

MHRC directs state government to pay compensation for illegal detention of 2 persons

IT News
Imphal, July 15:

Two persons, who were arrested and detained by state police on charge of two different charges, which both felt as a conspiracy had approached to the Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) pleading for justice and ensuring protection of their Human Rights.

The MHRC after deliberating the plea of both the persons arrested in two separate cases found the charges level against them as illegal and directed the state police to pay compensation of Rs. 50,000/- each.

Yumkhaibam Bimol Meitei, was arrested by state police on charge of having nexus and for being overground worker of proscribed group KYKL. But according to her daughter, Bimol was arrested for attending election rally for Th. Brinda Devi, who was contesting the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election from Yaikul Assembly Constituency.

After conducting enquiry of the facts and circumstances of the case, the MHRC opines that the arrest and detention of the arrestee (Yumkhaibam Bimol) by the police is not legally justifiable.

"The arrest of Yumkhaibam Bimol Meitei was not at all essential only on the ground of being overground worker of KYKL, a banned organization without prima facie evidence of nexus with the banned organization and also having no connected with any unlawful activities", The Commission said.

It added that since his human rights has been violated, the Manipur Human Rights Commission is of the opinion that appropriate interim compensation under section 18 (C) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 requires to be paid to the victim arrestee.

In other similar case of its kind the MHRC observed that the arrest and detention of one Leishram Herojit, who is also the Secretary of CADA (anti-drug body) Thoubal district

Committee, by the police – as illegal.

The MHRC observed that Herojit was arrested and detained by the police without due process of law for organizing a sit-in-protest at Heirok Part II Mayai leikai against the acquittal of one Lukhosei.

"During the course of inquiry in the given facts and circumstances of the case, this Commission is of the opinion that the arrest and detention of the said Laishram Herojit aka Shantha by the Police is not legally justifiable. His arrest was not at all essential only on the ground of being overground worker of UNLF, a banned organization, without any prima facie evidence of alleged nexus with the said banned organization", the MHRC stated.

The Commission recommends that a sum of Rs. 50,000/- each be paid to Yumkhaibam Bimol Meitei and Laishram Herojit by the State Government within one month as interim compensation.

CM launches 75-days Free Vaccination of Covid Precautionary Dose, appeals public to take and encourage vaccination



IT News
Imphal, July 15:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has said that the State has a low COVID vaccination rate and further called on the people of the State who are above 18 years and eligible to take as well as encourage others to take the COVID vaccination. The vaccines are available at all Government Vaccination Centres, he said.

The Chief Minister today launched the 'COVID Vaccine Amrit Mahotsava' Jan Abhiyan Free COVID Precautionary Dose for 18-59 age group

at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. The Vaccine Mahotsava will continue till September 30, 2022 at Government Vaccination Centres. It is organized by the National Health Mission and Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, Manipur.

Addressing media persons in this regard, the Chief Minister said that State is witnessing some gradual increase in the number of COVID Positive cases over the past few days. However, it is unfortunate that there are many people who are reluctant to take the vaccination even when it is provided free, the Chief Minister said,

highlighting that only 62 percent (14,52,293) has taken the first dose of vaccination and only 51 percent (11,98,953) has taken the second dose. We are targeting vaccination of around 23,41,000, he added.

The Chief Minister appealed to the people against taking COVID-19 lightly and said we have already lost more than 2000 precious lives during the past COVID waves despite of all efforts, and that another wave of COVID would hugely affect the State.

The Chief Minister further urged all those who are yet to take any dose of the vaccina-

tion against believing in superstition and to instead take the vaccination.

Further regarding opening of schools, the Chief Minister observed that since children below 12 years of age are yet to be vaccinated, the government has decided on closure of schools for them for some time and that it could be extended if the need arise.

Stating that the government welcomes all ideas and suggestions from the general public, he added that the government was able to fight the COVID pandemic earlier with support and cooperation of the general public and would still need support and cooperation of the public to fight it again.

The programme was also attended by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh and Minister of Public Health Engineering Department, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Department L. Susindro Meitei, department officials, among others.

CM launches Stakeholders Meet under District as Export Hubs Scheme

IT News
Imphal, July 15:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has initiated various missions like Atmanirbhar Bharat and being vocal for local, India has witnessed improvement in trade and commerce and in almost every field including defence and export sectors.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today inaugurated a Stakeholders Consultations Meet under District as Export Hubs Scheme at the Sangai Hall, Hotel Imphal. The meet was organized by the District Administration, Imphal East.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the inaugural session, the Chief Minister said that today the State government has also initiated the

One Product One Sub-division Scheme and a Prabhari has been appointed as in-charge for each 68 sub-divisions. He elaborated that every sub-division will have its own product.

The Chief Minister also expressed his happiness with the bureaucrats of the State and explained that in the previous government, the government had introduced the Meeyamgi Numit and Hill Leader's Day to interact with the general public and to understand the grievances from the ground level. Today, the State's officers have initiated these interaction programmes at the district level, he added.

Under the programmes, the officers are going to the public and delivering the benefits to the doorsteps, the Chief Minister stressed, highlighting the sincerity and

hard-work of the officers.

Today the State is sailing smoothly, he said, adding that if this progress continues, within the next five years, we can bring a change in the State.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the need to attract investors to bring development, and to develop infrastructure for that.

The State has received a proposal for conducting the Femina Miss India contest, he said, and further explained the need to create infrastructure to host such events.

Highlighting the government's plans for developing infrastructure in the State, N. Biren Singh deliberated on the under construction Olympic Park, setting up of a 5-star status hotel at the Old High Court site, night landing facility at the Imphal Airport.

He continued that Manipur has a huge production capacity of turmeric, pineapple, ginger, etc. Stating that products of the State are in high demand outside, the Chief Minister said that the State had recently exported pineapple and 10 tonnes of turmeric powder to Europe.

The Chief Minister further stressed on the workings of Women Self Help Groups in the State, and added that banks have witnessed an improvement in bank loan repayment over the past few years and that rural economy in the State has also improved.

Meanwhile, N. Biren Singh also urged the people to take COVID vaccination and said the State is witnessing a gradual increase of COVID positive cases over the past few days, which is unfortunate.

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Meeyamgi Numit held at various districts across the State



IT News
Imphal, July 15:

Under the initiative of the State government Meeyamgi Numit was organized today at various districts across the State.

District Administration, Bishnupur organised the day at Panchayat Resource Centre Hall, Mini Secretariat Complex in Bishnupur district today. As many as 100 persons turned up in the Meeyamgi Numit with necessary documents to appraise district authorities on their concerns and requirements.

Deputy Commissioner Lourembam Bikram and concerned DLOs personally attended and addressed the grievances of the public on the spot itself wherever possible.

Addressing the public, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged the people to freely express their concerns during the Meeyamgi Numit. Informing

that Meeyamgi Numit will be held on the 3rd Friday of every month, he urged the people to take this opportunity to highlight their concerns and get their rightful benefits of the Government Schemes. He reiterated that Single Use Plastics (SUP) ban will be strictly enforced in the district from August onwards once the month-long awareness phase campaign concludes by this month.

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RIMS celebrated World Plastic Surgery Day

IT News
Imphal, July 15:

A "World Plastic Surgery Day" was celebrated today in the OPD complex, RIMS Hospital, Imphal. Sapam Nishikanta Singh, MLA, Keishmathong A/C, Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director, RIMS, Imphal, Pramod Jaiswal, President Rotary Club of Imphal, Prof. Nepram Sanjib Singh, Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital, Imphal were graced as Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and President respectively.

During the function, MLA, Keishmathong A/C,

Sapam Nishikanta Singh said that he was really impressed of having a Plastic Surgery Department in RIMS Hospital Imphal and also seeing the changes and improvement of RIMS at present and appreciated to the team of doctors and staffs of the RIMS. Being the member of Rotary Club of Imphal ready to serve for needy and suffer peoples of burns. He also donated a sum of Rs. 15,000/- to the Plastic Surgery Department, RIMS Hospital.

Director, RIMS also mentioned that RIMS is caring for all Burn and accident patients.

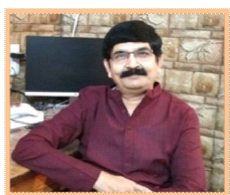


Remarkably a very reconstructive thumb transplant surgery was also done for a child patient from Ukhrul district which took 6 hours to complete the surgery. A new Burn Newly Constructed building is also ready to inaugurate within short period of time. A new course of M.Ch in Plastic Surgery is also opened at RIMS, Imphal. Lastly, Director appreciated Plastic Surgery Department for their services in last decades.

Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital has also appreciated the infrastructure development at RIMS which is done

under the leadership of Director, RIMS Imphal and also Rs. 2 crores was sanctioned for procurement of Liposuction Machines and other Micro instruments which will provide Liposuction and Laser facilities for benefits of patients. Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital also announced that RIMS Hospital is giving online report collection facilities which indeed help for far distant patients parties. Slowly RIMS is moving forward to development. He also appreciated Rotary Club of Imphal for their continuing effort of helping RIMS.

Can we combat Hate Speeches



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Hate speech is on the rise worldwide with the potential to incite violence, undermine social cohesion and tolerance, and cause psychological, emotional, and physical harm to those affected. Hate speech incites violence and undermines social cohesion and tolerance. Debates around the regulation of hate speech are highly contested globally. Hate crime is on a rise ever since awareness regarding Freedom of speech have increased.

It is rightly said that the world must not trample on freedom of speech and expression, but when that speech is weaponized to violate the rights of others—including inciting atrocity crimes and acts of terrorism, it must not be met with deafening silence that implies apathy or acceptance. In the 267th Report of the Law Commission of India, hate speech is stated as an incitement to hatred primarily against a group of persons defined in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief and the like. Hate speech includes aggressive words, incitement to violence, true threat, libel or slander, and hostile environment. Hate Speech is any form of expression that intends to attack a person or a group by inciting violence or prejudice on the basis of attributes such as race, religion, ethnicity, sex, disability, sexual orientation, and others. In hate speech words are calculated to result in an actual attack in the future such as genocides, physical bullying, and other forms of hate crime. In a civil society like ours, man is regarded as a doer of rational things but when it comes to his expressions, he has to be controlled, modulated, monitored and balanced with the expression and thoughts of another man who inculcates the similar desires. Hate speech has been a problem in India for decades. In 1990, some mosques in Kashmir broadcast inflammatory speeches to whip up hate against Hindus, triggering their exodus from the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley. With our changed media landscape, politicians have realised that something offensive said in one state could be magnified for direct political benefit in another state immediately.

India doesn't have a legal definition for hate speech. But a number of provisions across laws prohibit certain forms of speech, writing and actions as exceptions to free speech. Individuals believe in stereotypes that are ingrained in their minds and these stereotypes lead them to believe that a class or group of persons are inferior to them and as such cannot have the same rights as them.

In its report submitted to the government in 2017, the commission recommended adding separate provisions to the Indian Penal Code to specifically criminalise hate speech. Sections 153A and 153B of the IPC punishes acts that cause enmity and hatred between two groups. Section 295A of the IPC deals with punishing acts which deliberately or with malicious intention outrage the religious feelings of a class of persons. For a country like India with a massive population of diverse backgrounds and culture, subjects like hate speech become a complex issue to deal with as it is difficult to differentiate between free and hate speech.

Ex-Muslims: Movement of Dissenters or Reformers?



By: M.R. Lahu

Religions across the globe have always been seen from two fronts. The first is to see them as principles codified for people by a divine will and therefore, not to be questioned. The second one is to view them as manmade caricatures of God or principles forcefully stamped on people by people. This view demands the need of a scientific analysis, questioning the authenticity of all the religious beliefs. Both the views are gaining momentum and of course, the first one has a mammoth fan following with a large part of the world kneeling for the divine interventions in human progress. Religions, successfully manipulating their belief systems could bring about demographic changes across the globe. The influence that most of the religions could successfully embed over all over the world was the result of their aggression and indecorous invasion and contemptuous intellectual involvement. History may not often reveal the true story of persecution that most of the religions could spread their wings with. It is the second kind of view that brought creative changes in the thinking pattern of people. Those who remained imprisoned in the contrariness of principles concocted by religions proposed changes suitably matching the demand of the time. Most of the religions underwent this change time and again. Call them a creative minority at least for their intellectual rebellion, questioning the authenticity of the patriarchal hegemony in most of the religions. Coming out of the dungeons

of superstition and the horror of radicalization, most of the silent rebellions are known to be happening inside the precincts of Islam. This is probably seen as an effect of its inefficiency to modernise the ideals that it followed from the medieval periods.

Ex-Muslim movement, as that is what it is known as, is a non-religious movement of free thinkers who dared to break open the confinement of Islam, has silently begun to make their presence felt across continents and the reality is that it is steeply pricking the edifice of Islam. It began to surface as a western phenomenon but now creeping into the deeply conservative countries with stringent laws against apostasy like Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran. The cause of their worry is unfathomable as most of the Islamic countries realize it with a shudder, when the American Journal "The New Republic" reveals the rate of Muslim conversion to atheism in America and in most of the European countries. It doesn't shy away from revealing the decline of numbers among the actual believers in the Islamic world. The number of convinced atheists and non-religious persons are growing rapidly who prefer to shed the garb of Islam without any remorse. For the Islamic world, leaving Islam can invite death punishment. This tremor began to make cracks on the foundations of Islam in the Islamic world. At the same time, on a parallel track, Abrahamism, a new religion in the making should be seen as an appropriate intellectual churning taking place. The new religion is a combination of religious principles scrapped from all the three Abrahamic religions—Islam, Christianity and Judaism. This new invention evidently showcases the depression that the followers of Islam face due to its radicalized and rigid mannerisms. Encompassing the variety available in these three religions with their common notion of being

the descendents of one common prophet and by the vision of enhancing this new religion with Prophet Abraham as its revered spiritual source, some of the dissenters may be trying to put a milder version of the semitic religions for a new world.

Punishments spanning from stone pelting to beheading a dissenter of Islam are questioned and challenged by the Ex-Muslim movement, and India, with a huge population of Muslims is also bracing with a minority of Ex-Muslims despite radicalization to the effect of the horrendous Udaipur barbarity is staring at its polity repugnantly. Social Media could take an active role in bringing the aspirants to quit the mishmash and the complexity of the religion. Reports reveal that nearly one in four Muslims raised in the United States have left Islam with a sigh of relief of being a "Godless, Fearless Ex-Muslim." The trend is catching pace in India too, especially in Kerala. An organisation has recently been formed to provide those who renounce Islam a platform to express and gather fearlessly. "Ex-Muslims of Kerala" is an attempt by the educated Muslim youth, who thought to exit the religion and become free thinkers. It has declared January 9 as 'Kerala Ex-Muslim Day'. It is a historic development as many in the group are active in social media debates attracting more like-minded people to their fold. Kerala, with Islamic radicalization growing unimaginably voluminous in its Malabar region, has become a hotbed of Islamist activities which the state administration is purposefully silent about. Most of the members in the group face economic and social boycotts and sometimes receive violent reactions from the radicals. Excommunication of people who left Islam is normal in the community and thanks to democracy that apostasy is not pun-

ishable under the constitution. The movement in Kerala provides social, economic and legal support to the Ex-Muslims.

Islam is at the crossroads of confusion when it comes to match its ability to patch up with the requirement of a modern world. Retaining its medieval Semitic ideals through a parallel seminary education system has thoroughly shattered its aura as the Religion of Peace. Hammering of unscientific aphorisms on its younger generation has blatantly hampered the intellectual faculty of many young minds who aspired to climb the ladder of success through modern education platforms. Though it is not punishable by law, India's legislature is yet to frame laws to protect those who come out of the dark caves of fanaticism. Stunning statistics also reveal the fact that there is a growing disgruntlement on religions which refuse to change with the change of times. Islam is seen to be facing a grave demographic shift in many countries including the Arab world. Why do many people prefer to quit their faith? The former chairman of the Shia Waqf Board, Wasm Rizvi has converted back to Hinduism and became Jitendra Narayan Singh Tyagi. Famous Malayali film director Ali Akbar became Ramasimhan. India is witnessing a sharp radicalization among the Muslim community and the recent atrocious killings in the name of religion should be seen as its proof. Globally, the conflict among the Islamic countries is real when they fight each other overtly or covertly for an upper hand over the Islamic World. The question is, whether the Ex-Muslims across the globe would become a game changer forcing the radicals to bend for reformation, transforming the structure of the religion for world peace in principle and practice.

(The writer is a Freelance Journalist/Social Worker)

Kids no more Kids



Vijay GarG

Mobile and computer screens changed a lot

Children's summer vacation is over. Nowadays they are back to school, although most have been under a bit of stress thinking about school on the last day of the holidays. In a few days, his life is again going to be imprisoned in the circle of the system, the terror of which remains constant in his innocent mind. Same homework again, same weekly exams, same rush. The school is starting to instill fear in them. Children will start making the same excuses again, sometimes head Pain, sometimes abdominal pain.

Actually, our school system has become such that children learn less with joy and enthusiasm there. Questions have been raised about the shortcomings and slowness of our education system, especially for children and childhood. But all efforts to improve it have proved unsuccessful. It is often seen that children do not know the meaning of what they read, nor are they told. So

many things like this It can't happen. Even today, many children are not given any satisfactory answer to the question why reading is necessary. It is explained to them that if you read and write, otherwise you will not get a good job, if you do not get a good job, then life will not be happy. In this way they feel at ease by eliminating reading as a task (which is being done to them as a punishment). The funny thing is that nowadays children have to explain the reason why it is necessary to eat, otherwise they do not even feel interested in food. It's good that Reasoning is increasing, but it also indicates a decrease in understanding.

On the other hand we see that the children are lying behind the TV. The demand for the scene has increased so much that not only TV but show them the video in mobile, even after watching continuously for hours, the question does not come in their mind that why is it necessary to watch it? Because speed has its own pleasure. The pace that childhood needs, the kind of curiosity, the kind of awe, the kind of fantasies, stories they need, technology is providing them all that. Playground and Fairy Tales Neither has come till now and the screen has done its job well. What the consequences will be, that is a matter of separate debate.

Even children up to the age of fifteen are generally not interested in reading any kind of book outside their curriculum. The era of audio is over. Children are no longer interested in reading stories, but in watching. They don't want to

bother imagining themselves, they want to go with the flow. The patience it takes to hear stories, the curiosity of what will happen next, which makes the story a story, is probably everywhere is becoming rare. Mobile and computer screens have changed a lot. So much so that the same thing that actually happens, it has little or no effect, but when the same thing reaches the children through advertisements or videos, then even the very young children are in a tizzy among friends. They are seen taking.

The transfer of emotions from person to object is now easily accepted, but children have been treated as pure nature by considering them as the form of God. So why such a rapid change? It is a question of the future. The question is whether by doing what technology has made children their own, can any meaningful results be achieved by applying it in other areas of life, such as education, behavior etc.? To the extent and as quickly as the technical imaginary presentation has been able to attract all age groups, is there any possibility of making the system of education rooted in it dynamic and making it a laissez-faire and spontaneous relationship with childhood? Not only should this be thought of, but also the effort needed.

And this effort should be not only government or administrative, but also private, so that everyone should take care of the personal choice and needs of their child. If this is possible, then education will be able to become an easy part of life, not something imposed from above. With less effort and less stress, we will also be able to build a straight and strong bridge with the next generation.

Indian Diaspora again bring laurels to Native Indians



By: Nitin Mehta

Indian-origin British MP, Rishi Sunak, has won the most number of votes in the first round in the race for prestigious British Prime Minister seat. This is for the first time that Indian Origin Politician has reached a stage to be Prime Minister of UK and his election seems a certainty now. If he does become the PM of Britain, then he will be the first person of Indian or even Asian origin to hold the post.

This trend of Indian origin people holding powerful positions is not confined to the UK. More than 200 members of the over 550 million-strong Indian diaspora has risen to highest positions globally, including heads of state, with sheer dedication, commitment, honesty and sincerity.

The latest to join the list is US Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Indian-American to hold the post.

Let us start with Australia. Lisa Singh was the first woman of Indian origin to be selected as a senator from the state of Tasmania. Her great grandparents were from Bengal and came to work on sugar cane farms in Fiji. Lisa is

now the director of Melbourne based Australia-India Institute. She played a supporting role in the formation of Quad which is a security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan and the US.

In neighbouring New Zealand, Sir Anand Satyanand is a former lawyer, judge and ombudsman who served as the 19th Governor-General of New Zealand from 2006 to 2011. His grandparents came to Fiji in 1911. Sir Satyanand has said: 'For 200 years, people of Indian descent have lived in New Zealand and for 200 years they have embodied India's traditions and values. That heritage is one that New Zealanders have increasingly come to appreciate and cherish'.

In Canada there are many politicians of Indian origin and Anita Anand is Minister for National Defence.

In Fiji almost 38% of the population is of Indian origin. Mahendra Chaudhry was the first Fijian Prime Minister of Indian origin. There are many more politicians of Indian origin in Fiji.

In Guyana almost 40% of the population is of Indian origin. There are many Indian origin politicians and the present vice president is Bharat Jagdeo.

Trinidad and Tobago has an Indian origin population of 37%. Kamla Persad Bissessar was the Prime Minister of the country from 2010 to 2015.

Suriname has an Indian origin population of 27.4% and it makes up the largest ethnic group. Pretaap Radhakishun was a former Prime Minister. Ramsewak

Shankar was a former president of the country. Chan Santokhi is the present President of Suriname.

Mauritius has had several Prime Ministers and Presidents including Sookdeo Bissonndoyal one of the founding fathers of independent Mauritius.

Wavel Ramkalawan is the President of Seychelles from 2020.

In Malaysia there are dozens of Indian origin politicians.

Singapore has had several Presidents of Indian origin.

In South Africa Pravin Jammadas Gordhan is a politician and anti-apartheid activist who has held various ministerial posts in the Cabinet of South Africa. He served as Minister of Finance from 2009 until 2014 and again from 2015 until 2017, as Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs from 2014 until 2015, and as Minister of Public Enterprises from February 2018.

In the East African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania the Indian community has deep roots. One individual of Indian origin who has impacted many countries of the world is Yash Pal Ghai. He has advised over twenty countries on constitution making and other issues, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Fiji, Somalia, Libya, and Kenya (where he chaired the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission (CKRC) from 2002-2004, as well as the National Constitutional Conference ("Bomas").

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India adds over 20,000 fresh Covid-19 infections for 2nd consecutive day; 47 fatalities reported

Agency
New Delhi, July 15:

India logged a single-day rise of 20,038 new coronavirus infections, pushing the tally of cases to 4,37,10,027, while the count of active cases of the disease has increased to 1,39,073, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll due to the disease has climbed to 5,25,604 with 47 new fatalities being reported, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Active cases now comprise 0.32 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.48 per cent, the health ministry said. An increase of 2,997 cases has been

recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload of the country in a span of 24 hours, the data showed.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.44 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 4.30 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,30,45,350, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.20 per cent, as per the data.

According to the ministry, 199.47 crore doses of vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

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

on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5, 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and the one-crore mark on December 19, 2020.

The country crossed the grim milestones of two crore cases on May 4, 2021, three crore on June 23, 2021, and four crore on January 25 this year.

Forty-seven new fatalities due to the disease were reported in the country 20 from Kerala, five from West Bengal, four from Maharashtra, three from Punjab, two each from Assam, Bihar, Haryana and Uttarakhand, and one each from Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Nagaland and Sikkim.

Govt says all welfare schemes must use Aadhaar-based Direct Benefit Transfer, seeks detailed review

Agency
New Delhi, July 15:

The central government has sought a comprehensive review of all welfare schemes implemented by all ministries and departments, and said that all such schemes should be using Aadhaar-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), News18 has learnt.

The move is aimed at ensuring smooth disbursement of benefits to beneficiaries identified under different schemes of the central government while eliminating duplication of data and fake beneficiaries.

An office memorandum (OM) issued last month by the Cabinet Secretariat — accessed by News18 — stated that it is the endeavour of the government to ensure that all beneficiary-oriented welfare schemes use Aadhaar-based DBT. "Accordingly, Ministries/Departments are requested to comprehensively review all their schemes, both Cash and In-kind, and thereafter on-board the newly-identified schemes on the DBT Portal," the OM dated June 28 stated.

It further said these schemes will also need to be

notified under relevant sections of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, in consultation with Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

The Direct Benefit Transfer programme was aimed at bringing transparency through transfer of subsidies directly to the beneficiaries through their bank accounts.

As per latest official data, 313 central sector schemes and centrally sponsored schemes have been put on the DBT Bharat Portal from 53 ministries. There were 70.6 crore beneficiaries (cash) and 74.1 crore beneficiaries (kind) in 2019-20, while in 2020-21, there were 98 crore and 81.9 crore beneficiaries.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that in the past eight years, Rs 23 lakh crore has been transferred to the beneficiaries of the central government schemes through digital payment modes under the DBT mechanism. Last year, he had emphasised on ensuring 100% saturation of all government schemes.

Transparency in Transfer

Stating that that Aadhaar-based DBT is a good governance reform for targeted delivery of benefits, the Cabinet Secretariat order further said it ensures greater transparency and accountability in public service delivery through effective use of technology.

It said Aadhaar, as an identity proof, ensures cost-effective authentication of beneficiaries on a real-time basis and eliminates fake beneficiaries by removing duplication of records. It added that Aadhaar can also be used as a financial address as more than 77 crore bank accounts are linked with it.

Talking about the move, a senior government official explained that many ministries have individual portals where the list of beneficiaries and other records are maintained.

"Putting them all on a common portal will ensure there is no duplication and will help the government keep track of their effective implementation," the official said.

"Moreover, Aadhaar being unique, it will remove duplication of records, so that benefits of the schemes reach the correct beneficiary," the official said.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat: 33 Students from Manipur make a successful six-day visit to Indore and other important places of Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh

PIB
New Delhi, July 15:

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav-Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (AKAM-EBSB) 33 college and school students from Manipur made an enriching visit to Indore and surrounding places of Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. Out of the 33 students, 19 students were from different schools of Imphal and 14 were from MIT, Imphal. The students were accompanied by two faculty members.

The team visited various places of Malwa region including Indore, Maheshwar, Mandavgarh from June 26 to July 02, 2022. IPS Academy Institute of Engineering and Science, Indore were the host institute. There were 18 female members in the whole group. Manipur and Madhya Pradesh are paired states under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat scheme.

Science and Technology: Professor explaining the Zero Shadow Effect at the Dongla Robotics Observatory at Ujjain.

The team visited Indore as part of the student exchange programme under the unique initiative of the government Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. On first day students from Manipur arrived at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. They visited the Bio CNG Plant of Indore Municipal Corporation and the Khajrana Ganesh Temple on the second day, after the inaugural ceremony. Bio CNG plant is Asia's largest CNG plant, recently inaugurated by



the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Indore has been adjudged the cleanest city of India for a consecutive five times. The students were fascinated by the machines and processes they saw at the plant.

Clean and smart cities, Energy Saving and Urban Planning: Visit to the Bio CNG plant located at Devguradiya Indore, recently inaugurated by PM Shri Narendra Modi.

On the third day the team visited Dongla Robotic Observatory, located at 0 degree longitude, and Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain. Observatory's many equipments were displayed to the students with special permission. The team visited the Lal Bhag place and Rajwada in Indore and participated in sports activities. The troop visited Devi Ahilya Fort at Maheshwar, about 100 kilometres from Indore on the fifth day. This 16th century fort is famous for its elegant archi-

ture and spectacular view from river Narmada. They also saw the world famous Maheshwari silk weaving, the local popular yarn. On the sixth day, they went to historical Mandavgarh. It is a famous tourist site in Madhya Pradesh. They saw Rani Roopmati palace and Baaz Bahadur palace and other places.

On the concluding day, the students participated in the joint cultural programmes, showcasing the traditions and culture of the two states. During their visits, students enjoyed and tasted different cuisines of the host state at the world famous Sarafa Chowpatty of Indore. They enjoyed the famous dishes of Sarafa Chowpatty, be it 'Dahi Vada' and 'Bhutte ka Kis' at Joshi Dahi Vada or 'Khopra patties' at Vijay Chat House or the 'Jalebi'. Students were fascinated by seeing the huge mob at the Sarafa Chowpatty during the late night.

Various sports activities were also conducted at the internationally developed sports complex of IPS Academy.

The visiting Manipuri team was much impressed and felt enriched by the historical places, traditions, culture and local cuisines. Manipuri students said that they made many friends with their counterparts at Indore. They also learned about the heritage of Madhya Pradesh. Similarly, students from Madhya Pradesh came to know about different Manipuri traditions, their folk music and dances. Both the groups exchanged their food traditions. Many of students from Madhya Pradesh learned some greeting words in Manipuri. Students from both the states parted with heavy hearts at the time of departure.

The visit was facilitated by the Union Ministry of Education and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi.

Assam: Three more people die of Japanese Encephalitis; flood-hit state reports 23 new cases of infection

Agency
Guwahati, July 15:

The death toll due to Japanese Encephalitis in Assam rose to 19 on Thursday after three more people lost their lives in the past 24 hours. As per the National Health Mission,



Assam, one person each died of the infection in Darrang, Sonitpur and Udalguri.

A total of 23 cases of Japanese Encephalitis were detected in the state. These news cases were reported from Golaghat, Jorhat, Majuli, Kamrup Metropolitan, Kamrup, Karbi Anglong, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Nagaon and Udalguri districts.

Notably, since July 1, a total of 144 cases have been reported in Assam. Japanese Encephalitis is a viral brain infection that spreads by mosquitoes. During the monsoon flood season between May and October every year, many people die of the viral infection and malaria.

Meanwhile, the flood situation in Assam slightly improved on Thursday. Close to 2.29 lakh people are still affected by the deluge across four districts in the state. However, the number of people affected due to the calamity declined on Thursday as compared to the previous day.

On Wednesday, over 2.5 lakh people were suffering be-

cause of the floods in the state. Cachar is the worst-hit district of the state with over 1.34 lakh people suffering, followed by Morigaon district where over 92,000 people are still affected due to the deluge.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), at present, 175 villages are submerged under flood water.

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Indian Diaspora again bring laurels...

The United States of America: President Joe Biden has appointed around 17 people of Indian origin to the key positions in the country. Kamala Harris the vice President is one of them. Vinay Reddy is the director of speechwriting for president Joe Biden. Dr. Madhu Lika Guhanthakurta is leading the world's first mission to the Sun. Dr. Suresh Kulkarni, 'Rocket Man' has successfully launched 55 rockets and has designed several rocket and missile components for the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile System. Rush Doshi is a senior China director on the National Security Council. Pritesh Gandhi is Chief Medical Officer, Department of

Home Security. Mili Gosar is Deputy Chief of Staff-Operations in the Department of Interior. Anil Menon a lieutenant colonel with US air force and SpaceX's first flight surgeon has been selected among the 10 new astronauts who could fly to the Moon in future. He was the first responder during the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and to the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. Sharmila Bhattacharya is a Nigerian born Director of Research in the Biomodel Performance Laboratory of the Space Bio-Sciences Division NASA. There are many more Indians in very high positions who will create scientific breakthroughs that the world has never known before.

Some Indian origin Ambassadors and High Commissioners:

Suriname's Ambassador to the US: Nirmala Badrising

Australia's High Commissioner to South Africa: Gita Kamath

Suriname's Ambassador to India: Aahna Kanhai

Fiji's High Commissioner to India: Namita Khatri

Singapore's Ambassador to the US: Ashok Kumar Khatri

Canada's High Commissioner to India and Ambassador to Nepal and Bhutan: Nadir Patel

Conclusion: Given the skills shortages faced by many countries the Indian diaspora is set to settle in big numbers in other parts of the world and their influence on these coun-

tries will grow simultaneously. A day is not far when an Indian-origin Prime Minister, for example, Rishi Sunak will meet an Indian Prime Minister. The Indian-origin Prime Minister while having great love for the land of his forefathers will strenuously push the cause of his country. This code of Dharma is well explained in the Mahabharata when Guru Dronacharya decided to fight for the Kauravas. His reason was that he had always worked for Kauravas and had to be loyal to them. Similarly, all Indians settled all over the world will and should fight for the interests of their adopted country.

(Author is the Founder Indian Vegetarian Society UK)

Wanted

Urgently wanted One Part Times Accountant with knowledge of Tally for NPP IW.

Those interested can contact to President, NPP IW. Contact No. 9366325773

The Incessant Rains Leads to Heavy Damage in Different Parts of the Country

The Death Toll in Rain-Related Incidents Crosses 100 Mark

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 15:

Over 100 people died and thousands were evacuated due to landslides and floods following swollen rivers and overfilled water reservoirs, caused by the incessant rains in the last few days, in different parts of the country.

Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh bore the brunt with the maximum death toll reported from Maharashtra, where nearly 89 people died in rain-related incidents till Thursday.

Maharashtra
Vidarbha
Compared to other regions, the intensity of rains was felt more in the Vidarbha region. In Nagpur, 10 people died due to rain-related incidents in the 24 hours that ended on Thursday. The Nagpur District collector instructed staff to evacuate flood-hit villages to safer places and implement snake bite prevention measures in every taluka.

In an unusual incident, due to heavy flooding and swollen Wardha river in Chandrapur, a villager Shyam Gingham residing in Podsa Village had to wade through knee-deep water covering over 5 km to take his sick infant son to a private doctor located at Vedgaon since he could not get medicare in his village.

Similarly in Chandrapur 22 truck drivers were rescued at the inundated Gadchander-Dhanora highway by a team of Chandrapur district police and NDRF on Thursday. Besides, due to the deluge, Bhandara-Madhy Pradesh highway was closed for several hours. In Amravati, a dilapidated building collapsed like a pack of cards. Fortunately, no one was injured since its occupants were evacuated earlier.

Several areas of Wardha, Yavatmal, Akola, Buldhana, South Gadchiroli, and Bhandara districts were submerged and the establishments including schools and the college remained closed. In Gadchiroli, the Godavari, Kaleshwaram, and Indravati rivers were flowing above the danger level. Also nearly 2103 people were evacuated to safety in Gadchiroli. Four people were swept away in overflowing streams in Gondia. Due to continuous rains, the farmers suffered large-scale damage in Washim.

Marathwada
Nanded district, received unprecedented rain this season and saw 123 mm rainfall over 24 hours till Thursday afternoon. In Nanded, the residents of 80 villages were evacuated and shifted to safer places. The storage level in the Jayakwadi major irrigation project in Aurangabad district approached the halfway mark following heavy inflows from upstream areas. Hingoli district also received unprecedented rainfall.

Western Maharashtra
The Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad on the lee side of Western Ghats were lashed with heavy rains. The Pune city exceeded its monthly normal of July, earlier than halfway through the month. The district received 203 mm of rainfall surpassing the normal rains of 187 mm. The water released from the Khadakwasla dam was increased to 13,138 cusecs. Similarly, incidents of landslides were reported from the Sinhgad Fort area in Pune.

The Panhanga and all other rivers in Kolhapur were overflowing. Due to this hundreds of people residing on the banks of the river were evacuated to safety by NDRF.

Central Maharashtra
The ancient old city of Nashik recorded 353.8 mm of

rainfall against the monthly figure of 156.1 mm rainfall. Most of the shrines in Nashik were submerged in flood waters and the administration announced the closure of the Saptashrungi shrine for the next 45 days.

Konkan
The Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts in Konkan received the heavy rainfall. The Jagbudi (Khed taluka) river and Kodvali river (Rajapur) were flowing above the danger mark. Due to this, the residents of 25-30 villages were alerted.

Near Mumbai
The rains caused heavy damage in areas neighbouring Mumbai. In Palghar 125 houses were damaged. Besides in a landslide a man and his daughter were killed. Most of the dams including Kavadas were overflowing. As such the flood gates of these dams were opened. The rivers Vaitarna and Pinjal were near the danger mark and the villagers were alerted. In another incident in Palghar, 10 workers of "R Infra", stranded on a barge in Bahadoli-Vaitarna were evacuated by the NDRF team after struggling for nearly 12 hours. In Vasai, some tourists stranded in flood waters were evacuated.

In Kalyan in the Thane districts, the Kalyan creek and Ulhas river rose above the danger level and flood waters entered over 200 houses. Besides, cattle sheds with nearly 3000 buffaloes were affected. The incidents of landslides were reported from Hanuman Nagar in Kalyan. Also, 50 to 60 shops were submerged in flood waters in neighbouring Bhivandi.

Traffic on the Kalyan-Ahmednagar highway was halted when the Murbadi river started overflowing near Kishor village.

Gujarat
Neighbouring Gujarat too received heavy rains and several areas including Navsari were

inundated. Due to heavy water-logging Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway was closed for vehicular traffic. The Indian Coast Guard rescued two women and a child marooned in Toran Village. They were evacuated to a safe location, a spokesman for ICG said.

Heavy showers in parts of South Gujarat and the Kutch-Saurashtra region left 14 people dead, while over 31,000 were evacuated so far this season. Three National highways in Kutch, Navsari, and Dang districts were blocked while 51 state highways and over 400 panchayat roads were damaged.

A spokesman for Gujarat Government said that with six fatalities on Thursday, the death toll in the rain-related incident has reached 69 with a relocation of 27,896 people since first June.

Telangana
Over 19,000 people were shifted to relief camps across Telangana as rains continue to pound several parts of the state on Thursday. The Telangana government announced the closure of educational institutes till Saturday due to inundated low-lying areas and damaged road links. On Thursday two persons stranded on a water tank surrounded by water from all sides at Mancherla were rescued by the Indian Air Force.

IAF station at Hakimpet, Secunderabad received a request on Thursday, at around 10:30 am from the Govt of Telangana for the rescue of two persons stranded on a water tank. In less than an hour, a Chetak helicopter set course towards the affected area near Mancherla. On reaching the location, the pilots assessed the situation and conducted winching operations to rescue the two individuals, who were then flown to a nearby helipad, a Defence Spokesman said.

Health ministry issues guidelines after India reports first case of monkeypox disease

Agency
New Delhi, July 15:

As India has reported its first confirmed case of monkeypox, with a Keralite who returned from the UAE testing positive for the virus, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Friday issued guidelines for international travellers for the management of the disease.

As per the advisory issued by the ministry, all international passengers should avoid close contact with sick people, including those with skin lesions or genital lesions.

They should also avoid contact with dead or live wild animals, such as small mammals including rodents (like rats and squirrels) and non-human primates (like monkeys

and apes). The ministry has also advised overseas travellers not to eat or prepare meat from wild game (bushmeat).

They should also not use products derived from wild animals from Africa, like creams, lotions and powders.

Avoid using contaminated materials used by sick people, such as clothing, bedding or materials used in healthcare settings, as well as those items that came into contact with infected animals, the ministry said.

It further advised people to consult the nearest health facility in case they develop symptoms suggestive of monkeypox like fever and rash, especially if they were in an area where the disease has been reported or they

came in contact with a person who might be infected with the virus.

India's first case of monkeypox was confirmed on Thursday through the testing of the samples of the symptomatic person at the National Institute of Virology, Pune, Kerala Health Minister Veena George said.

Soon after this, the Centre rushed a high-level multi-disciplinary team to collaborate with the State Health Authorities in instituting public health measures.

The man, hailing from the Kollam district of Kerala, arrived at the airport from the UAE on July 12 and all his close contacts have been identified, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in a statement.

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CM launches Stakeholders Meet...



Textiles, Commerce and Industry Minister Nemcha Kipgen said that the scheme is aimed at targeting export promotion, manufacturing and employment generation at the grassroots level and making India an export powerhouse, thereby contributing to the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission and to implement the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi of Made in India and being vocal for local.

She added that the products identified for Imphal East district, Chakhao or black rice, pineapple and diversified

handloom and handicraft are the most potential products not only for Imphal East but for the whole of Manipur.

Commissioner TCI PK Jha said that on a pilot basis, 75 districts from all over the country have been identified as export hubs out of which in Manipur, Imphal East district has been identified.

He also said that Women Self Help Groups will play an important role and that the MSRLM is also on board for the centrally sponsored scheme.

The IAS officer also said that the concepts of

Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local are the driving ideas behind the scheme and that it will give a major boost in developing districts as manufacturing hubs and to generate local employment and also to bring the State to the export map of the world.

The inaugural session was also attended by Deputy Commissioner Imphal East, Kh. Diana Devi, Joint DGFT, Kolkata Amit Sharma officials, stakeholders, among others.

The inaugural session was followed by a technical session.

Sports

France comeback against Belgium to secure a 2-1 win and reach the Women's EURO 2022 quarter-finals

Agency
London, July 15:

France survived a scare to reach the Euro 2022 quarter-finals as Group D winners after a 2-1 victory against Belgium on Thursday.

Corinne Diacre's side made the perfect start when Kadidiatou Diani headed in from Sakina Karchaoui's cross after just six minutes.

Janice Cayman grabbed a shock equaliser for underdogs Belgium with a close-range finish in the 36th minute at Rotherham's New York Stadium.

But France, who had crushed Italy 5-1 in their opening group game, recovered from that setback five minutes later.

Griedge Mbock Bathy rose highest to power a bullet header into the net from Clara Mateo's cross, ensuring her team joined the Bastille Day celebrations.

France, who had 27 shots to Belgium's two, wasted a chance to win by a bigger margin when Amber Tysiaik's hand-



ball was given as a penalty after a VAR review.

Tysiaik's offence triggered a dismissal for her second yellow card, but Wendy Renard's spot kick was saved by Nicky Evard.

"We need to make the most of these joyful moments when they arise. It's rare to get through a group with a game to spare," Diacre said.

"Belgium gave it their all at the end of the game, they wanted to equalise. We managed to stand our ground. "They had a lot of chances

and so did we. We weren't as clinical as against Italy but it's not every day you score five goals in the first half."

The only concern for France was a first half injury to Marie-Antoinette Katoto that could put her participation in the knockout stages in doubt.

"Katoto has sprained her knee I think, that's all we know at the moment. It's the same knee that was injured before but a different injury," Diacre said.

France have won their last 16 matches in all competitions, scoring 69 goals and conced-

ing just seven times in this run. They have only ever had one longer winning run in their history, a 17-match streak between August 2011 and July 2012.

In the quarter-finals, France will play the runner-up in Group C, with Netherlands currently in first place and Sweden sitting second.

Belgium are in third place in Group D, with one point from two games.

They must beat Italy in their final match on Monday to have a chance of overtaking second placed Iceland, who are one point ahead of them after drawing 1-1 with Italy earlier on Thursday.

Iceland's final group match is against France on Monday. Belgium boss Ives Smeels said: "We did everything we could to achieve a result. Everyone was at their top level."

"We have been working for months now to turn the players into a real team. In our dreams we wanted to pull off an upset. We just didn't make it, but I'm very proud."

Meeyamgi Numit held at various...

While the much touted schemes like CMHT, Old Age Pension Scheme, Differently-abled benefits featured prominently among the matters brought up today at the district level Meeyamgi Numit, various other concerns like land conversions and settlements, Farmers Card, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, MGNREGS were also addressed in the event.

Meanwhile, top performers for ePOS device usage among Fair Price Shop agents in the district under District Supply Office, CAF & PD, Bishnupur were also felicitated today in appreciation of their contribution in scaling up device usage in the district.

At Senapati district, the District Administration organized Hill Leaders Day and Meeyamgi Numit at Multipurpose Hall, Mini Secretariat, Senapati.

The programme of Hill Leaders Day and Meeyamgi Numit organised by District Administration, Senapati along with other district of the State is among the 100 Action Plan for 100 days of the state government.

Addressing the media persons, the Deputy Commissioner, Senapati said the programme was launched successfully in the district under the guidance of Manipur Chief Minister. He also said that it was the idea of CM to reach out the services to the people of Manipur at the doorstep. Being the first day in the district he said that various grievances compliant application relating to road application, social sector schemes like old age pension and others were able to address to the people even from remotest area of the district. He also mentioned 1

Handloom card has been handed over. He also applauded the District Level Officer's for their co-operation in opening their respective stalls.

It may be mentioned that Senapati Hill Leaders Day and Meeyamgi Numit will be observed every 3rd Friday of the month. If 3rd Friday happens to be general holiday, the programme will be held on 3rd Thursday of the month. A special dedicated Meeyamgi Numit cell has also been constituted where anyone can share his/her grievance at the given whatsapp cell no. 9863554329 and email ID: senapatimeeyamginumit@gmail.com for smooth functioning, better facilitation and co-ordination.

The programme was attended by SDO's, DLO's, various public leaders, village chairmen and secretaries.