

4.8 magnitude earthquake shacks Manipur

Imphal, July 17:

An earthquake of magnitude 4.8 on the Richter scale shakes Manipur around 11.42 pm yesterday.

The depth of the earthquake was 94 km which occurred at 11:42 pm on Saturday in the East-Southeast of Moirang, Manipur.

"Earthquake of Magnitude: 4.8, Occurred on 16-07-2022, 23:42:48 IST, Lat: 24.25 & Long: 94.37, Depth: 94 Km, Location: 66km ESE of Moirang, Manipur, India," Report from the National Center for Seismology (NCS) tweeted.

Earlier on July 5, an earthquake of magnitude 3.7 on the Richter scale occurred in Assam. The depth of the earthquake was 35 km which occurred at 11:03 am early in the morning.

National Center for Seismology (NCS) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for monitoring earthquake activity in the country.

Marangching tragedy: With one more body recovered on day 18, total dead bodies reaches 56



IT News
Imphal, July 17:

Shocks still continue recalling the horror at occurred at Marangching in Noney district on June 30, where a large inhabitant sites was completely covered with a massive landslide killing and injuring number of people.

From day one of the tragedy the nearby villagers tried their best to save those who were caught in the tragedy.

That was followed by quick response from both the State and the central government. The Indian security forces including the army, police, NDRF, SDRF, among others spares no pain in searching and rescuing those victims of the tragedy. More tears rolls from the members, relatives and near and dear one of those lifeless body found buried in the landslide. Some are fortunate, but continue to survive in trauma who were saved by

the rescue team.

On day 18 of the search operation one more lifeless body of a woman was found by the rescue team reaching the recovered bodies to 56.

The body of a woman identified as one of the missing villager as Thiusinliu Gondomei, was recovered around 10.30 am, the sources said.

Earlier the team on work at the landslide site had rescued 18 people, many of which are from the Territorial Army and

the Assam Rifles. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had also provided financial assistant to those rescued personnel who have been undergoing treatment at Military Hospital at Mantripulhri.

The Manipur-Makhuam landslide search and rescue operation was conducted under the supervision of government appointed team. Almost all officers assigned for the job assisting the Noney district administration and keep continued visiting and inspecting the site during the heavy rains and the souring summer heat.

"We will continue the search operation until the last one is found", a personnel on rescue operation told media persons.

Even as 56 bodies have been recovered and 18 others were rescued alive so far, villager source said that five others remained missing as 79 people were affected by the landslide that took place on the intervening night of June 29-30 at Makhuam village in Marangching area in Noney district.

Tengnoupal District Police apprehended Brown Sugar worth Rs. 6.39 crores



IT News
Imphal, July 17:

Today a team of Tengnoupal Police Station under the Supervision of SP Tengnoupal Golianmang IPS were conducting daily routine of Frisking and checking of vehicles at it's check Point. At around 4:00pm, A Maruti Suzuki Ertiga bearing Registration No. UP 15DQ 0457 came at the check post, the Police team conducted Frisking and Checking. While checking the Vehicle 73 Soap Cases of Brown

Sugar were found kept concealed inside the Car, which weight 3.189kgs.

The said Brown Sugar might worth more than 6.39 Crores in International Market.

Along with the seized brown Sugar and the Car used in carrying the Brown Sugar along with One Khajiang Baite of Moreh Ward No.1 Zalemphai Village was also arrested at the spot and handed over to Tengnoupal Police Station. A Case has been also registered at Tengnoupal Police Station under NDPS Act 1985.

Parliament Monsoon Session 2022 begins tomorrow

New Delhi, July 17:

The Monsoon session of the Parliament will begin on July 18 and is scheduled to continue till August 12.

Ahead of the beginning of the monsoon session, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla held an all-party meeting on Saturday, in which he informed the leaders about preparations for the session.

The all-party meeting was skipped by several opposition political parties, including Trinamool Congress (TMC), Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP),

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Left parties. The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) was also had no representation.

However, Congress and its allies Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and Indian Union Muslim League (IUM) attended the meeting. While Congress was represented by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, TR Baalu from DMK took part in the meeting. YSR Congress and NDA's constituents - Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) and Apna Dal also participated in the meeting.

The Centre was represented by Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi and Minister of State in the same ministry Arjun Ram Meghwal.

During the meeting, Birla sought the cooperation of all parties for smooth conduct of proceedings with "decency, dignity and discipline", while the Opposition demanded a discussion on the Agnipath scheme, unemployment and farmers' issues.

As the Monsoon session of the Parliament is set to begin on Monday, here's all you need to know:

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'India Creates History Again!': PM Modi, Mansukh Mandaviya hail 200 Crore Covid Vaccination feat

New Delhi, July 17:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday congratulated the country on the feat of completion of 200 crore Covid-19 vaccinations. According to the health ministry data, 98 per cent of the adult population has received at least one dose while 90 per cent have been fully vaccinated.

The data showed that 82 per cent of adolescents aged 15 to 18 years have also been vaccinated with the first dose since the vaccination for this age group began on January 3 while 68 per cent have got both the

first and second dose.

"India creates history again! Congrats to all Indians on crossing the special figure of 200 crore vaccine doses. Proud of those who contributed to making India's vaccination drive unparalleled in scale and speed," Modi said on Twitter.

Mandaviya also expressed his happiness at the achievement. "This extraordinary achievement will be etched in the history!" said the Health Minister in a tweet.

According to health ministry officials, 71 per cent of the vaccination has taken place in Covid vaccination centres located in rural and 29 per cent in

urban areas.

Also, 48.9 per cent of the total doses were administered to women while 51.5 per cent in men. According to the data, 0.02 per cent of total vaccine doses administered were given to Others.

In Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Chandigarh, Telangana and Goa, 100 per cent of the 12 year plus eligible population is fully vaccinated.

The top five states where highest number of doses have been administered are Uttar Pradesh (34,41,93,641),

Maharashtra (17,05,59,447), West Bengal (14,40,33,794), Bihar (13,98,52,042) and Madhya Pradesh (12,13,15,911) till 7 am on Sunday. A total of 5,63,67,888 precaution doses have been administered to all eligible population.

The cumulative Covid vaccine doses administered in the country crossed the 100-crore mark on October 21 last year and 150 crore on January 7 this year. The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2 last year.

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'Alleged' PFI document makes some dangerous observations about India

If it is authentic, common Muslims should come out strongly against them

By Sushil Kuttty
New Delhi, July 17:

Those who wrote the PFI document, currently in circulation, to convert India into an Islamic state by 2047 know their English. The grammar is clean and it took the author just eight pages to conquer India lock, stock and barrel. The long and short of it is, Indian Muslims want to rule all over again. The British uprooted them, and the "cowardly Hindus" usurped in 1947. Now, 75 years on, there is this PFI document to restore Muslim rule in India.

Frankly speaking, it is ambitious, and it's foolhardy. A bunch of wayward Muslims

planning the overthrow of the Indian state. The question is, is it authentic PFI? So far, the document has not been denied by the PFI. And, the Government of India hasn't reacted to the "chilling", "sensational" and "shocking" plan....The PFI has to come out publicly about the origin of the document, otherwise, it will be used as a major weapon by the Hindu fundamentalists to castigate the Muslim minorities in general.

"India Vision 2047" lays bare a plan to re-subjugate Hindus if only 10 percent of the Muslims rallied behind the PFI, which means not even 10 percent of Indian Muslims support PFI. But this didn't

stop the radical Islamists from dreaming 'big', preparing for an armed overthrow of democratic "secular" India.

The focus is to build a committed armed cadre, trained in using the knife and machete; the small arm and the heavier artillery. Along the way, get Islamic countries to help; force the Hindu-majority Indian state to its knees. Get Indian Muslims sold on the idea of an "Islamic Republic of India".

The enormity of the task didn't faze the planners. The 8-page document talks of getting the SC and OBCs to the Muslims' side and winning a few dozen seats by fighting elections. But it is armed con-

flict that is the mainstay of the Popular Front of India's plans for India.

The document and its contents does give the impression that some pretty sharp but relatively younger minds were at work. The training of the cadre-soldiers is rather rudimentary with small-arms weapons training and unarmed combat, like that imparted at China's Shaolin School.

Maybe, training in the 'Kalaripayattu' of Kerala, which is where most of the PFI exploits are centred, and are reported from. Let's not forget the Mopla rebellion that was influenced by the Caliphate. 'India Vision 2047' talks of the

"friendly" country of "Turkey".

For the PFI, the goal is "Towards Rule of Islam in India". It makes an attempt to get Indian Muslims to rally behind it by keeping alive sore points that keep Indian Hindus and Indian Muslims apart. Clearly, the "two nations" theory which birthed Pakistan remains pregnant with the idea of the takeover of India.

The "coward Hindus" and the "present state of Muslims" are juxtaposed for maximum effect. Perceived victimhood runs in a thick vein throughout the narrative. That said, there is nothing to betray anything 'Mahatma-like' in the telling. Ahimsa and

Satyagraha are not in the PFI-playbook. The sword remains the tip of the Islamic conquests.

From "once Muslims ruled over majority Hindus" to "Muslims have been reduced to the status of 2nd class citizens" to "but for the British we would still be ruling", and "there are 9 districts where Muslims are above 75%", all these are trotted out to justify Indian Muslims coming together to overthrow "Hindu rule".

The PFI document makes the claim that the government of India does not even "bother to consult Muslims on matters concerning Shariah" and how divisions among of Muslims are making things difficult.

"The world looks at Indian Muslims as a model and the Indian Muslim community hopelessly waits for a miracle... leadership has to emerge from within the community..."

Many of us alive today will no longer be present in 2047, but no matter how impossible and ludicrous it may sound, the PFI document is upbeat—"We dream a 2047 where the political power has returned to the Muslim community from whom it was unjustly taken away by the British Raj. If we look into (the) history of Islam, Muslims were always in minority and for victory we do not need to have a majority..." (IPA Service)

The Crisis of Hunger and Malnutrition Worsens



By: Vijay Garg

The latest United Nations report on food security shows that the problem of hunger in the world is getting worse. All over the world, 2.3 billion people are facing difficulties in getting food. This figure is for 2021, which also includes the deadly effects of the Corona crisis. After the Russo-Ukraine war that started this year, due to the increase in the prices of food grains, petroleum products and fertilizers, etc. can only be imposed. Ironically, the efforts made in the last decade to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition all over the world seem to be in vain.

A recently published report of the United Nations has expressed concern that the goals set to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition by the year 2030 are now difficult to meet. It is noteworthy that out of the countries affected by the food crisis in the world, twelve countries are from Africa, one from the Caribbean country, Haiti and two from Asia. These are Afghanistan and Yemen. At the root of this hunger, where there is the scope of armed struggle, debt burden, unemployment and poverty, there is also a big role of mismanagement.

Undoubtedly, first the Corona epidemic and then the Ukraine crisis has only increased this menace. This is the reason that about three billion people of the world have become unable to collect the necessary dose for a healthy person. This crisis puts a question mark on the model of so-called modern development, which is promoting one-sided development in the world under the guise of science and technology revolution. One On the one hand, prosperity and prosperity is waving and on the other hand the darkness of poverty is deepening in the lives of billions of people. In such a situation, it is natural to ask why the governments of different countries do not make sincere efforts to remove economic discrepancies.

Why is an effective strategy not made to overcome this crisis, due to which the crisis of hunger and malnutrition is present in a formidable form. Its hallmark is that about three billion people in the world do not have the necessary food for a healthy life. However, in increasing the already ongoing crisis, Corona Inflation during the crisis has a big role, but at its core is also the slackness of those in power. It is difficult to say how much infection was stopped by the drastic measures implemented to prevent corona infection, but it definitely increased the swamp of poverty.

The question arises that why various global organizations and experts in these matters do not prepare a far-reaching strategy to eradicate poverty and hunger. This is the reason why the strategies designed to deal with this crisis are not proving effective on the practical ground. System holes and corruption irritating this crisis. It is a well-known fact that nature has made arrangements to feed every person, but the unjust distribution of resources has given rise to poverty and hunger.

First colonialism, then imperialism and finally the global economy, built on the interests of developed countries, has continuously widened the gap between rich and poor. The expansion of poverty in India and abroad in the Corona crisis and the increase in the number of billionaires is the truth of this unjust system. It is necessary that by planning the available natural resources a war should be waged against insecurity and hunger.

How ironic that there is food insecurity and starvation on the earth and rich countries are looking for life on other planets. It is the responsibility of the affluent countries to ensure that everyone in poverty-stricken countries can get food to live. The heat of the fire arising out of poverty and anarchy in any country of the world is felt all over the world. In such a situation, the world fraternity needs to cooperate in the fight against poverty and hunger.

IRB 2019-there is no greater fraud than a promise not kept !



By: Jayanta Sharangthem

Well done is far better than well said. Promises are just broken mirrors in the end if we're not keeping them. Actions speak louder than words. We should always wait for the perfect time to speak and when we are going to speak we should always think twice as we all know that once spoken, it can't return back, which can be compared to an arrow that had been released from the bow. A promise is a big word and it is like the cloud and rain is its fulfilment. It is of no use of our promises when our actions often contradict to our words. A promise either makes something or it breaks everything. In this modern generation, it becomes a style for people making promises without knowing and they forget in the next movement until and unless somebody makes them remember what they have spoken. So, I will say, we should fix a day once in a calendar year for a 'Happy Promise day' so that we all specially the political leaders have the habit of keeping promises else making promises will surely be a laughing joke of the day in the

time to come. We all heard of the story descendant from our great grandfather and grandmother that once a cow herdsman was being eaten by the tiger due to his false promises or telling lies. One should not make promises that one does not intend to keep. When you make a promise, people wait for it to happen and people always remember of your promise that had made even if you forget your promise. If the political leaders don't keep their promises, it is better to keep their mouth shut otherwise peoples' credibility will be lost from them. Once you break your promises then people will not believe you even if you are going to fulfil your future promises. At the same time, we should remember-"Don't promise when we're too happy, don't reply when we're angry, and don't decide when we're sad" because after all a promise means everything and once it is broken, sorry means nothing. Human psychology says, people who are with strong moral character and emotional intelligence having firm stand of his/her decision are more likely to stay loyal to their commitments and the people who are talkative that speak without thinking often don't keep their words.

Hon'ble Manipur Chief Minister had made a promise that the 10th and 11th IRB recruitment result, which had been pending for the last three years, would be declared in June 2022 and trained personnel would be made to join the highway protection force. But all of his promises goes in vain since the government turns deaf ear to this

cause. Due to these uncertainties and age-barred, youths across the state has been demanding the state government to declare the results of the IRB (Indian Reserve Battalion) recruitment which started in the early part of 2019 in the state. Before the recruitment started, the state government had even given their commitment in front of the people of Manipur through many social media platforms that they would not make it to happen with any type of corruption during the recruitment process but would act with free and fair selection. But the question is that 'where is your promise that you may declare the IRB selection result within one month after starting of the recruitment process? Is your promise equal to blank fire that makes only the loud sound into the air but has no purpose of firing? Or are you waiting for the tenure of the recruitment to end and go to waste? If you are not going to declare the results, your stand behind the reasons must be clear. You should not play the career of our future youths merely for the sake of your vote bank or money. CM Biren had repeatedly assured of declaring the said results of the 10th and 11th IRB recruitment to the people especially to the youths of Manipur but still unable to do so till date. In a democratic country like India, under the article of free speech and expression of our constitution, we, the people of Manipur, are using this clause to rise question on the government so that you may disclose the reason why

you are so late or keep pending for more than three years while declaring the above said results. *Journalism not the propaganda must be safe in a democratic country and the government must not squeeze the free speech of the general public. Criticism is very much necessary for a healthy democracy. Both optimists and pessimists contribute to society. The optimist invents the aeroplane and the pessimist the parachute. Since the government is formed by the people through election, there should always be a debate room for good and dark side for every policy and scheme the government initiate.* Now the youths of the state warns that they are going to agitate and launch many forms of protests across the state if the state government fails to declare the IRB result before 20 July 2022. It is not a good sign for a government. If you are not going to fulfil your commitment in near future, you should not make any type of fake promise on people else all of your effort trying to bring the people's faith on the government will all go to vain.

There is a saying, 'Justice delayed is justice denied', the given statement seems to sound louder in connection with this IRB-2019 recruitment results. What is the reason behind for not declaring the result of IRB 2019 batch for more than three years? The government must fulfil the commitment of your promises made before else you must accept that there is corruption somewhere in the recruitment process. Are you trying to select your relatives from your respective constituencies or still waiting for money? There might be so many reasons behind this because corruption, which is the fast spreading worst disease in the world, is the biggest loophole in a democracy. Politics is not a dirty game. The problem is many politicians play it dirtily with the right of the poor. Our society is being ruined deeply by the habit of corruption. Corruption is worse than prostitution. The latter might endanger the morals of an individual but the former invariably endangers the morals of the entire state as a whole.

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Bolstering Bangladesh-northeast India ties

By: Dr. Abantika Kumari

India and Bangladesh share a 4096-kilometer international boundary, nearly 1880 of which is with India's North-eastern Region (NER), which has a 1434-kilometer land border and a 446-kilometer river-based tract. India's NER is strategically positioned and might serve as the country's gateway to Southeast Asia. Bangladesh shares borders with Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. With the exception of Meghalaya, all states have land and river borders with Bangladesh. The longest land and river-based boundaries with Bangladesh are in Tripura and Mizoram. Closer economic integration and connection with Bangladesh would diminish these states' economic isolation while simultaneously strengthening their linkages with India's heartland.

India and Bangladesh share a 4096-kilometer international boundary, nearly 1880 of which is with India's North-eastern Region (NER), which has a 1434-kilometer land border and a 446-kilometer river-based tract. India's NER is ideally positioned and can serve as the resource-industry nexus between

Bangladesh and NER determines the current pattern of commerce between the two countries. Some important minerals are found in NER and are in high demand in Bangladesh. As a result, NER exports differ significantly from Bangladesh's commerce with mainland India.

Raw resources such as coal, limestone, stone chips, and bamboo are important NER exports to Bangladesh, while finished goods such as cement, plastic, goods, readymade clothing, processed food, and soft beverages are key imports. This makes a compelling case for increased trade between the two regions.

Agartala is 1650 kilometers from Kolkata and 2,637 kilometers from New Delhi through Shilong and Guwahati. The journey between Agartala and Kolkata via Bangladesh, on the other hand, is only about 550 kilometers.

Furthermore, the average distance between Bangladesh's major cities and northeast India is 20 to 300 kilometers. As a result, Bangladesh is always considered a

crucial site for NER's connectivity with mainland India by rail, road, and riverine routes. In light of these factors, Bangladesh has the potential to be a key source of rail, road, and river connectivity between the NER and mainland India.

Because of its strategic location, there are several opportunities for trade, transportation, commerce, and connection between the NER and Bangladesh. As a result, it is critical to map out some of the most important sectoral prospects.

Energy security: The Northeast Region contains around 63,000MW of hydropower energy. Bangladesh can benefit from the extra or underutilized power generated in NER by bolstering its power supply. As a result, cooperation in this industry can benefit both regions.

Connectivity with North Eastern India, namely the Seven Sisters, might be extremely beneficial to both parties. As a result, commercial clusters representing both India and Bangladesh should be formed in close proximity to such locations. This aim could be served by establishing G2G Economic cooperation. Energy security: Hydropower energy in the Northeast Region totals roughly 63,000MW. By increasing its power supply, Bangladesh can

profit from the extra or underutilized power generated in NER. As a result, industry cooperation can benefit both regions.

Connectivity with the Seven Sisters in North Eastern India might be immensely beneficial to both parties. As a result, economic clusters representing both India and Bangladesh should be established around such sites. Establishing G2G Economic Zones in Assam and Sylhet could help achieve this goal. ic. zones in Assam and Sylhet.

The first step toward increasing tourism between Bangladesh and the Seven Sisters will be to reopen all of the blocked border checkpoints to visitors. There are now only three border checkpoints spanning the states of Tripura and Meghalaya. We must look into the possibility of adding more border checkpoints and developing infrastructure, including communication lines. Furthermore, our international airport in Sylhet can act as a link between the secluded people of the northeast and the rest of the globe. Given the enormous number of state-of-the-art hospitals and educational institutions on this side of the border, Bangladesh can also draw a large number of NER population for medical and educational tourism.

Development of inland waterways: It is clear that both administrations are committed to revive inland navigation between Bangladesh and the NER. However, there are obstacles to making efficient use of the waterways. Heavy siltation, shifting channels, lack of needed water depth during the lean season, night navigation limits, and the absence of appropriate navigation aids are all examples. These issues must be addressed for the mutual benefit of Bangladesh and India's North Eastern Region.

To give access to sub-regional main cities and ports, the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement (BBIN MVA) would substantially help to cushion chances for cooperation. Under the BBIN MVA, the Bangladesh government is working to increase cross-border trade with NER. Furthermore, concerns such as speeding inter-regional links (i.e., roads, ports, rail, and inland waterways) with NER are already on the table for further debate and action.

In a meeting between Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Dhaka at the end of April, the Bangladesh premier offered India the use of Chittagong

Port. On behalf of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jaishankar was in Dhaka to extend an invitation to Prime Minister Hasina to visit New Delhi. Prime Minister Hasina pointed out that expanded linkages would allow India's landlocked Northeastern states of Assam and Tripura have access to the Chittagong port when discussing the necessity for greater connectivity between the two neighboring countries for mutual benefit.

This presents a lot of exciting prospects for the two countries to collaborate closely. Bangladesh has the potential to be a major element of India's effort to increase trade in the region as the globe 'pivots to Asia' and the Indian look East policy changes into the Act East policy.

Both the area and New Delhi would benefit from a larger role for the North East. Because of its proximity to Southeast Asia and Bangladesh, the region has the possibility to serve as a bridge for India while also benefiting economically and entrepreneurially.

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India Covid tally above 20K-mark for 4th straight day with 20,528 new cases

Agency
New Delhi, July 17:

Registering a mild but consistent rise in cases, India on Sunday reported 20,528 new coronavirus infections taking the country's tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,37,50,599, according to the Union Health Ministry updated data. While the active cases increased to 1,43,449, the death toll climbed to 5,25,709 with 49 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

Notably, the active cases comprise 0.33 per cent of the total Covid-19 infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.47 per cent, the ministry said. An increase of 2,689 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

Meanwhile, India reported 20,044 new Covid cases on Saturday crossing the 20,000 mark for the third consecutive day, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Saturday. The country had logged 20,038 infections on Friday. With this, the active cases in the country rose to 1,40,760 which was 1,39,073 on Friday.

According to the Ministry, 18,301 COVID patients recovered on Sunday and the number of recoveries since the onset of the pandemic stands at 4,30,63,651. The rate of recovery currently is 98.48 per cent. As many as 56 patients lost their lives on Saturday taking the death toll to 5,25,660.

Additionally, 4,17,895 COVID tests were conducted during this period and the daily positivity rate in the country

was 4.80 per cent (a little more than yesterday, 4.44 per cent), and the weekly positivity rate was 4.40 per cent (4.30 per cent yesterday). Under the nationwide vaccination drive in the country, 22,93,627 COVID vaccines were administered in the last 24 hours while 1,99,71,61,438 COVID doses have been jabbed in the country so far.

Meanwhile, with an aim to increase the uptake of the precautionary dose of COVID vaccine among the eligible adult population, 75 days - 'COVID Vaccination Amrit Mahotsava' will commence on Friday, informed the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

This special vaccination drive is a part of the celebration for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and aims to provide free precaution dose for all

adults (18 years and above) eligible population at Government COVID Vaccination Centres (CVCs).

At least 90 per cent of the country's population has been fully vaccinated against Covid-19, which according to experts has worked well in restricting the number of hospitalizations and deaths in the third Covid wave that began around January this year.

A top WHO scientist has cautioned on fresh Covid-19 waves and new variants. According to Soumya Swaminathan, the world needs to be "prepared for these COVID-19 waves as each new variant will be more transmissible, and immune evasive-higher numbers infected will translate into greater hospitalizations and sickness".

Japanese Encephalitis in Assam: Four deaths reported in past 24 hours; nine new cases reported in the flood-hit state



Agency
Guwahati, July 17:

The death toll due to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Assam rose to 27 this month on Saturday after four more people lost their lives in the past 24 hours. All four deaths were reported in Jorhat district. Meanwhile, nine fresh cases of the viral infection were reported in the flood-hit state.

A total of 169 cases of Japanese Encephalitis were detected in the state since July 1. Out of the nine cases detected on Saturday, three cases were reported from Golaghat district, two each from Sivasagar and Sonitpur along with one each from

Goalpara and Kokrajhar districts.

All the districts of the state have formed a District Rapid Response team on Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and JE, reported PTI. On Friday also four people lost their lives due to the infection, while 16 new cases were also detected.

Japanese Encephalitis is a viral brain infection that spreads by mosquitoes. Many people die of the viral infection and malaria during the monsoon flood season between May and October every year.

Meanwhile, the flood situation in Assam improved considerably on Saturday. No fresh flood-related deaths

were reported in the state in the past 24 hours. The death stood at 195. Around 1.48 lakh people are still suffering from the calamity.

Notably, the number of affected people due to the deluge in the state declined to 1,48,645 on Saturday from the previous day's 2,10,746. The water level in all rivers flowing in the state receded and they are not flowing over the danger mark.

According to the bulletin of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 271 villages in six revenue circles of five districts - Cachar, Chirang, Dima Hasao, Morigaon and Tamulpur are currently submerged under flood water.

Centre declared Assam floods as 'Severe Natural Calamity', providing funds for relief: CM Himanta

Agency
Guwahati, July 17:

Centre has declared this year's Assam floods, probably one of the worst in the state's history, as a "severe natural calamity", Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said here on Saturday. The Union government is providing funds to mitigate the hardships being faced by the affected people, he said, adding that the Centre will bear 90 per cent of the expenses for relief and rehabilitation.

Addressing a press conference after launching a scheme to provide a one-time payment of Rs 1,000 to students who have lost their textbooks in the deluge, he said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured to provide "whatever is required to mitigate hardships of people and rebuild infrastructure". Assam has witnessed two waves of floods since April 6, with the second having been devastating, affecting 90 lakh people or one-third of the state's population, while 195 people have lost their lives and 37 people are still missing.

"We had not witnessed a flood of this magnitude. Our pri-

ority was to evacuate affected people to relief camps, ensure their safety, provide medical aid and help them return home after the water receded. The task was challenging," he said. Over 98,500 people were evacuated, while 7,42,250 people were displaced and had taken shelter in relief camps, Sarma said.

"For the first time, the state government has taken a step to provide a one-time aid of Rs 3,800 per family as 'utensils grant' to those who have returned home. Around 1,89,752 families have been identified and the amount has been transferred to all but 35,000 families whose bank details are yet to be processed," he said. The state government has also decided to provide Rs 1,000 as one-time grant to each student inmate of relief camps and 1,01,537 of them have been identified.

"An amount of Rs 10.10 crore has been disbursed from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the purpose and with today's launch, the students will receive the amount in their bank accounts," he said. In addition to this, the Education Department will provide free textbooks to those students who have lost

their books in the floods, Sarma said.

The state government has also provided a compensation of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of those who have died in the floods this year. The ongoing assessment of damaged houses will continue till July 20, following which verification will be conducted by ministers and secretaries concerned who will be on the field from July 20 to 30, he said.

As per available data, 3,03,930 houses have been damaged, including 25,670 fully and 2,78,260 partially, with Cachar district having the highest number of 1,75,618 damaged houses. The compensation was expected to be given by August 16 and an amount of Rs 400 crore would be disbursed for the purpose, he said.

"We are also trying to include a new category for providing compensation to those whose houses have been completely washed away which will be given from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund," he said. The assessment and rebuilding of damaged infrastructure such as embankments, roads, bridges, schools, gov-

ernment buildings and anganwadi centres will be done in August.

"An estimated Rs 1,000 crore may be required for the purpose for which we expect to get the approval by September," he said. "The situation is challenging but we have dealt with it in an organised manner. We have not involved any middlemen but the amount is being transferred directly to the beneficiaries," Sarma said.

Asked if floods should be declared a 'national problem', the chief minister said that some social organisations have put forth such a demand but the Centre has already declared Assam floods as a 'severe natural calamity' and the state government is receiving necessary funds to deal with the situation. Asked whether a permanent solution to floods in the state is possible, he said that no scientist has so far said that the annual occurrence can be completely stopped but they "talk about mitigating or minimising or managing the flood". "The government is always trying to solve the problem but no permanent solution has been proposed yet," he added.

Tripura: 35 students hospitalized after consuming mid-day meal

Agency
Agartala, July 17:

At least 35 students of a Tripura school fell ill and were hospitalized after consuming mid-day meal.

Following the incident, the chief medical officer of Dhalai district in Tripura has ordered immediate seizure of vegetables, cooked stuff and other related materials for proper testing.

The students were from the junior basic English medium

school in Dhalai district of Tripura.

The incident took place at Longtharai Valley subdivisions Chawmanu area on Saturday.

Doctors said it was an alleged adverse effect of the food.

Sources said, "The students who were served the faulty meal could sense that it was no longer worthy of eating. Some students told their family members that there was a foul smell coming out of the Khichdi."

Meanwhile, soon after eating the food, students were feeling uneasy and some were vomiting.

They were rushed to the hospital and after primary treatment most of them were discharged.

As per the latest information, only eight to nine children are admitted who would be discharged by Sunday.

All the seized items and collected samples would be sent for testing on Monday.

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IRB 2019-there is no greater fraud than a promise....

Now a day, without corruption, there is no selection in any type of recruitment. Money dominates everything in our society. In our society, poor who is empty pocket has no one to help. If corruption is continued to root in our society in this trend, the coming youths might lose hope in education and in hard work. This will make a large gap between the poor and the rich in our society thereby creating inequality among them. Due to this, corruption erodes public trust in government institutions too. Corruption is on the rise with the weakening of the democracy, working hand in hand, feeding on weakened institutions and fundamentally unjust systems of power. Corruption is a complex phenomenon that occurs in different scales. It is a form of dishonesty or a criminal offence that abuses en-

trusted power for personal gain eroding trust, weakens democracy, hampers economic development, exacerbates inequality, poverty, social division, destroying the hope of youths.

There are so many schemes, policies and programmes of the government. Every year, there comes one after another and the concerned minister or the leader of the government inaugurates them, announcing the schemes and policies that might help and give essential facilities to the people. After all, due to the inefficiency of the government and its executives, no one takes care of it. The problem is that government does not have the proper mechanism to monitor or check the functionality after being inauguration of the said schemes and policies. Let us discuss some of the

government's policies and programmes that words don't match with actions. Where is the Chief Minister mobile help line Number (9534795347). I personally had made a complaint to look into a case regarding land dispute happened in our locality but no positive response came from the government side even after two months. Even though the government has initiated the 'school phagathansi programme' as shown in the recent BOSEM result, the performance of the government schools is not upto the expectancy of the people because nearly 40 government schools hit zero pass percentage due to the lack of monitoring of the schools. Let me mention one more burning issue of the state. Due to the imbalance distribution of fertilizers to the farmers, presently there are agita-

tions, protests and violent activities in many parts of the state, demanding adequate and proper distribution of urea. The farmers are demanding that the fertilizers should be distributed without any political connections. They allege that the government makes false promises on fertilizers. Farmers across the state are facing short supply of fertilizers for the on-going paddy crop season even the agriculture minister claimed that there was no dearth of urea in the government. This shows the lack of good policy and inefficiency of the government.

Abraham Lincoln has once said, "Democracy is the government of the people, by the people and for the people". We all know no one is perfect. We also agree that the present government is trying to do good things at their best level for the

sake of our people. We see so many differences in the state after the present government came to power. The rapidly growing population gives an alarming mass unemployment across the country and state. Peoples are expecting a lot from the present government too. The government had made several promises that they would surely declare the IRB result without any delay after the covid-19 pandemic but the post pandemic, they become silent. Since, it is centrally sponsored recruitment, I think, it will not affect the financial condition of the state at all. Then what is the problem? When some youths agitate against the government for not declaring the said IRB result, the state government responses with the statement that the IRB is a discipline force and those who agitate can't be the discipline

defence personnel and can't serve the nation. The government even warned that they would not select those who were on agitation/protest. Actually, what the government responded on that is totally wrong. Since the IRB result is not declared by the government even after three years, youths who had participated the recruitment rally are agitating so that the result may declare as soon as possible. The government has the full right to take actions against those who protest and agitate but I am saying that the government must first fulfil the commitment of your promises made before. The government should also accept your mistakes too. There is a human tendency that it is easy to judge the mistakes of others but difficult to recognise his/her own mistakes. Since the government is not keeping the

promises that had made, the government is also guilty at one side. People can fight for their very right. India is a democratic country not an elected autocracy. So, the government should not postpone the declaration of IRB result further at all else people and youths of the state will lose faith in the government. Youths are the pillars of a nation. They are going to make the future of a country and the government should at least listen to their voice. Every politicians should remember that you must keep your promises as when you keep your promises, it will always make you alive in politics otherwise with the course of time, the people, who cried for their right, will make you the ordinary man, you were before, in the next election. Don't talk, just act. Don't say, just show. Don't promise, just prove.

INS Sindhudhvaj Decommissioned After 35 Years of Glorious Service

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 17:

A submarine INS Sindhudhvaj was decommissioned after serving the nation for a glorious period of 35 years, at naval dockyard, in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh in presence of top Indian Navy officers at the sunset on Saturday.

The traditional ceremony was conducted, with an over-cast sky adding to the solemnity of the occasion when the Decommissioning Pennant was lowered and the submarine was paid off after a glorious patrol of 35 Years.

Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command was the Chief Guest for the ceremony. The decommissioning event was attended by 15 of the former Commanding Officers including Commodore SP Singh (Retd), the Commissioning CO, and 26 Commissioning crew veterans, an Indian Navy official statement said.

The submarine was acquired from the Soviet Union in 1987. The submarine crest depicts a gray colour nurse shark and the name means flag bearer at sea. Sindhudhvaj, as the name suggests, was the flag bearer



Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, FOC-in-C, ENC, and other officers on board INS Sindhudhvaj before she was decommissioned on Saturday.

of indigenization and the Indian Navy's efforts towards achieving "Atmanirbharta" (self-reliance) in the Russian-built Sindhughosh class submarines throughout her journey in the navy.

She had many firsts to her credit including operationalization of the indigenized sonar USHUS, Indigenised Satellite Communication systems Rukmani and MSS, Inertial Navigation System, and Indigenised Torpedo Fire Control System.

She also successfully undertook mating and personnel transfer with Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel and was the only submarine to be awarded the CNS Rolling trophy for Innovation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

She was the first Kilo-class submarine and was part of Project 877 EKMs, the world's commonly visible conventional submarines with 62 units currently in service across nine navies in the world. 877EKM submarine is

powered by diesel-electric propulsion with two 1,000kW diesel generators and one 5,500hp propulsion motor.

India acquired eight such subs between 1986 and 1991. It later acquired two more submarines from the Russian Federation, between 1998 and 2000. They were the navy's first submarines that could fire anti-ship and land attack cruise missiles from beneath the surface, making them a formidable force multiplier in the naval fleet.

Committee on Naga issue urges Modi, Shah to invite NSCN (IM) for conclusion

Agency
Dimapur, July 17:

Nagaland's Parliamentary Committee on the Naga Political Issue on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to invite the NSCN (IM) leaders for an early conclusion of the Naga issue since the talks concluded officially on October 31, 2019.

The committee also urged the negotiating parties to refer to the competencies as reflected in the Framework Agreement of August 3, 2015, signed between the government of India and the NSCN-IM, to arrive at a mutually acceptable "definition of competencies" to resolve this contentious issue at the earliest and bring about a final solution that is honourable, acceptable and inclusive.

Adopting a four-point resolution at a meeting in Kohima, the committee welcomed the positive initiatives being taken by the government of India and the working committee of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) on the ongoing peace dialogue, a statement issued by chief minister Neiphiu Rio, deputy chief minister Y Patton, United Democratic Alliance chairman TR Zeliang and Naga People's Front Legislature Party leader Kuzholuo Nienu said. It also appreciated and welcomed the efforts made by the Naga political groups in taking the talks forward.

While welcoming the statements and observations made by various organisations and individuals calling for unity and early solution, the parliamentary committee appealed to all sections to refrain from making statements that may create misunderstanding and disunity and may stand in the way of "our common and collective endeavour" to achieve genuine and lasting peace.

Stating that it is not a party to the Naga political negotiations, the parliamentary committee said it is playing the role of facilitator, representing and reflecting the voice of the people. "This role will continue to be pursued in a serious manner," it said.

"We stand by the commitments of the constituent political parties as reflected in their respective manifestos to pave the way in the event of political solution being arrived at," the statement added.

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'India Creates History Again!': PM Modi, Mansukh Mandaviya hail 200 Crore....

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced on March 1 last year for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions. Vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years began on April 1 last year. The government then decided to expand the ambit of the vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 years to be inoculated against Covid from May 1 last year.

Inoculation of adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years commenced on January 3. India began administering precaution doses of vaccines to healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10.

The country began inoculating children aged 12-14 from March 16 and also removed the comorbidity clause making all people aged above 60 eligible for the precaution dose of Covid vaccine. India on April 10 began administering precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all aged above 18 years.

BJP leader JP Nadda and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also congratulated the country on the feat.

Parliament Monsoon Session...

> The session will begin on July 18 and is scheduled to continue till August 12.
> There will be 18 sittings during the session and a total time of 108 hours will be available.
> Of the 108 hours, about

62 hours will be for government business. The remaining time has been allotted for Question Hour, Zero Hour and private members' business.
> The business for the session includes 14 pending bills and 24 new bills.

> Like previous sessions of the Parliament, proper COVID-19 protocol will be followed in this session and adequate arrangements have been made in this regard.

Assam Rifles conducted interaction with Manipur University Student leaders

IT News
Imphal, July 17:

Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised an interaction with Manipur University student leaders to include Manipur University Student Union (MUSU) President and General Secretary who have recently assumed office after student union elections at Keithelmanbi in Imphal West district on 16 July 22.

It provided an opportunity for a healthy interaction and aligning students of Manipur University towards the common goal of development along with peace and tranquillity in the region, with them being the

future leaders of the State and Country. There was also a healthy discussion on how Assam Rifles and student unions can work together in harmony for growth, opportunity and youth empowerment to supplement and ensure peace in coordination with all stakeholders. Guiding students to join Armed Forces and career

counselling were discussed at length. Increased sporting engagement was also deliberated to promote 'Khelo India' and 'Fit India Campaign'. The interaction concluded with felicitation of student leaders and musical performance by the Manipur University Student Union (MUSU) President and other members.

Sports

PM Narendra Modi, Sports minister Anurag Thakur lead reactions as PV Sindhu clinches maiden Singapore Open title

Agency
Singapore, July 17:

Indian shuttler and Olympic medalist PV Sindhu continued her magical run and clinched her maiden Singapore Open Super 500 title after beating China's Wang Zhi Yi in the final on Sunday, July 17. Sindhu won the championship in a thrilling final by 21-9, 11-21, 21-15.

Sindhu, who advanced to the women's singles final with a comfortable victory over Japan's Saena Kawakami in semi-final that lasted just 32 minutes, started the game strongly winning the first set with a huge margin. Zhi Yi then came storming back into the match as she kept the 27-year-old at bay for the most of the set and won it easily in the end 21-11.

The final set saw some of the thrilling badminton on show with both Sindhu and Zhi Yi getting a point one after the another and the scoreline



remained quite near to each other. Sindhu, however, kept the lead throughout even if it was of 2 or three points and that mattered in the end, in her own admission as she trumped the World No. 11 21-15.

Speaking after the match,

Sindhu said, "I am relieved I should say. It was a good match. After winning the first set, I think second game was like I have given her continuous points from the beginning, so it was really hard for me to catch up but I think third game, each point was important because after 11 she was coming close and it was 9-11 at some point even though I was leading like 11-6. So it was very crucial where I maintained the lead, I was maintaining those two points."

"Of course, I am very very happy. I am also happy because after long time coming here and playing in Singapore, getting this wins means a lot to me," she added.

The moment she won the Singapore Open, reactions started coming in from the Honourary Prime Minister of India and other dignitaries including the sports minister, chief ministers of different states and of course the fans.

PM Narendra Modi, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur led the reactions as Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh and deputy CM of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnis, former Indian cricketer Kiran More among others congratulated Sindhu on the win.

This was Sindhu's third title of the ongoing season after Syed Modi International and Swiss Open BWF Super 300 titles and she was glad that she could be able to win in Singapore having come to the country after a long time.

UEFA Women's Euro 2022: Spain to play England in Quarterfinals

Agency
London, July 17:

Spain will play host nation England in the quarterfinals at the Women's European Championship after beating Denmark 1-0 to finish second in Group B on Saturday.

Denmark, losing finalist in the last continental showpiece in 2017, exits in the group stage. A draw would have been enough for Spain to hold onto second place and it took until the 90th minute for Marta Cardona's looping header from Olga Carmona's cross to clinch the victory.

Spain will play England on Wednesday on the south coast in Brighton in its third consecutive last-eight appearance in the UEFA tournament.

Germany had already clinched top spot in Group B before beating Finland 3-0 in Saturday's other game. There were goals from Sophia Kleinherne's header, Alexandra Popp and Nicole Anyomi.

Germany, which won the last of its record eight European titles in 2013, will play Austria in the last eight on Thursday in Brentford.

After missing the last two European Championships through injury, Popp has three goals in three games at this tournament in England, the latest a header early in the second half from Kathrin-Julia Hendrich's cross.

On Sunday in Group C, the Netherlands needs to avoid losing to last-placed Switzerland to extend its title defence into the quarterfinals.

Sweden, which is second in the group level on four points with the Netherlands, plays Portugal. The Swedes ranked second in the world, need only to draw to go through, while Portugal has to win and hope the Dutch avoid defeat to advance.

Captain - Spain's Marta Cardona, left, celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the Women Euro 2022 group B match between Denmark and Spain at Brentford Community Stadium in London, England, Saturday, July 16, 2022.