency or any incident. The Registration form can be collected from the Union office (Manipur House, Shillong campus) or can be downloaded from the link https://pdftio.io/vbm4.0sxYX_smsu_new_std_reg_2022.

As Nagaland Govt. orders to close Kohima-Dimapur road; Railway prepares to ferry goods till Khongshang in Manipur

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

As Nagaland government is closing Kohima-Dimapur stretch of national Highway from tomorrow, the North East Frontier Railway is making all effort to ferry goods of all kinds till Khongshang Railway station here in Manipur.

A notification by the Chief Secretary to the government of Nagaland, J. Alam, IAS, in a notification dated July 11, 2022, had issued order for prohibition of



movement of any transport vehicles beyond three axle including semi-tractor

articulated trailers which is also three axle vehicle but whose carrying

capacity is 30.5 tonnes along the NH stretch from Dimapur to Kohima for a

period from July 15, 2022 to August 11, 2022.

The closure of the road stretch for nearly a month will give serious impact to the state of Manipur, as the condition of the Imphal-Jiribam National Highway is in a deplorable condition.

Thanks to the NFR, this time the closure of both the high ways for some reason or others is not going to give much impact as source close to the Imphal Times said that the NFR is commissioning goods train via Silchar till Khongshang Railway

Station.

In this rail track, the NFR had already conducted trial run of the goods trains in May 2022.

Officials of the NFR, when contacted by Imphal Times said that the NFR is ready for transportation of goods if booked. But the railway may not be able to send the goods train unless adequate quantity of goods are booked for transportation.

At the filing of this report, it cannot be confirmed on how much booking has been done to the goods train.

Marangching tragedy:

What causes of the Massive Landslide? - Experts submits official reports

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

A team of five experts had submitted a survey report on what cause the massive landslide in Noney district that killed over 50 people injuring several others. The death toll has reached 54 as reported yesterday evening. Massive search operation is underway to find more bodies.

Meanwhile, a five team had conducted a preliminary survey about the cause of the landslide and submitted their findings to the Union Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. RK Ranjan on July 9, 2022. The report is produced below:

"Geologically, non-resistant lithologies (shale interbedded with mudstone, siltstone and sandstone) of Barail Group exposed in the study area after the modification of the slope geometry that impedes the mountain's ability to resist the existing gravitational force may become one of the causes of mass wasting/landsliding.

"The process might have been initiated long back, and the entire mass wasting slump was settled along the slope of the hill. It seems that the recent precipitation during May-June 2022 became the threshold for ongoing massive landslide hazards in the study area. And due to the Ijai fault which is 11 km long NE-SW trending fault which gets abruptly terminated against the Tupul

pal T-axis (Kumar et al 2011). It is also seems to be one of the triggering factors for the hazard as few minor cracks are observed in the cut slopes of the railway yard. Fourthly, changing in the land use patterns on the top of hill like deforestation, Jhum cultivation, banana cultivation, which also accelerated the soil erosion process and might also be the secondary factors for the recent landslides.

"We observed that the lithological trend of the Marangching is along NW-SE which is one of the factors for ongoing deformation processes and initiating slope instability as a continuous phenomenon. We have observed during the site visit and compared with existing terrain maps as well as DEM data that the slope (42°) of the Makhum hill along with the first order stream drainage lines. The seasonal first order streams along the slope of the hill are the main source of water percolating on these slopes, which become more prone to mass wasting because gravity has an easier time pulling materials down a steep slope as compared to a gentle slope. Heavy incessant rainfall and too much water also weakened its ability to resist gravity. However, a little bit of water actually made it easier for soil particles to bond together and keep the mountain intact.

"Thirdly, Manipur state is included in the High Seismic Hazard (Zone V, Seismic Zonation Map of India) and hence, the micro seismicity is active besides a large earthquake of 2016 (M6.7) which is near to the recent landslide area. Based on the fault plane solutions (Global CMT Project) of earthquake data, the principal P-axis is towards north, indicating the compression direction, resulting in the extension along east-west. The resulting creeping of micro deformation towards the western slopes of the terrain including the recent landslide area is aligned with the principal

pal T-axis (Kumar et al 2011). It is also seems to be one of the triggering factors for the hazard as few minor cracks are observed in the cut slopes of the railway yard. Fourthly, changing in the land use patterns on the top of hill like deforestation, Jhum cultivation, banana cultivation, which also accelerated the soil erosion process and might also be the secondary factors for the recent landslides.

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CM hands over funds for District Level Khelo India Centre



IT News
Imphal, July 14:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today handed over cheques amounting to Rs. 5 Lakh each to District Youth Affairs and Sports Officers of 16 districts of the State to start the functioning of the District Level Khelo India Centre. The fund distribution programme was held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren stated that the Ministry of Sports, Government of India had taken up initiative to establish 1000 Khelo India Centres across the Country under the Khelo India Programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He continued that Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Badminton, Cycling, Fencing, Hockey, Judo, Rowing, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Weightlifting, Wrestling, Football and Traditional sports had been included as identified sports disciplines under the Khelo India Centre. As such, Sports Authority of India, Ministry of Youth Af-

fairs and Sports, Government of India had approved the opening of District Level Khelo India Centre for different sports disciplines at 16 Districts of Manipur.

The Chief Minister informed that a total amount of Rs. 1,12,00,000 (Rupees one crore twelve lakh) had been sanctioned on 31st May, 2021 for 16 districts of Manipur for preparation/upgrade of sports field, purchase of equipment, sports kit and remuneration for engagement of Mentor and supporting staff. He added that Khelo India State Centre of Excellence in 3 sports disciplines including Archery, Hockey and Weightlifting at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal would also start very soon as per the guidance of the Sports Ministry.

N. Biren was hopeful that attracting youths towards the field of games and sports would help them to stay away from drugs related activities and consumption. As such, he sought support of all the players and other stakehold-

ers, who had been taking an important role in promoting sports, in the Government initiatives to develop the infrastructure of the sports sector under the Khelo India Programme.

He further mentioned that Government Schools of the State had recorded a high pass percentage of 60.40 percent in the recently declared High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) Examination 2022 result. The pass percentage of Government Schools in HSLC Examinations conducted by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur hadn't crossed 55 percent in the last ten years. Appreciating all the students, teaching and non-teaching staff of Government Schools for their dedicated efforts towards achieving such record pass percentage, he informed that headmasters and teachers of Government Schools which had secured high pass percentage in the recent HSLC Examinations will be rewarded on 13th August this year.

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Persons with disabilities complaints of unnecessary harassment by authority

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

State Platform of Disabled People's Organisation (SPDO) - a body of persons with disabilities today expressed their grievances as they can no longer tolerate the kind of harassment faced by them.

President of SPDO, Yunus Khan, in a statement said that persons with disability of either mental retardation or locomotor Disabilities are often harassed by calling them time and again by the official concern of the Social Welfare department in the name of verification, when those authority could

have done in one time and issued the Unit Disability ID (UDID).

"It is important for a disabled person to get disability certificate", Yunus said, and for that assessment camp were conducted at all districts by the DSWO and CMO with support and assistance from those working

for the welfare of the persons with disability of all kinds. Yunus added that those persons with disability faced difficulties in attending the assessment camp as most are from poor family who cannot afford the fare to travel to the assessment camp site or some need to be volunteered by either family members or

volunteers.

After conducting the assessment camp and after verification of the disability status, what is not happy with the persons with disability is that they have not been provided the UDID in times. For reasons best known those officers of the Social Welfare keep telling them to come

again which indeed is a hard thing for the disabled people.

While appealing the government authority to treat the disabled people with love and care, by not harassing them, the SPDO appealed other organizations not to conduct donation drive in the name of disabled people.

Dads and Sons



By: Schindler Potsangbam

Thinking about the topic made me drifts, wondering "what is the real power of children in our society?" After a deep thought, I came to the conclusion that it would be 'future' - just a one word yet very deep - the peaceful and successful future all of us have been dreaming about. Little do we know about these young and energetic minds who are the ones going to save the environment and humanity. The tender and young minds are always curious and if guided on the right path, then they ought to shine. They should be taught about the workings of the society and other similar activities apart from their academics. They

are the young sun that will gleam bright and they are away from the harsh realities and if only the truth is preached and legitimacy maintained, no doubt they will make you proud. Albert Camus once said and so the youth should say to themselves. "In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger - something better, pushing right back." But the question arises "How? How can we implement these things?"

The first thing, as a teenager myself, that I would suggest is to encourage and trust them. Make them feel like you are there to listen to their young yet conscious minds. Let them know that you know how hard they are trying and let them open up their vulnerable side and be supportive of the same. Supportive in every good thing they do, don't just praise them only for the moment, make them feel their importance and establish their trust over you and make them more involved in what you do and also in the social activities. Often parents are tempted to criticise their children. You would expect me to say "don't." But I will not, I am merely going to say, and in the words of Dale Carnegie "Before you criticise them, read one of the classics of American journalism. "Father Forgets." Basically, in that note, the father realises that all this time he was expecting too much of youth, and in his words, he was measuring his son by the yardstick of his own years, and while he was finding faults, he didn't realise there was so much that was good and fine and true in his son's character. Think for a while and concentrate on the fact that they belong to a different era and a different generation and they are meant to be cared for and taught in a very different way from the way you were all taught. It's a known fact. Well, to be honest, have you ever asked your children "How is your mental health and how are they dealing with life?"

And if they open up their problems to you then it's fine, work on it together, but if they don't then it means they are scared of the feeling that you'll judge them. It may be because of past experience or just they are not that friendly to you, but it's definitely a thing you both need to work on. So, the friendly thing works like a dialogue from the sitcom called Modern Family (2009) which goes as "If my son thinks of me as one of his idiot friends, I've succeeded as a dad." It goes with both moms and dads and I know it's silly but it's true and parents need to work on this to deal with the kids of the present generation. Last but not the least, this whole writing thing reminds me of truer words that have never been said, "Let them begin where all of us know that they are trying."

(The writer is a student of Delhi Public School, RK Puram, now studying in class XII) New Delhi

By: Virtual World



Vijay GarG

The age of internet and social media

The Internet and social media have brought about far-reaching changes in the world. With its use, while there have been major changes in the way of doing business and business, there has also been a surprising increase in the expression of ideas. According to many experts in this field, Internet and social media have brought democracy in the field of expression of ideas due to which every person has got the freedom to express his ideas. According to some other experts

in the field of expression of ideas there has been an increase in anarchy, not democracy. There are millions of users of social media platforms in India. WhatsApp is the most used and is used by around 54 crore Indians. Instagram is used by about 50 crores and Facebook by 49 crores.

Similarly, Facebook Messenger is also used on a large scale by around 32 crore people. About 600 million people use mobile phones to access the Internet and social media. Users of these platforms spend more than two hours on social media and internet every day live in While the sources of knowledge and information have increased through the Internet and social media, various platforms are being used to spread hatred and increase intolerance. Fake news is also found on social media. Extremists belonging to different religions use social media platforms to spread news that increases religious bitterness. Such actions also lead to violence. Usually knowledge and insightful information gets buried under emotional content. In the past, Nupur Sharma and in cases involving Mohammad Zubair, the "army" of social media has been targeting secular and social activists fighting for the rights of the people.

Although social media platforms have developed a variety of software to block hate news and comments and many posts have been removed from the platforms, the world of language is so vast that it is not possible to detect all hate speech. One of the aspects of social media is that the information it contains breaks down the prejudices in the minds of many people and the prejudices in the minds of E people are strong. It is also clear from the research conducted in America that while the Internet gives free expression to civil society, women, immigrants, etc., white bigots who preach hate and oppose women's freedom are also on the Internet. They succeed in forming their own large groups. Such trends give rise to racist, sectarian and anti-feminist sentiments. People from minority communities are mostly targeted.

Actually we have entered an age where sanctions are not possible. Sanctions are also anti-democratic. That is why racists, communalists and haters can only be confronted with the use of the Internet. The world of internet is sometimes called 'virtual world' but now it has become a real world. It is involved in every aspect of life today; it seems impossible to escape.

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Archbishop Joseph Mittathany: His Vision and Mission for Manipur



By: Fr Paul Lelen Haokip

A leader passed away on the 11th of July 2022. An architect has left us; a foresighted soul who inspired thousands has left us a legacy. You came from Kerala to enlighten, inspire and uplift the people of the Northeast - especially Dioceses of Tezpur and Imphal. As you had a big voice to communicate, you also had a big heart to embrace all types of persons under your loving care. You were a strict administrator with fatherly care. You meant business is business. You never compromised with values and principles. You established numerous educational institutions to enlighten people to know the way, the truth

and life on earth. Today, the state of Manipur has gone up in its academic graph with your toil and service. The CMC Hospital and DSSS you have established for the health care and social services stand to continue your dreams of reaching out to the poor and needy.

Vision and Mission for Manipur

You had a vision for Manipur, the corridor of Southeast Asia. To accomplish your vision, you took upon the mission to train many young boys to embrace the priesthood to continue the work of education, health care and social service for the good of all. To enlarge their worldview, you sent them to various states of India for formation in Philosophy and Theology. Many priests and religious who have been annihilated for the interest of Manipur before you will rejoice in heaven as they see their shepherd join them. Manipur remains a thriving ground for vocations to priestly and religious life with the blessings of God almighty and the blood of martyrs. You especially loved and cared for smaller communities and recruited them for various services in the Catholic Church. You encouraged your priests to educate people from the

remotest villages of Manipur. The last, the lost and the least, were also crucial to your holistic development perspective.

You got along very smoothly with the Civil Societies, Government officials and your presbyterium to enhance your mission. To continue the task you began, you collaborated with various religious congregations with the sole aim to uplift and enlighten people so that they know what is good and evil. Today, we are what we are because of your vision and mission. We stand eternally indebted to your pastoral proficiency and farsighted dreams.

The majestic St. Joseph's Cathedral in Luwangsangbam, Manipur, is one of the tourist spots in Manipur. The various educational institutions in the valley and hills of Manipur pay you respect as you depart from us. Thousands of students who passed out from these institutes serve as employees in various offices in the state and other states of India. Their values and quality education gradually raised the education and public administration standard. Love and broader thinking are spreading around us. We hope and pray for peace and growth in

Manipur.

You are no more but alive

Archbishop Joseph Mittathany, you will remain an inspiration of hard work and foresight to all of us. We shall try our best to continue the enormous legacy you have left with us. You left your home and became us. You became our forerunner in the educational growth and civic responsibilities. You were a true Indian who came from God's own country to the Jewel of India. True to your patron name, you were a father to us. You embraced hardships, challenges and odds of life just as St. Joseph did. With more educated persons, broad-minded human beings and far-sighted souls, Manipur is moving towards its actual name - "Sanaleipak". You have done your part, and now, it is our turn to contribute to the overall growth of Manipur. Rise, children of Manipur, and let us move towards peace and holistic growth. A visionary leader has left us; now, we need to find more visionary leaders amongst us.

(The author is a PhD research scholar, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Christ University, Bangalore, Karnataka, India. Email: paulhowkeep20@gmail.com)

Digitalising payments for an inclusive Digital India



By: Ms. Simmi Chaudhary

India's digital payments ecosystem has witnessed rapid growth over the last eight years, growing in annual volume from only 316 crore in the financial year (FY) 2014-15 to 8,840 crore in FY2021-22. This growth has been powered by a confluence of technological developments and progressive government policies and regulations.

In particular, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system has helped India change from a country largely dependent on cash for day-to-day transactions to a significantly less cash economy. UPI has allowed users to transfer money on a real-time basis and across multiple bank accounts without revealing the details of one's bank account to other parties. UPI transactions have grown rapidly since the launch of UPI in April 2016, achieving a major global milestone of annual transaction value exceeding USD 1 trillion in the financial year 2021-22 (with 45.6 billion transactions) and the domestic milestone of monthly transaction value exceeding ₹ 10 trillion in May 2022 (with 5.95 billion transactions). This spectacular growth in UPI transactions, at a CAGR of 381% over the last five years, has been the prime mover in the rapid adoption of digital payments in India.

Policy push

Government policy and regulatory initiatives are the linchpins for the success of any digital payments ecosystem. The Government and the Reserve Bank of India have together played a catalytic role in India taking big strides towards a less cash society. India's digital revolution kickstarted with its twin initiatives: Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana as the financial inclusion initiative

launched in 2014 and the Digital India programme as the digital empowerment launched in 2015. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana gave a globally unprecedented impetus to financial inclusion by adding 457 million new accountholders to the banking system. Coupled with the JAM trinity of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile wherein citizens were encouraged to link their unique biometric Aadhaar identity and their mobile numbers with their bank accounts, empowering citizens across the country to digitally access their accounts and participate in the digital economy. At the same time, a massive Direct Benefits Transfer programme has been pursued, which today covers 313 Central sector and Centrally sponsored schemes and has resulted in transfer of Rs. 6.3 trillion digitally into bank accounts during FY2021-22.

Government has continued to actively promote digital payments over the years through a series of interventions ranging from tax exemptions, caps on digital payment pricing and incentives for retail transactions. Last year alone, the Government allotted Rs. 1,500 crore for incentivising and promoting digital payments. The National Electronic Toll Collection system has taken contactless, hassle free electronic toll collection through FASTag ubiquitous, backed by the Government mandate that all passenger-carrying

four-wheelers must use FASTag.

RBI has also continuously calibrated its regulatory framework to adapt to the growing needs and maturity of the payments ecosystem, pursuing a prudent, evidence-based and forward-looking approach. As systems have stabilised, permissible payment limits have been enhanced, charging structures rationalised, interoperability furthered and payment system participant accountability strengthened for both consumer protection and service levels. Last year, RBI has also operationalised the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund to subsidise deployment of physical and digital point of sale infrastructure in smaller population centres, the North East and beneficiaries of Prime Minister's Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.

Emergence of the tech-savvy Indian consumer

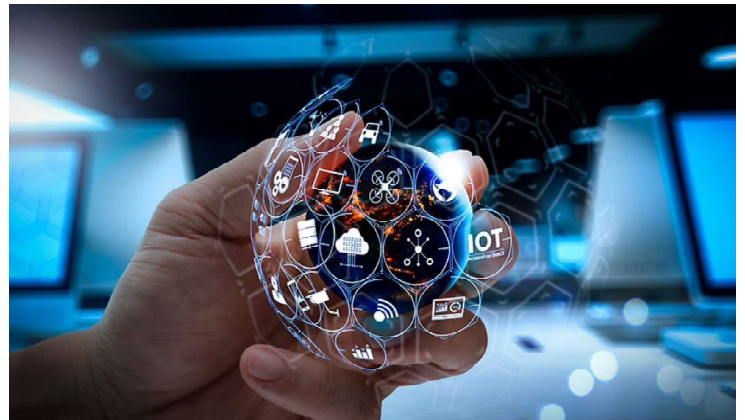
Hassle free, low-cost digital payment solutions and growing familiarity and confidence in their use has made the average Indian consumer tech-savvy and digitally aware. The number of transactions done on UPI per UPI user has grown from 3.5 transactions with monthly transaction value of Rs. 13,243 in March 2017 to 28 transactions with monthly transaction value of Rs. 49,744 in March 2022. As per research by the National Payments Corporation of India

and People Research on India's Consumer Economy (2020), one-third of Indian households are using digital payments in one way or another. It is heartening to note that almost a quarter of the households in the bottom 40% income group are using it as well. This reflects a well-developed consumer environment.

Future pathways

With population scale digitalisation of payment systems and growing digital transaction histories, ground has been laid for leveraging these histories for easy cash flow-based access to credit for small businesses. RBI has recently announced the move to link UPI with RuPay credit card. With 5G set to roll-out access to Internet and deployment of Internet of Things will receive a major boost and this too will enable new reach and new means of digital payments and their acceptance. Online Dispute Resolution systems will infuse new confidence in consumers and improve the response time and accountability for customer grievances. All of these are well-placed to sustain India's high digital payments growth trajectory, knitting Indians into a more efficient economy with a higher velocity of money for sustained growth.

(The author is Economic Adviser and Group Coordinator at Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The views expressed are personal)



Daily COVID-19 count surpasses 20,000-mark after a gap of 145 days, 38 deaths in 24 hours

Agency
New Delhi, July 14:

Daily COVID-19 cases in India were recorded over 20,000 after a gap of 145 days while the active cases increased to 1,36,076, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

A total of 20,139 new COVID-19 cases were reported in a span of 24 hours, pushing the total tally of cases to 4,36,89,989.

The death toll climbed to 5,25,557 with 38 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.31 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.49 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of 3,619 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate



was recorded at 5.10 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 4.37 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,30,28,356, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.20 per cent.

According to the ministry, 199.27 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 38 new fatalities include 16 from Kerala, 10 from Maharashtra, four from West Bengal, three from Delhi and one each from Assam, Bihar, Goa, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

A total of 5,25,557 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,48,001 from Maharashtra, 70,186 from Kerala, 40,125 from Karnataka, 38,028 from Tamil Nadu, 26,288 from Delhi, 23,549 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,255 from West Bengal.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

NDPS Court allows return of Passport and cancellation of Bail Bond of Aryan Khan

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 14:

Special NDPS Judge VV Patil allowed cancellation of bail bond and the return of passport of Bollywood actor SRK's son Aryan Khan, named in Cordelia cruise drug raid case, on Wednesday.

Aryan had deposited his passport with the Special Court under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in compliance with the condition imposed by the Bombay High Court when it granted bail to him in the cruise ship drug case on October 28, 2021.

Besides a personal bond of Rs one lakh was collected from him when he was finally released on bail on October 30, 2021, after 22 days behind the bars in Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail.

Aryan had applied on June 30 after NCB did not file draft charges against him in the cruise drug case on May 27 amounting a clean chit to him.

While allowing the return of Aryan's passport, the judge took note of the fact that Aryan was given a clean chit by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in the charge sheet.



Aryan Khan can now travel outside India with the NDPS Court allowing the return of his Passport.

But the court did not grant the relief of 'discharge' as sought by Aryan in his application, following an objection by the NCB to do so.

Senior Advocate Amit Desai appearing for Aryan Khan pressed for an order to the effect saying Aryan has been formally 'discharged' from the case. The NCB's reply is clear and it puts an end to everything. There is no complaint against the accused, no material evidence and there is no pending investigation, Desai contended.

However, Special Public Prosecutor Advait Sethna appearing for NCB vehemently opposed the word 'discharged' being used in the or-

der. While the agency has no objection to the cancellation of the bail bond or return of the passport, the agency has an issue with using the word 'discharge' in the order, Sethna argued.

Eventually, Aryan's lawyer did not press for the prayer seeking formal discharge and the court proceeded to allow the application for return of passport and cancellation of bail bond.

Aryan was arrested for alleged contravention of Sections 8(c), 20(b), 27, 28, 29, and 35 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act by the NCB on October 2, 2021, after the agency raided a cruise ship en-

route to Goa from Mumbai. He was arrested from the terminal to the cruise. The NCB had seized 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of mephedrone MD, 21 grams Charas (hashish), and 22 pills of MDMA ecstasy during the raid.

When Aryan approached the metropolitan magistrate's court for bail, the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate RM Nerlikar rejected his bail application, on the ground that it was not maintainable since only the special court of sessions was entitled to hear the bail plea.

Subsequently, Aryan moved to the special court seeking bail, which was rejected on October 20, 2021. He then moved the Bombay High Court in the appeal which granted him bail on October 28, 2021.

On May 27, this year, Aryan was given a clean chit by the NCB. He was among 6 given clean chit. The others who were given a clean chit included: Avin Sahu, Gopal Ji Anand, Sameer Sehgal, Bhaskar Arora, and Manav Singhal. Most of them were employees of Caneplus Trading, the company that organized the cruise.

Congress to protest against ED summons to Sonia Gandhi in National Herald case on July 21

Agency
New Delhi, July 14:

Congress will hold a protest across the country against the Centre on July 21, the day Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi is scheduled to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the National Herald case.

The decision was taken in a meeting of party leaders on July 13, which was attended by the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress General Secretary Organisation KC Venugopal, AICC Treasurer

Pawan Bansal, AICC General Secretary Mukul Wasnik, Ajay Maken, Randeep Surjewala, Bhawar Jitendra Singh and Rajya Sabha MP and AICC in-charge of Delhi Shaktisinh Gohil.

The ED has summoned Sonia Gandhi for questioning in connection with the National Herald case. She has been asked to appear before the investigators at its headquarters in New Delhi around 11 am on July 21, reported news agency ANI citing official sources.

The fresh summons for July 21 was issued to Sonia Gandhi as she could not appear before

the ED on June 8 in connection with a money laundering case involving the National Herald as she was infected with COVID-19 and was hospitalised.

Last month, the probe agency questioned former Congress President and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi in the case. During the questioning, which continued for more than five days, Congress leaders and workers protested against ED and BJP-led central government for indulging in 'vendetta politics'.

The ED wants to record both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul

Gandhi's statements under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Earlier, senior Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal have also been questioned.

The case, seeking to investigate alleged financial irregularities under the PMLA in connection with the National Herald, was registered about nine months ago after a trial court took cognizance of an Income Tax Department probe carried out on the basis of a private criminal complaint filed in 2013.

Assam floods: Fifth accused arrested in Silchar embankment breach case

Agency
Silchar, July 14:

Assam Police on Tuesday arrested one more person in connection with the alleged embankment breach case in Silchar that caused devastating floods in the state during peak monsoon season.

This is the fifth arrest after chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma claimed last month that the flood in Silchar was a "manmade" calamity. The person arrested has been identified as 26-year-old Raju Deb, a resident of Ashram Road area of Silchar.

According to Cachar superintendent of police Ramandeep Kaur, the police are arresting the accused persons based on video evidence related to the breach of the embankment.

"This person is not a resident of Bethukandi area, but we have evidence of his involvement in destroying part of the embankment there. We arrested him on Tuesday and now interrogation is going on," Kaur said.

According to police records, Deb was arrested last year for defacing a few posters of the central government's 'Jal Jeevan Mission' programme in

Silchar; he was released on bail later.

On June 26, CM Sarma said that Silchar's floods were manmade and would not have happened if the embankment in Bethukandi was not 'breached' by 'some miscreants'. On July 1, Sarma visited Silchar again and said that no person who was involved in the incident will be spared.

Subsequently, the police arrested four people - Kabul Khan, Mithu Hussain Laskar, Nazir Hussain Laskar and Ripon Khan. However, members of the Vishva Hindu Parishad on July 12 alleged that a land mafia racket is responsible for the Bethukandi dyke breach that caused the inundation of almost the entire town.

Sarma on July 1 said that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Assam Police will register a case against six individuals and all arrested persons will be taken to Guwahati for interrogation.

The Cachar SP informed that a team of CID officers is also investigating the matter following the chief minister's order. "We are investigating the matter from our side and they are investigating it in their own ways. We have not received

any order as of now whether the arrested persons will be taken to Guwahati by CID," she said.

The broken parts of embankments near Silchar town remains a matter of concern for common people. The Cachar district administration on Monday informed on social media that they attempted to pump out the stagnant water from Mahisha Beel but experts suggested that the vibration of big pumps will further break the embankments.

However, residents near Mahisha Beel appealed to the government to help them relocate. "We have been living on the road for more than a month due to the stagnant water of Mahisha Beel. Now, the administration is saying that it is not possible to pump out the water. This seems like endless suffering now," 45-year-old Aftab Uddin Sodol said.

Meanwhile, state officials said on Tuesday that floods and landslides in Assam this monsoon season, one of the worst in decades, have caused damages worth nearly Rs. 10,000 crore. As many as 193 people have lost their lives, and over 250,000 people have been affected due to the deluge.

Free COVID-19 precaution doses 'gift' from PM Modi to India, says JP Nadda

Agency
New Delhi, July 14:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president JP Nadda has said that the Centre's decision to provide free precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all citizens aged above 18 is "one of the many gifts" from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the nation.

Nadda's remarks came after the Centre announced a 75-day special drive to administer free precaution doses to all adults as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. The drive will begin on July 15.

Following the announcement, Nadda took to Twitter and said, "From 15th July 2022 for the next 75 days, citizens above 18 years of age will be given booster doses free of cost. This is one of the many gifts by our PM Narendra Modi to the nation to celebrate 75 years of our independence and a testament to his care for every citizen."

Earlier, PM Modi also said the government's decision to



administer free precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all adults will further India's vaccination coverage and create a healthier country.

"Vaccination is an effective means to fight COVID-19. Today's Cabinet decision will further India's vaccination coverage and create a healthier nation," the prime minister tweeted.

India began administering precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all citizens aged above 18 on April 10.

However, less than 1 per cent of the target population of 77.10 crore in the 18-59 age group has been administered the precau-

tion dose so far, according to an official source.

Under the special drive, people in the 18-59 age group can get free precaution doses of the COVID-19 vaccine at government vaccination centres. However, those who visit a private facility to get the precaution dose will have to pay, said Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

Noting that some people had created doubts over the efficacy of vaccines developed in the country, the Union minister said there is a need for a booster dose for everyone and "no one will have to pay for it."

Mizoram health workers on indefinite strike over pay, regularisation

Agency
Aizawl, July 14:

Mizoram is currently facing a manpower crunch amid rising Covid-19 cases due to an indefinite strike called by contractual healthcare workers, sources said.

Over 2,000 health staff have stayed off their work since Monday, demanding several benefits, including regularisation, regular pay, medical reimbursement and transfer allowance.

The National Health Mission

Employees Union of Mizoram (NEUM) said the strike, which was scheduled to be called off on Wednesday, would continue indefinitely after a meeting with officials a day ago ended in a deadlock.

NEUM president Malsawmtluanga Hauhnar told PTI that the union was willing to call off the mass casual leave if the government agreed to meet at least two of its demands.

Many of the 2,000 healthcare workers have been employed on

contractual basis for more than 20 years, Hauhnar said, urging the government to take measures for the regularisation of the employees at least in a phased manner.

He underlined that the healthcare employees were paid very irregularly for the past 10 years due to unknown reasons, especially when the state stopped receiving direct central funding. Health department officials could not be contacted for comments.

Draupadi Murmu certain to romp home in the Presidential elections

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 14:

With overwhelming support from different parties, the BJP-backed NDA candidate Draupadi Murmu, pitted against the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) candidate former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha, is certain to romp home, in the Presidential election.

The polling to elect the country's 15th President will be held on July 18 and votes will be counted on July 21. Nearly 115 candidates are in the fray this time as against 106 candidates in the 2017 Presidential election. The term of President Ram Nath Kovind ends on 24 July. The new president will be sworn in on July 25, 2022.

Support to Murmu

While NDA has nearly 48 percent of the vote share in the electoral college, a host of other parties have also extended support to Murmu. The long list includes Biju Janata Dal (BJD), AIADMK, Janata Dal (U), Janata Dal (Secular), Apna Dal, YSR Congress Party, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), Nishad Party, Republican Party of India (Athavale) and National People's Party (NPP).

Naga People's Front (NPF), Mizo National Front (MNF), Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM), Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), AINR Congress, Jannayak Janata Party, United Democratic Party, United Democratic Party (UDP), Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) and United People's Party Liberal (UPPL).

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) which draws its electoral strength from tribal votes in Jharkhand is one of the signatories of Sinha's candidature. Eventually, it may support Murmu. Due to the pressure from

party MPs, the Shiv Sena has also extended support to Murmu.

The role of the Aam Admi Party (AAP), which considers itself an alternative to the Congress is not clear. It is planning to make heavy inroads in the ensuing Gujarat Assembly election. There are a sizable number of tribal voters. If it opposes Murmu, then it will be labelled as "anti-tribal" and if it votes in her favour, the party will be branded as a "safron" supporter. As such the AAP is in dilemma.

Sinha's strength

The Opposition parties supporting Sinha include the Indian National Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Trinamool Congress (TMC), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), J&K National Conference, Samajwadi Party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), CPI, CPM, Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), All India United Democratic Front (AUDF), Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM).

Voters

The electoral college of 4809 voters with 10.86 lakh votes (Assembly votes-543231 + Parliament votes-5,43,200) will decide the fate of the candidates. The college comprises MPs of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, MLAs of states, and MLAs of Delhi and Puducherry. Nominated members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Assemblies, and members of state legislative councils are not part of the electoral college.

Value of the votes MLAs

The value of the MLA's vote is determined by the population of each state as per the census of 1971. The value varies from state to state depending upon the population. It is as high as 208 in Uttar



Pradesh and as low as 07 in Sikkim. The weighted votes from all assemblies add up to 543231 (No of Assemblies 30, No of MLAs 4033).

MPs

The 776 MPs (Lok Sabha-543, Rajya Sabha-233) contribute the same total votes as the MLAs. As such the total weighted 543231 votes are divided by 776 rounded off to 700=543,200.

The Electoral College Assemblies

As stated above the value of MLAs' vote differs from state to state. The formula is: Andhra Pradesh- No of MLAs=175 x Value of each vote=159=Total votes of the state=27825, Arunachal Pradesh-60 x 08=480, Assam-126 x 116=14616, Bihar-243 x 173=42039, Chattisgarh-90 x 129=11610, Goa-40 x 20=800, Gujarat 182 x 147=26754, Haryana-90 x 112=10080, Himachal Pradesh-68 x 51=3468, Jharkhand-81 x 176=14256 and Karnataka-224 x 131=29344.

Kerala-140 x 152=21280, Madhya Pradesh-230 x 131=30130, Maharashtra-288 x 175=50225. (However with number of MLAs getting reduced to 287 due to one vacant post, the votes have been reduced to 50225), Manipur-60 x 18=1080, Meghalaya-60 x 17=1020, Mizoram-40 x 08=320, Nagaland-60 x 09=540, Odisha-

147 x 149=21903, Punjab-117 x 116=13572 and Rajasthan-200 x 129=25800.

Sikkim-32 x 07=224, Tamil Nadu-234 x 176=41184, Telangana-119 x 132=15708, Tripura-60 x 26=1560, Uttarakhand-70 x 64=4480, Uttar Pradesh-403 x 208=83824, West Bengal-294 x 151=44394, Delhi-70 x 58=4060 and Puducherry-30 x 16=480. Total Assembly members-4033, Total value-543231.

Parliament

Lok Sabha members-543 x 700=380100, Rajya Sabha members-233 x 700=163100, Total MPs-776, Total value-543,200.

Grand total

Total-No of MLAs=4033, Votes-543231 + No of MPs=776, Votes-5,43,200=Grand total-10,86,431.

Draupadi Murmu

The 64-year-old Draupadi Murmu, former Jharkhand Governor, becomes the first woman Presidential candidate from a tribal community since the late P A Sangma, a candidate from the tribal community had contested the 2012 Presidential election.

Murmu was born in a Santali tribal family on June 20, 1958, in Uparbeda village of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha. A graduate in arts, Murmu initially worked as an assistant professor at the Shri

Aurobindo Integral Education and Research Institute, Raipur, Odisha. Subsequently, she worked as a Junior Assistant in the irrigation department of the Odisha Government.

She joined the BJP in 1997 and was elected as the councillor of the Raipur Nagar Panchayat. She became the Chairperson of Raipur Nagar Panchayat in 2000 and also served as the national vice-president of BJP Scheduled Tribes Morcha.

She won the Assembly elections twice from the Raipur constituency. During the BJP and Biju Janata Dal coalition government, she was the Minister of State with Independent Charge for Commerce and Transportation (March 6, 2000, to August 6, 2002), and Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (August 7, 2002, to May 16, 2004). She was conferred Nilkantha Award for best MLA by Odisha Legislative Assembly in 2007. She became the first woman Governor of Jharkhand in May 2015 and served as the Governor till 2021.

Yashwant Sinha

The 84-year-old Yashwant Sinha, from Patna, Bihar joined as a member of the Janata Party after resigning from the IAS in 1984. He became the party's all-

India general secretary in 1986 and was elected a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1988. After Janata Dal was formed in 1989, Sinha, became JD's general secretary. He later joined the BJP.

He was the Union finance minister in the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1998 to 2002). Before that, he held that portfolio in Chandra Shekhar's Cabinet as well (November 1990 to June 1991). He quit the BJP on April 21, 2018, and joined the TMC in March 2021. He left TMC last month after he was selected as the joint Opposition candidate for the presidential election. He has been a vocal critic of the Narendra Modi-led NDA.

Record

Contd. from Page 1 CM hands over funds....

The identified sports disciplines for different districts are Fencing for Imphal East, Cycling for Imphal West, Judo for Thoubal, Badminton for Kachhing, Senapati, Jiribam and Tamenglong, Football for Chandel, Tengnoupal, Pheralzawl, Kangpokpi, Ukhrul, Kamjong and Noney, Rowing for Bishnupur and Boxing for Churachandpur.

Youth Affairs and Sports (YAS) Minister Govindas Konthoujam, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan, Principal Secretary (YAS) S.S. Chhabra, Director (YAS) T. Phulen Meitei, District Youth Affairs and Sports Officers and other officials of Youth Affairs and Sports Department attended the programme among others.

What causes of the Massive Landslide?...

Generally, soil particles lose this bond and break apart after excessive rain. The primary effect of water within the slope was to reduce shear stress (reduced cohesion) acting along the potential slip surface, thereby reducing the shear strength along the surface. The driving force (or moment) is due primarily to the component of the slump block weight acting parallel to the potential slip surface. Movement could be triggered if the ratio of driving to resisting forces (or moments) is altered by adding

water by rainfall (60% above the normal rainfall in the last two months) to the slope. This seems to be the main causative factor for the recent massive landslides.

The expert team are :- Prof. Arun Kumar - Manipur University, Dr. Manichandra Sanoujam - Manipur University, Dr. Thingujam Dolendro - Geoconsult India, Moirangthem Jagjit Singh - Computer Gallery Imphal, Dr. N. Sanamacha Singh - ECC, S.K. Gainaimi - ECC and R.K. Bikanrajit - ECC.

Sports

Defending champions Netherlands hold off Portugal charge to secure 3-2 win; close on EURO 2022 quarter-final

Agency
London, July 14:

Holders the Netherlands held off a stirring fightback by Portugal to close in on a place in the Euro 2022 quarter-finals with a 3-2 win over Portugal, while Sweden struck late to beat Switzerland 2-1 on Wednesday.

The Dutch were without star striker Vivianne Miedema due to a positive case for coronavirus, but got off to a flying start in Leigh as Damaris Egurrola and Stefanie van der Gragt struck inside the first 16 minutes.

Portugal would not even be at the tournament had it not been for Russia's expulsion due to the invasion of Ukraine, but for the second time in as many games they bounced back from a 2-0 deficit.

Carole Costa's penalty reduced the arrears before half-time and Diana Silva's thumping header levelled two minutes into the second half.

The Netherlands thought they had immediately struck back when Jill Roord's goal was



ruled out by a VAR check for offside.

But Mark Parsons' side did dig themselves out of trouble just after the hour mark when Danielle Van de Donk's stunning strike from outside the box arrowed into the top corner.

Victory takes the Netherlands top of Group C, level on four points with the Swedes, with both sides just needing a point from their final group game to progress.

Ranked second in the world, Sweden were among the pre-tournament favourites but have so far struggled to hit top

gear in England.

After a 1-1 draw to open their campaign against the Netherlands, the Olympic silver medalists were expected to roll over a Swiss side ranked 20th in the world.

Switzerland's preparations had also been rocked by a sickness bug in the camp that forced them to cancel training on Monday.

But they frustrated Peter Gerhardtson's women for 53 minutes at Bramall Lane before Barcelona's Fridolina Rolfo finished off an excellent team move.

Switzerland hit back within two minutes through a fine finish by Paris Saint-Germain's Ramona Bachmann.

Gerhardtson was forced to turn to his bench for inspiration and it was one of his subs, Hanna Bennisson, who scored the winner, with her first international goal 11 minutes from time.

"There are many things we can do better but right now I'm just very happy that we won the match and are in a good position to take us beyond the group stage," said Gerhardtson.

Navneet's brace hands India 3-1 win over Japan, finish 9th in Women's Hockey World Cup

Agency
Amstelveen (Netherlands), July 14:

Navneet Kaur scored a brace as the Indian women's hockey team beat Japan 3-1 to finish a disappointing ninth in the FIH World Cup here on Wednesday.

Navneet (30th, 45th minutes) scored two field goals, while Deep Grace Ekka (38th) sounded the board once from a set piece in the classification match.

Japan's lone goal came from the sticks of Yu Asai in the 20th minute.

It was close contest in the first five minutes of the opening quarter, but both the teams failed to score goals.

Soon India got a massive chance to take the lead but Vandana Katariya's effort from close range was saved by Japan goalkeeper Eika Nakamura.

Both teams fought hard for the rest of the first quarter but to no avail.

India made a good start in

the second quarter and got a couple of chances within a span of two minutes but goals eluded the Savita-led side.

Japan took the lead in the 20th minute through Yu Asai who converted a penalty corner.

India soon earned their first penalty corner but wasted the opportunity.

They lifted their game in the final minutes of the second quarter with relentless attacks but Japan defended stoutly.

India drew parity at the stroke of the half time when Navneet found the board from a field effort.

India started on the front foot after the change of ends and earned their sixth penalty corner of the match but, as has been the case the entire tournament, they wasted the chance once again.

Lalremliani was threatening from the left flank but the Japanese defenders were upto the task.

However, India won another penalty corner and this time Ekka scored to hand her

side the lead eight minutes into the second half.

The Indians mounted attack after attack on the Japanese goal and on one occasion Vandana came tantalizingly close but her effort was saved by Japanese goalkeeper Nakamura.

The play was mostly surrounded inside the Japanese half after the change of ends as India attacked in numbers relentlessly.

India came close to taking a two-goal lead in the third quarter but Sharmila Devi's goal was disallowed as the ball hit her body.

The third quarter completely belonged to India as they raised their game leaps and bounds to trouble the Japanese defence which resulted in Navneet's second goal towards the end.

India continued in the same vein in the fourth and final quarter with Vandana being denied again by the Japanese goalie.

Japan tried hard in the final minutes but failed to breach the resolute Indian defence.