

Cooking gas prices up by Rs. 50 per cylinder, commercial LPG rate slashed

New Delhi, July 06:

Indian households using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking have to pay Rs. 50 more for a 14.2 kg cylinder as state-run firms raised its price to Rs. 1,053 per refill in New Delhi from Wednesday even as the rate of commercial LPG has been slashed by Rs. 206.50 per 19 kg cylinder.

The price of domestic LPG used by over 305 million households for cooking on Wednesday jumped from Rs. 1,003 per 14.2 kg cylinder in Delhi after remaining the same for almost one-and-a-half months.

Prices of cooking gas vary across the country based on local levies and transportation costs. Its cost in Kolkata is now Rs. 1,079 per 14.2 kg cylinder, Rs. 1,052.50 in Mumbai, and Rs. 1,068.50 in Chennai.

The state-run LPG suppliers have reduced prices of the fuel used for commercial



purposes (19 kg cylinder) twice this month – first, by Rs. 198 per refill on July 1, and then by Rs. 8.5 per cylinder on July 6. The commercial cylinders are used in hotels, restaurants and for industrial applications.

The petroleum ministry, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd did not respond to an email seeking reasons for raising do-

mestic LPG prices, but reducing prices of commercial LPG.

India's cooking gas market is dominated by the three state-run energy firms. IOC rates are treated as the industry benchmark.

Although cooking gas (domestic LPG) rates have crossed the Rs. 1,000 per cylinder mark, this is not the peak rate of the fuel. In January 2014, it was Rs. 1,241 per cylinder in Delhi. The rates remained volatile after Janu-

ary 2014. Since May 1, 2020 (at Rs. 581.5 per cylinder), the prices only moved up barring a Rs. 10 per cylinder price reduction in April 2021, according to official data.

LPG is the key fuel for Indian households. According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), the data keeper of the petroleum ministry, the three state-run firms together have 305.3 million active LPG customers in the domestic category being served by 25,269 LPG distributors. Besides, 7.75 million domestic consumers also use piped natural gas (PNG).

India's total LPG coverage was around 99.8% as on April 1, 2021, according to PPAC. The LPG coverage is calculated by state-run firms based upon the active LPG domestic connections and the estimated number of households. The number of households has been projected by companies based on 2011 census data.

RD & PR Minister Khemchand holds review meeting



IT News
Imphal, July 6:

Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (RD & PR) Minister, Yumnam Khemchand Singh today chaired a meeting to take stock of the implementation of Mission Amrit Sarovar and National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) App for taking real time attendance of workers of MGNREGA at worksites with district officials of RD & PR and DRDA.

The minister was accompanied by Commissioner, RD & PR, Devesh Daval, Joint Secretary RD & PR, Ng. Roben Singh and officials concerned. The meeting was held at the Conference Hall of DC Office, Bishnupur. Zilla Parishad Members, RK Dayanand CEO, ZP Bishnupur/District Programme Coordinator MGNREGA, H. Bobby Sharma, ADC/Project Director,

DRDA, concerned BDOs, officials and staff of RD & PR and DRDA attended the meeting from the district administration.

During the meeting, the officials highlighted problems and challenges before the minister and also informed him that under the Mission Amrit Sarovar the district has been assigned for development of fifteen (15) water bodies five (5) each for the three blocks. The three blocks are Nambol, Bishnupur and Moirang. The district officials also stressed that the district has already begun using the NMMS App.

In the meeting, Khemchand emphasized on the importance of proper implementation and timely completion of the schemes, and said that the officials and staff of the department should work to meet the targets set for the Mission Amrit Sarovar. He said that the success of the scheme lies in the working together of all

concerns. He also stressed on the need for implementing the real time attendance record of the workers of MGNREGA through NMMS App.

Later the Ministerial team inspected the construction works taken up under MGNREGA. The ministerial team visited Toubul GP to inspect a playground executed under MGNREGA at Toubul Mamang Leikai, pucca drain construction at Ngaikhong Khullen Bazaar and Keinou GP Community Hall and Market Shed constructed as convergence work.

Mention may be made that the Prime Minister has launched Mission Amrit Sarovar on 24th April 2022 with a view to conserve water for the future. The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Cong attacks Centre over hike in prices of LPG cylinder

New Delhi, July 06:

The Congress on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre over hike in price of LPG cylinder and termed it "anti-people".

"Today, the price of domestic LPG cylinder was increased by Rs 50. I want to ask the Modi government who will buy the cylinder at an 'exorbitant' price. This is anti-

people," Congress spokesperson Ragini Nayak said at a press conference at the party headquarters here.

She also claimed that during the Congress-led UPA government, the price of domestic LPG was between Rs 400 to Rs 450.

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nayak asked where is the 'acche din' (good days).

During the 2014 general elections, Narendra Modi had

made 'price rise' a very big issue and gave the slogan of acche din? Where is the acche din? It is only for 'mitron' (friend) of Modi ji," she said.

The Congress spokesperson also informed that the party will launch a nationwide protest from tomorrow over price rise.

Earlier, Congress Deputy Leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi in a tweet wrote, "Poor and the middle class Indians are feeling the maximum bur-

den of PM Modi's mismanagement of the Indian economy. Acche Din is only for big business who are given tax cuts, subsidies, and monopolies."

The price of 14.2 kg domestic cylinder was increased by Rs 50, while that of five kg by Rs 18 on Wednesday.

According to the price notification of Indian Oil Corporation, now a non-subsidised 14.2 kg cylinder will cost Rs 1,053 in Delhi.

'Scarcity of silk yarn worries State's Handloom Weavers & Artisans'

Memorandum submitted to CM highlighting the grievances of the state weavers

IT News
Imphal, July 06:

Representatives of the State Handloom Weavers and Handicrafts Artisan and Entrepreneur, who are engaging into manufacturing of handloom and handicraft products by using silk yarn and cocoons are not available today and it is directly impacting upon the marginalised weavers of the society. Like giving cotton yarns at subsidised rates by the Manipur Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation Ltd. And the National Handloom

Development Corporation Ltd. At discount rates of 10% to 20% to weavers, silk yarns are not made available at discount which is also included in the memorandum. "The aged old weaving occupation in Manipur remains a thriving cottage industry whose techniques are handed down from generation to generation telling history of Manipur with producing cloths of unique and distinctive qualities and standing strong as giver of second largest employment opportunities next to agriculture. That, Handloom Products of silk yarn such as Saree, Rani-Phee, Phaneek, Chuni, Shirting and Lengyan etc. are so popular and highly demanded by customers from inside and outside of the state of Manipur. That, Scarcity of silk yarn and irregularity in its scanty available in the state is nowadays being faced by the state's nearly 4 lakh weavers. That, it is as if there is no silk production in the state though having a separate Department of Sericulture as all kinds of silk yarn

are procured from outside states. That, the uncontrolled price hike of the insufficiently available silk yarn is giving tremendous impact upon the livelihoods of the state's weavers who are mostly belonging to marginalized section even though they are weaving exquisite cloths signifying the identity of Manipuri community", the memorandum stated.

The State Handloom Weavers and Handicrafts Artisan and Entrepreneur urged the Chief Minister to take up initiatives to ensure availability of the required silk yarn or cocoons at controlled and subsidised rate to weavers and artisans through identified departments or agencies in the earliest so as to redressing the crying demand for silk yarns by the state's weavers, artisans and entrepreneurs.

The memorandum also demanded for a state sponsored Depot of Silk-yarn and Cocoons to redressing raw material problems facing by the weavers and artisans and also enforcement of State Policy for Silk-Yarn and Cocoons.

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UCM to pay homage to martyrs at Mount Manipur

IT News
Imphal, July 06:

Members of the United Committee Manipur visiting Mount Manipur in Andaman and Nicobar island to pay homage to the departed ancestors of Manipur. The team leaves Imphal today for the Island. The team will stay from July 6 to July 10, and is expected to return Imphal, after paying tributes to the 23 martyred who had been sent to the Island by British troops for waging war against the Queen.

It may be mentioned that Mount Harriet in Andaman has been named Mount Manipur in tribute to freedom fighters from Manipur by the Government of India in October 2021. Credit goes to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for acknowledging and honouring the freedom fighters of Manipur.

AR claims arrests of 2 UGs



IT News
Imphal, July 06:

A statement by Assam Rifles has claimed arrest of two important cadres of armed insurgents PREPAK and MNPF. While the PREPAK cadre was reported to have been arrested by combined troops of AR and the Manipur Police from Kakching district today another UG identified as a defence secretary of the armed group MNPF was reported to have

been arrested from Imphal East district yesterday.

The Assam Rifles statement said that the PREPAK cadre was arrested by the joint Security force from Sugnu Bazar, Kakching district, Manipur today. The arrested UG was handed over to Sugnu Police Station for further investigation.

In another crack down Keithelmanbi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint op-

eration with Manipur Police apprehended a Self Styled Defence Secretary of proscribed group MNPF in Imphal East district, Manipur on Tuesday, the AR statement said.

The apprehended insurgent was handed over to Lamlai Police Station for further investigation.

The AR statement however, did not disclose the name of the two UGs whom they claimed arrested and handed over to police.

★ Editorial

For NDA sponsored Presidential candidate, even small state like Manipur is taken seriously

Few hours visit of Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu to the state of Manipur talks volumes. Already a BJP headed government with 3 MPs (2 in Lok Sabha and 1 in Rajya Sabha), and the Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh gestures of full support to the NDA sponsored Indian President candidate, by even accompanying her during the filing of nomination on June 24 showed that, even without personally visiting the state for the presidential election campaign scheduled on July 18. Vote values of the MLAs of the Manipur State Legislative Assembly may be less and of the 60 legislators, the Presidential candidate is expected to get just 55 votes as 5 congress MLAs will certainly go for the UPA sponsored candidate Yashwant Sinha. May be because, the former leader of BJP, now, the presidential candidate supported by the UPA consider waste of time campaigning in Manipur as the number expected is just 5 Congress MLAs whose vote values is much lower than other state legislators of bigger states. As per information from the Election Commission of India (ECI), the vote value of each legislator in Manipur is 18. This is much lower as compare to the vote values of MLAs of Uttar Pradesh. UP legislators vote value is 208 for each MLAs. The state has 403 seats in the state legislative Assembly. Manipur have 3 MPs, two in the Lok Sabha and another one in the Rajya Sabha who can cast vote in the presidential election. Mary Kom, the RS MP is exempted from voting as per the election rules.

This year, the value of the vote of an MP has been fixed at 700 by the Election Commission of India. Those in preventive detention can vote and those in jail will have to apply for parole and if they get parole, they can vote.

Among states, the value of the vote of MLAs differs because of the strength of the Legislative Assembly and the population in the respective states. However, to maintain uniformity in the representation of the value among MLAs, a formula is applied based on the population of the state; The total population of the state (as per 1971 census) / Total number of elective seats in the Legislative Assembly x 1000= Value of votes of members of Electoral College (MLAs).

President Ram Nath Kovind's tenure is ending on July 24 and on July 25 his successor will be sworn in as the 16th President of India. The total number of electors for the election will be 4,809 - 776 MPs and 4,033 MLAs. These include 233 Rajya Sabha members and 543 from Lok Sabha.

While the MPs will cast their vote in Parliament, the MLAs will do so in their respective state assemblies.

Now, the battle lines for coming Presidential election have been drawn.

Belonging to the Santhal community from Odisha, 64-year-old, Murmu was named the Presidential candidate of the BJP-NDA on Tuesday, hours after former union Minister Yashwant Sinha was declared the joint nominee of major opposition parties including the Congress, TMC and NCP.

The NDA commands 48 per cent of the electoral college vote. But remaining 52 percent is a divided house. Five non-BJP parties were absent at June 15 Opposition parties meeting called by Mamata Banerjee to revolve a consensus.

The importance of the Presidential poll for the opposition lies in effecting the maximum possible unity amongst non-BJP parties in preparation for 2014 Lok Sabha polls and going for a candidate, and who can symbolize its counter narrative.

The president in our set up does not enjoy executive powers. The 42nd amendment enacted during the Emergency made the advice of Council of Ministers binding on the President. Though the Janata Dal government undid many of the draconian laws enacted by Indira Gandhi, it left the provision subscribing the President's role untouched.

Every Prime Minister has sought a President of his or her choice. It is easier for a powerful Prime Minister who commands a majority, like Narendra Modi and Indira Gandhi to have their way. The President may be a figure head but she/he has power to appoint the PM, to ask his cabinet to reconsider a decision or to delay decisions by sitting on them, amongst other things.

An adventurous President like Zail Singh in 1987 was on the verge of sacking the then Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi despite his unprecedented majority of 414 Lok Sabha MPs and offered to swear-in Vice-President R. Venkataraman as PM instead. RV refused, and so did V P Singh, who was also sounded out. Fortunately, Zail Singh, pulled out from brink. At the last moment.

Van Mahotsav: Festival of Forests and Trees

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Every July, since 1950, thousands of saplings are planted throughout India in observance of Van Mahotsav, a festival of trees. The history of Van Mahotsav Day dates back to 1947 when it was first organized by Punjabi Botanist MS Randhawa from 20 to 27 July. The then Delhi Police Commissioner Khursid Ahmad Khan inaugurated the first event of Van Mahotsav on 20 July 1947 to stress the impact of deforestation on flora and fauna. A flourishing plantation drive was undertaken by national leaders like Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Jawaharlal Nehru. Since then, the tradition of celebrating Van Mahotsav and planting trees has continued. In 1950, it was declared as a national activity by the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Kanaiyaka Maneklal Munshi. Later on, the festival was moved to the first week in July and was renamed to Van Mahotsav in 1950. This movement was started, as an attempt to spread awareness regarding the perils of deforestation and to restore the forest cover of the country, one plant at a time. Over the years, this venture has gained momentum and the Van Mahotsav in India is now celebrated in several parts of the country as a week-long festival, typically falling in the first week of July. Individuals, communities, and organizations do their bit for the environment by planting trees of different species in their locality. These tree plantation drives aim to help reverse global warming and pollution and to educate the population regarding the benefits of preserving the forest cover of the nation.

India is a land of revolutionary environmentalists who have devoted all their energy to restoring the greenery of the country. One such enterprising individual is **Padama Shri Jadav Payeng**, the man who single-handedly grew a forest on the once barren sandbar of the Brahmaputra River. Payeng is living proof of the fact that if you have the determination, you can make a huge difference to the planet with just your own hands and an undying spirit. Another role model when it comes to conservation of

forests is Dr. Anil Malhotra, who has created India's first private wildlife sanctuary, spanning over an area of 300 acres. The Sai Sanctuary is an excellent example of how one man's vision to change the face of the planet can actually provide shelter to so many different species of plants and animals. If these environmentalists can transform treeless lands into forests then so can you. It all begins with planting just one tree in your backyard.

Remember, the core idea of Van Mahotsav is not just to plant a tree, but also to nurture it throughout its lifespan. This is why Van Mahotsav in India is observed in the monsoon season because the rains create a favorable environment for the plants to survive in the soil. Among all the fun and frolic of the rainy season, this is one of the monsoon activities that will ensure that the country continues to receive a fair amount of rain in the decades ahead. Tourdefarm supports Van Mahotsav and appeals to all agri-tourism center and farm stay owners to participate in the event and contribute to tree plantation throughout this monsoon season. Let us make our farms greener and create sustainable ecosystems that can thrive and flourish to provide nourishment to the future generations. Adding tree plantation drives to the list of monsoon activities at the farm stay will not only add to the beauty of the farm but will also motivate the tourists to play an active role in environmental preservation.

The dwindling number of rainy days and increase in the intensity of precipitation events raises serious question on the increasing developmental activities taking place at the cost of cutting a large number of trees. India has long been vulnerable to floods, droughts, heat waves, cyclones and other natural disasters and this trend is increasing with each day. India today is facing a much bigger challenge of deforestation, which further exacerbated by the ever increasing population. This is resulting in industrial as well as agricultural expansion thereby exerting great pressure on land resource. The impact of this is felt most on the for-

est, which is being ruthlessly cut down and is most threatened around the fringes. Wildlife living in on these forest resources is also facing the heat and human-wildlife conflict in India today is more than it has even been in the last 70 years. However, a large section of the society remains unaware of these challenges being faced by the forest and wildlife of India. With continuous human intervention against nature, these disasters can no longer be considered "Natural". An immediate example that comes to our minds is that colossal event that has occurred recently in Uttarakhand, which claimed the life of thousands of tourists and left many stranded. To further highlight the importance of trees, we can take example of dense mangrove forests growing along the coastal areas of our country which helped in reducing the devastating effects of Tsunami in 2004. They absorbed the oncoming waves and protected a large number of human habitations.

The Van Mahotsav, festival of trees is a beautiful initiative to save the environment, to which we owe a lot. Generally, native trees are planted as they readily adapted the local conditions, integrate into ecosystem and have a high survival rate. Besides, such trees are helpful in supporting local birds, insects and animals as well. Van Mahotsav week is celebrated in India to encourage people to plant more and more trees as they are being cut down on a large scale for industrialization and urbanization. Trees contribute to the production of food resource, maintain ecological balance, improve air quality, climate amelioration, conserve water, preserve soil, support wildlife, reduce drought and prevents soil erosion and pollution. Deforestation is a worrying concern and Van Mahotsav week aims to bring more and more people together to grow and save forest. Reports suggest that regions having a high population density and high forest cover were not much impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. During this week, many organizations like The World Wildlife Fund and Amazon

Watch are fighting hard to promote afforestation and create awareness.

The government organizes various plantation drives at various levels to encourage people to plant trees. We can also do our part. Van Mahotsav can be celebrated by planting more and more trees every day and by telling more and more people to do the same. One can stop buying products that are produced or made by destroying forest and avoid using them. Plant tree at your homes, school, office and college and take part in various awareness campaign. Initiative like the free circulation of trees can also be taken up by various volunteers and organizations. Workshops can be conducted in schools to teach children about the need for planting trees and how it helps in preventing global warming and reducing pollution. We can also practice the 3R rules and lower the need for raw materials from trees and forests. The tribals of India are the rich source of knowledge and many tribals groups are in fact the guardians of the forest in which they dwell. This makes them important in our efforts to protect the forest and frontline soldier in our fight against environmental degradation. On the seven days of Van Mahotsav, we can ensure that we learn about at least 7 tribal groups inhabiting India on each of the 7 days. This will give us a rich reintroduction to our country and will also enrich us culturally. Van Mahotsav therefore needs to go beyond planting trees and include forest awareness and education as a part of this splendid festival. After all, we cannot fully celebrate what we don't fully understand. Forest awareness will help citizens become more aware and sensitized about the forest resource on they depend. It will also help raise awareness of the plight of our forest, the declining number of wildlife and help initiate action for the overall protection of the biodiversity. Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky. Let us join hands and save mother earth by doing this small contribution.

(Writer can be reached to: sjugheshwor7@gmail.com)

Why do India-Bangladesh bilateral ties reflect better mutual understanding?

By: Dr Arpita Hazarika

India continues to place a high priority on its friendship with Bangladesh in a variety of ways, and Bangladesh is given priority under the nation's "neighborhood first" policy. The connection between the two nations is greater than it has ever been, and both nations are in an exceptional situation right now.

As both nations develop as neighbors and emerge from several conflicts and difficulties, their relationship is not only historical but also important now. Prior to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in September, 2022, which was invited by her counterpart Prime Minister Narendra Modi, there are plans to further engagement on the golden anniversary of the beginning of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

There is only one perspective through which India-Bangladesh ties should be viewed: as a crucial component for the reciprocal development of both countries. The Indian President Ram Nath Kovind's State visit to Bangladesh last year to attend the 50th Victory Day festivities as the guest of honor was one of many high-level interactions the two countries held over the course of the previous year.

In March of last year, Indian Prime Minister Modi traveled to Bangladesh for the first time. It has been determined that both of the visits are significant historically.

Bangladesh has so far maintained its foreign policy of "friendliness to all, enmity to none," without harming its dependable allies, while successfully interacting with the world's most powerful nations to enhance its economic capabilities and contribute more to world peace. Bangladesh is likely to avoid harm despite the tumultuous politics and trade throughout the world because of the nation's careful leadership and practical strategies. Since 1996, when Sheikh Hasina's Awami League came into power, relations between Bangladesh and India have improved.

It is simple to understand why India is Bangladesh's most obvious ally. The country's diplomatic, political, and military support for Bangladesh's independence ensured that it will always hold a special place in the hearts of its citizens and in the good graces of our foreign policy.

As the two governments work to strengthen their relationship even further, they should take advantage of their shared historical background to address some of the issues that have damaged India's reputation in the eyes of the Bangladeshi people, who believe that the two nations have not historically interacted as equal partners.

But many controversial issues between the two nations were resolved, including border demarcation,

enclave exchanging, cross-border communication connectivity, opening of more border points for trade and the sharing of river water such as Ganges River water sharing treaty in 1996. However, there are still certain concerns, such as how to share the water from the Teesta River, that need to be resolved. Cross-border trade was prompted by the transit, transshipment, and connectivity agreements that the two nations signed. They have also eliminated cross-border insurgency issues by removing insurgent camps from either country's territory.

Several thousand Indian soldiers died during the Bangladesh Liberation War while fighting alongside Bangladesh Mukti Joddas against Pakistani forces. All of the Indian and Bangladeshi martyrs who lost their lives in the conflict are honored by Bangladesh. After the war, the Soviet Union dispatched a salvage team to empty the Chittagong port channel of sunken ships in order to reopen the port.

During the last twelve years, under the leadership of Bangladesh's Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's government has taken bold steps towards strengthening its relations with India in depth and dimensions. India-Bangladesh's shared

history, geography, culture and values, and shared commitment to peace, security and development have given us unique confidence to forge partnership not only on the bilateral front but on a wide range of issues. They have attained tangible results in many areas, such as, settling land and maritime boundary demarcation, security, connectivity, development cooperation, cultural exchange, power and energy, trade and commerce, blue economy, defence and so on. The President and the Prime Minister of India visited Bangladesh to join Bangladesh's various programmes to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence, the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and India. Year 2021 has created a fresh momentum and enthusiasm in their bilateral relationship which needs to be carried forward through continuous dialogues and deliberations. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh visited New Delhi to attend 7th Joint Consultative Commission (JCC), co-chaired by Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and India, held on 19 June 2022, where both the Foreign Ministers touched upon all the major areas of our bilateral relationship.

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The First Hydrogen Boat Prototype Launched at Mazagon Docks in Mumbai

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 06:

The first hydrogen boat prototype (Fuel Cell Electric Vessel (FCEV)) conceptualized and developed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd was recently launched at Mazagon in South Mumbai.

The vessel was launched by MDL CMD Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad (Indian Navy Retd.) on Friday, in presence of Director (Submarine and Heavy Engineering) Commander Jasbir Singh (IN Retd.), Director (Finance) Sanjeev Singhal, Director (Shipbuilding) Biju George, and Director (Corporate Planning and Personnel) Commander Vasudev Puranik (IN Retd.), and the senior executives from Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. and MDL.

The initiative is part of the Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry's plan to develop and build indigenous Hydrogen Fuelled Electric Vessels to promote green shipping. Vijai Marine Services Private Ltd is the technology partner in the project with MDL.



The first hydrogen boat prototype was launched at Mazagon Docks in Mumbai. (Inset): MDL CMD Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad (IN Retd) and other officers at the launch of the boat.

The Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessels based on Low-Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane Technology (LT-PEM) called FCEV are being built to keep pace with the Global Maritime Green Transitions and as a cost-effective alternate fuel front.

It is a 6 Passenger boat, fitted with a 6 KW Electric OBM, a 10.2 KWH Battery, Fuel Cell System and can run for 22 Hours with compressed Hydrogen filled in PESO-approved Cylinders. The FCEV uses a green

hydrogen fuel cell system having zero toxic emissions and very few moving parts with very low heat and acoustic signature.

MDL has taken up the challenge of developing Fuel Cell-based Electric Vessels to demonstrate that a pioneering spirit combined with innovation can pave the way towards a new energy revolution and so reduce our impact on the planet, an official statement said.

Frigate
In another development the keel of the fourth stealth frig-

ate on Project 17A was laid by Rear Admiral G K Harish, Director General Naval Design-of the Indian Navy at Yard- 12654, in Mazagon Dock Limited.

P17A warships are follow-on warships of the "Shivalik" class stealth frigates. Seven frigates in this series will be constructed of which four are being constructed in Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three in Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata, West Bengal.

The P17A class frigates are being built using indigenously developed steel and fitted with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors along with Integrated Platform Management System. These ships are having enhanced stealth features.

Construction of P17A ships differs in the very concept of warship building by way of adoption of a state-of-the-art methodology namely, 'Integrated Construction (IC)' where the blocks are pre-outfitted before joining to reduce the build period of warships. When commissioned the platforms will exponentially enhance the combat capability of the Indian Naval fleet.

India logs 16,159 new COVID-19 cases in last 24 hours; active tally rises to 1,15,212

Agency
New Delhi, July 06:

India logged 16,159 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,35,47,809, while the active cases increased to 1,15,212, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll climbed to 5,25,270 with 28 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.26 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.53 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of 737 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.56 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 3.84 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,29,07,327 while

the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.21 per cent.

According to the ministry, 198.20 crore doses of vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on October 29, 80 lakh on October 11, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year. It crossed the four-crore mark on January 25 this year.

The 28 new fatalities include six each from Kerala and Maharashtra, three each from Delhi and West Bengal, two each from Goa and Karnataka and one each from Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

On Tuesday, the country recorded 13,086 Covid cases, 19 deaths and 12,456 recoveries. And on Monday, 16,135 people tested positive for the virus in the last 24 hours while 24 died and nearly 14,000 recovered.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), over 4.54 lakh samples were tested for Covid in the last 24 hours and the total count is nearing 86.5 crore.

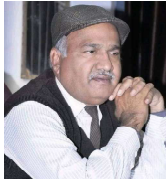
The country's cumulative vaccination coverage has exceeded 198.20 crore with over 9.95 lakh doses administered to eligible beneficiaries in the last 24 hours.

The health ministry also said on Wednesday that more than 193.53 crore vaccine doses have been provided to states and Union Territories (UTs) so far through the Centre's free-of-cost channel and direct state procurement category.

"More than 10.89 crore balance and unutilised Covid vaccine doses are still available with the states/UTs to be administered," it added.

Career Guidance

Career Options in Music Industry



By: Vijay GarG

Music is one of the greatest human achievements. Music can create emotions and express feelings. It also soothes the mind. Music today has turned out to be a great career option. With the immense growth of the entertainment industry, a career in music is increasingly turning out to be a good option. Success in the field of music can be surely achieved with the talent, genuine interest, sincerity and willingness to work hard. Having an in-born talent to sing is a wonderful gift. But making a career out of this talent demands a lot of practice and hard work. Joining an institution and getting training is one of the first steps towards making a career in Music but the man emphasis should be real dedication and commitment. A person who wants to make his career in music should have a genuine love for music, a musical sense, which means a sense of time and rhythm, creative ability and also stage confidence.

Career Options in Music Industry

Just as there is a wide variety of forms in music like classical, folk, jazz, rock, pop, fusion etc, in the same way, there are also a variety of opportunities in this field. There are numerous career options in this industry as discussed below.

Composer: A composer is who writes and arrange original music in a variety of musical styles. They create original music ranging from pop to jazz to classical. The musical themes and background music for television shows are created by composers. A composer's job is to help tell a story in a film, television story play or video game without distracting the viewer. The soundtrack they create must suit the project

and convey the appropriate mood and tone. The qualities like patience, musical talent, knowledge of instruments, networking, and marketing, singing etc should be present in a composer. A bachelor's degree in music composition will be needed to become a professional composer. A music composer can earn around Rs.7,00,000 annually, rest depends upon the work and experience.

Producer: Music producer oversees all aspects of a recording session, from planning the sessions to the finished product. As a music producer, you will be responsible for providing instruments, scheduling studio times and handling funds, costs and other expenses. A music producer should possess in-depth knowledge of music, be a musician with performance experience and know everything there is to know about recording equipment and sound engineering. The final product you produce should be the creation and publication of a quality musical work. A major aspect of your job as a music producer is creating quality sounds that satisfy the all other members. A degree such as the Bachelor of Music in Music Production and Engineering or Music Business will be helpful in you want to become a music producer. An experienced producer can earn up to Rs.12,00,000 per year.

Musician or Singer: Musicians and singers play instruments or sing for live audiences and in recording studios. They perform in a variety of styles, such as classical, jazz, opera, hip-hop, or rock. It is the job of musicians to play instruments as well as sometimes sing songs for both live audiences and during recording sessions. Whereas, a singer performs the lead vocals of a song. A singer sings the main vocal line of a track. He or she is the main focus of the performance, in contrast to a band, which has regular members who tour, record, and generally play equal roles in a performance together. A bachelor's degree in Music theory or Music performance is recommended. The annual income of a singer or musician totally depends upon

the capability and talent of the singer.

Sound Designer: The Sound Designers are responsible for obtaining all sound effects, whether recorded or live for a specific production. They are also responsible for setting up the sound playback equipment and must make sure the board operator is properly trained. Sound Designing is an artistic component of the production. The Sound Designer needs to have the imagination to create sound effects and not just record them. An important part of understanding and realizing the director's creative vision for the atmosphere of a film, good sound recording can save a production time and money in post-production. For a sound designer, a good understanding of electronics and sound recording, playback and editing equipment excellent aural skills and ability to give and accept direction should be there. A bachelor's and master's degrees in sound design are needed to become a sound designer. A sound designer can earn up to Rs.6,00,000 per year.

Music Director: Music Directors are also known as conductors, they lead musical groups such as orchestras etc. They select music to perform, arrange performances and work with musicians to ensure that they perform well. They also lead rehearsals and performances. They are often responsible for many of the administrative details of leading the musical group. Music directors work with a variety of different types of musical groups, including school bands, youth orchestras, and performance companies, or may even work for a television or radio shows. A successful music director is creative, tenacious and dependable. They have the excellent interpersonal skill and shine in front of a crowd. A music director in the performing arts tends to have a master's and PhD in musical programs like conducting, music theory, music composition, or in a specific instrument. An average annual salary of a music director is around Rs.9,00,000.

Music Editor: Music Editors help directors to achieve their musical ambitions on films and provide a crucial link between the film and the composer. They structure the soundtrack, ensuring that all the components work together. For film music to work successfully it must be beautifully written, well performed and appropriate to the story and setting. In addition, it must be very carefully placed within the film, in order to complement the action, rather than detract from it. Their responsibilities vary according to each film's musical content and budget. They are usually responsible for all the music featured on film soundtracks, including performed music, all sourced and the score, written by the composer specifically for the film. A bachelor's degree in the relevant field is required for pursuing your career as a music editor. A music editor can make up to Rs.6,00,000 yearly.

Music Teacher: Music teachers provide music lessons about how to sing or play a musical instrument to pupils i.e. adults and children within home, school or college. Some music teachers also teach people about music theory. They are responsible for teaching people instrumental techniques, scales, sight reading, and music theory, the majority of music teachers help pupils to prepare for music examinations, auditions, and live performances. Some might even teach people about recording software, such as Pro Tools and Logic. While sharing the gift of music can be rewarding and fulfilling, teaching music isn't just about music. You'll need to have effective classroom management skills and know how to assess and grade your students' progress. Music teachers need to have at least a bachelor's degree in music education, but many teachers also earn master's degrees or doctoral degrees in music performance or music education. A music teacher can earn near about Rs.4,50,000 per year.

Recording Engineer: The job of a recording engineer is not only to record audio but to edit and mix it in such a way as to make the

audio sound the best it possibly can. You will set up and operate sound equipment in live events, recordings or post-production to ensure the best acoustic result. The equipment typically used by recording engineer includes digital recorders, listening equipment, mixing boards, and sophisticated computer programs and software. The recording engineer must carefully balance art and science and be able to communicate and understand the artist's needs in order to make their musical dreams a reality. It requires a bachelor's degree in computer, engineering or information science or equivalent. The average salary for a Sound Engineer is Rs.4,00,000 per year.

Music Studio Manager: Studio Managers ensure the studio runs efficiently by overseeing building maintenance and studio prep ahead of sessions. Studio managers working in the music industry usually oversee the recording studio and schedule artists for recording. Some music studio managers are also owners of the recording studios. They also oversee the marketing and advertising, designing budgets and

acting as the link between clients and the engineers. Because they often handle financial matters, aspiring recording studio managers also benefit from having a financial background. They are responsible for providing for all the necessary equipment and facilities required of a professional recording studio. The more contacts a Studio Manager has in the music business, the better the recording studio's chances of commercial success. They usually have an educational background in communication, broadcasting, music production or engineering. The starting salary of a studio manager is around Rs.4,00,000 per annum.

Instrumentalist: An Instrumentalist is a musician who plays one or more musical instruments and performs a variety of musical genres. The Instrumentalist may perform as a soloist or play in recitals with accompaniment, or as a member of a musical group such as an orchestra or a band. There will also be opportunities to perform in live performances and participate in recordings in music studios. There are several qualities that help in the success

of an instrumentalist including a high level of education and experience in the field of music skill at playing one or more instruments, an ability to read musical sheets and play from them and adaption to the way they pay their instrument depending on the specific style desired by the audience. In order to be successful in this career, it is essential to be a flexible person and be willing to perform in front of many types of groups. While there is no specific educational requirement for an instrumentalist, they must be highly skilled at playing the instrument of their choice which can only come with years of practice and training. The income of an instrumentalist depends on the kind of instrument played by him/her.

If you have a passion for music, you can see there are a variety of careers related to music available. Each music career requires a unique skill set and other essential backgrounds. It is important to spend time figuring out which path is right for you. You can choose any of the above profession as your career according to your desire and interest.

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Why do India-Bangladesh bilateral...

Bangladesh has renewed its commitment for early resolution of various outstanding issues, it is preparing for the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in September this year. Bangladesh Prime Minister has a vision for transforming the country into a connectivity hub in South Asia and to foster economic cooperation and people to people contacts in the region. Bangladesh has recently inaugurated its dreamy project 'Padma bridge'. The Padma Bridge is expected to bridge West Bengal and the North-Eastern States of India in terms of both connectivity and trade. Once all the links are completed, the train journey between Kolkata and Dhaka will be shortened by two hours. It would cer-

tainly save their time and resources and eventually it would increase India-Bangladesh productivity.

The positive aspects of the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India which is passing through 'Sonal Adhyay' (Golden chapter of the bilateral relations). There are many aspects and issues which the two countries can project as good neighborhood diplomacy, can be claimed as 'Role Model of Bilateral Relations'. Joint efforts can play vital role in solidifying their relations which may be seen as — not only good for the countries — but also vital for the peace and prosperity of the entire region. **India-Bangladesh businessmen must work together for ensuring**

mutual benefits and making the region more prosperous as the two neighbouring countries are enjoying the best ever relations.

Like usual, important bilateral issues like the water sharing dilemma are on the table, but the public wants to see actual solutions, not just discussions, for these issues. And 2022 year mayand should be the ideal chance to significantly and clearly advance on some of these concerns. We hope that this alliance continues to benefit both countries.

(The writer is a Gauhati University, Assam, India-based researcher. She is very interested in refugee affairs, political economy, security and strategic affairs, and foreign policies of the Asia-Pacific region)

First aid training held in Bishnupur



IT News
Imphal, July 6:

Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Bishnupur Branch today organised training on first aid at Panchayat Resource Centre, Mini Secretariat com-

plex in Bishnupur. IRCS Master Trainers imparted the training which was attended by ADM Bishnupur H. Bobby Sharma, AC to DC, Ejaj Hassan, CMO Dr. L. Raichandra, DLOs and other officials and staff of the district.

During the training, IRCS Master Trainers demonstrated various techniques for providing first aid before medical assistance is available. Techniques on putting a person under Recovery Position, administration of Cardiopulmo-

nary Resuscitation (CPR) for infants as well as adults, responding to choking, strokes, burns and excessive bleeding response at home, among others were covered during the session. Participants were also provided a hands-on training on administration of CPR and other first aid methods.

Highlighting the responsibilities for first aid providers, the Master Trainers informed that the Good Samaritan guidelines offered legal protection to people who provide assistance to accidents and other injured victims in need of help. For fear of legal prosecution, people have been reluctant to help strangers in need, they added. The Master Trainers also cautioned against compromising and endangering one's own safety before administering first aid to any victim in need.

Chairman, members and volunteers of IRCS Bishnupur Branch were also present in the training.

Assam floods: 11 lakh remain affected, total deaths reach 184

Agency
Guwahati, July 06:

The ongoing floods in Assam seem to be improved as the number of people affected has gone down to 11,16,824 people.

Although the population affected has gone down, the death toll rose to 184 with four new death being reported on Tuesday from the Cachar district.

As per the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) 20 districts including 49 revenue circles are still affected by the floods.

While there are 1,48,122 people still taking shelter in 299 relief camps in the state.

The total number of villages affected stands at 1024.

The latest data also states that 29781.23 hectares of cropland remain to be flood affected till Monday.

The state government is also managing 84 relief distribution centres.

A total of 3,18,910 animals were also affected while 434 were reported to have been washed away in the floods.

Out of the four deaths, two people, including a child, drowned in Cachar district, while one death was reported from Morigaon district and one child died in Nagaon district, reported PTI. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), around 11.17 lakh people remained affected in 16 districts, including Bajali, Barpeta, Biswanath, Cachar, Chirang, Darrang and Kamrup.

The number of affected people due to floods in Assam was nearly 14 lakh till Monday. Cachar is the worst-hit district of Assam with over 6.30 lakh people

suffering from floods, followed by Nagaon with over 2.33 lakh.

As per the ASDMA, 1,024 villages are under water, while over 29,000 hectares of farmland have been damaged across the state. Around 1.48 lakh people are still taking shelter in 383 relief camps and distribution centres across 15 districts of the state.

Several districts, including Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhemaji, Hailakandi, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Tinsukia and Udalguri, witness massive erosions. Several roads, embankments and bridges were also damaged due to floods in Assam. According to the ASDMA, a total of 3,18,910 domestic animals and poultry have been affected by the floods. The Brahmaputra river is flowing over the danger mark at Dhubri town.

Aadhaar-voter list linkage: EC warns of severe action against poll officials if Aadhaar data leaked

Agency
New Delhi, July 06:

Days after rules were issued allowing linkage of Aadhaar with voters list to weed out duplicate entries, the Election Commission has warned of "severe" disciplinary action against electoral registration officers for any leakages of physical forms filled by electors to share their Aadhaar details.

The Commission has also emphasised that submission of Aadhaar by electors is "voluntary".

In a letter sent to chief electoral officers of all states and Union territories on July 4, the

poll panel said special camps at cluster level can be arranged on the dates coinciding with special campaign dates during special summary revision, where the electors can be persuaded to give their Aadhaar number voluntarily in Form-6B in hard copy.

According to a law ministry notification, using the newly-introduced Form-6B, existing voters may share their Aadhaar number with poll authorities.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (5) of Section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950), the Central Government hereby notifies the 1st

April, 2023 as the date on or before which every person whose name is included in the electoral roll may intimate his Aadhaar number in accordance with the said section," read the notification.

"The notification uses the term 'may' and not 'shall' which makes sharing details voluntary," a senior functionary had explained recently.

Asserting that furnishing of Aadhaar number is "purely voluntary", the letter said the electoral registration officer (ERO) "will make it clear to the electors that the purpose of obtaining of Aadhaar number is for authentication of his entries in electoral roll and extending bet-



ter electoral services to them in future... It is emphasised that submission of Aadhaar by electors is voluntary".

The letter reiterates what was mentioned in the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 that the ERO will not delete any

entry in the electoral roll on the ground of inability on the part of any existing elector to furnish Aadhaar number.

Referring to security measures for collecting and handling Aadhaar number, the letter said "in no circumstances, it should go in public domain. If the elector's information is required to put for public display, the Aadhaar details must be removed or masked".

As for preservation of Form-6B in hard copy containing Aadhaar number, the provisions of a regulation of Aadhaar (Authentication and Offline Verification) Regulations, 2022 will be strictly followed which says that Aadhaar numbers collected through physical forms or photocopies of Aadhaar letters will be masked by the requested entity by redacting the first 8 digits of the Aadhaar number before storing the physical copies.

"Such collected Form 6B along with attachment, after digitisation, shall be kept in safe custody with double lock by EROs. Severe disciplinary action will be initiated against EROs for any leakages of physical forms in public domain," the Commission warned.

It said under no circumstances, the 12-digit Aadhaar number digitised in ERONET through various input channels will be stored in ERONET. "This number should be stored in Licensed Aadhaar Vault hired by ECI in accordance with relevant regulations of UIDAI," the letter underlined.

Sports

India register second draw in Women's Hockey WC, held 1-1 by China

Agency
Amstelveen (Netherlands), July 06:

India were held to a 1-1 draw by China, their second consecutive identical result in Pool B, at the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup here on Tuesday.

Jiali Zheng gave China the lead in the 26th minute before Vandana Katariya equalised for India in the 45th minute. India drew 1-1 against Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist England in their tournament opener.

The Indians had the better share of possession in the first two quarters and had more chances but their efforts didn't result into goals.

The Chinese, on the other hand, waited for counter-attacks to breach the Indian defence.

In the ninth minute, Navneet Kaur had the first shot at goal after combining well with Vandana Katariya but her effort was saved by Chinese goalkeeper Liu Ping.

In the 23rd minute, India came close to scoring but the goalpost came to China's res-



cue. From the resultant rebound, Jyotika seemed to have found the net but the goal was disallowed after a referral.

India secured their first penalty corner soon after that but failed to capitalise on it. China took the lead against the run of play through Jiali Zheng who shot past Savita Punia after receiving a pass from Xindan Zhang.

Two minutes later, India earned another penalty corner but Monika's try was saved

by Ping as China went into the half-time break with a slender one goal lead.

China came out on an aggressive note after the change of ends and secured their first penalty corner in the 33rd minute but Bingfeng Gu's flick went wide.

In the 42nd minute, India secured back-to-back penalty corners but wasted both.

Seconds from the end of the third quarter, Vandana deflected in Gurjit's flick as India drew level from a perfectly ex-

ecuted penalty corner.

The fourth quarter was dominated by India as they went on the offensive in search of the winner but failed to find the back of the net.

China made a late surge and secured another penalty corner in the 54th minute but India defended well as both the teams registered their second consecutive draw in the tournament.

India will play New Zealand in their final pool match on Thursday.

Rohit Sharma to lead; rest for Virat, Bumrah & Rishabh: Team India's probable squad for 5 T20Is vs West Indies

Agency
New Delhi, July 06:

2 days after the conclusion of the one-off Test match against England, Team India will return to action and take on England in the opening T20I of the three-match series on July 7 in Southampton. The fixture will have a 10:30 PM IST start.

Since the opening T20I is taking place just 2 days after the end of the Test match, the regulars have been rested and a second-string squad will take on the Three Lions. Rohit Sharma will lead India right from game 1 while other regulars will join from the 2nd T20I.

After 3 T20Is and as many ODIs against the hosts, India will leave for West Indies to take on the Caribbean team in 3 ODIs and 5 T20Is. As per *Cricbuzz*, a few senior players could be rested for the series. As the fans await the announcement of the squads for the series, here's a look at the probable T20I squad for the five-match T20I series –

Openers

Captain Rohit Sharma is unlikely to be rested and will kick off the proceedings. Ishan Kishan has fixed his spot in the team in KL Rahul's absence and looks set to retain it. Since some of the regulars might be rested, Ruturaj Gaikwad could return for the West Indies T20Is.

Middle-order

With Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant likely to be rested, a comeback for Sanju Samson could be on the cards. Samson isn't part of the 2nd and 3rd T20I against England. Suryakumar Yadav and Shreyas Iyer look set to retain their spot. Dinesh Karthik is also a confirmed selection. It remains to be seen if he can earn a recall in the ODI team or not.

All-rounders

Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Deepak Hooda and Hardik Pandya are integral parts of the team and should be on the plane to the Caribbean.

Spinners

Yuzvendra Chahal will lead the spin attack while Ravi Bishnoi might assist him. If fit, Kuldeep Yadav should make his comeback in the squad.

Pacers

With Bumrah likely to be rested, Bhuvneshwar Kumar will lead the pace attack. Not many changes are expected to be made in this department and expect Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan and Umran Malik to retain their spots. Arshdeep Singh, who hasn't been named in the squad for the 2nd and 3rd T20I, might be recalled. He has been named in the ODI squad for 3 matches against England.

Team India's probable squad for West Indies T20Is: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik, Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Axar Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, Hardik Pandya, Deepak Hooda, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Umran Malik, Arshdeep Singh.