

Nisith Pramanik, Union Minister of State for YAS visits CRPF Camp at Langjing, Imphal

IT News
Imphal, June 12:

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports Nisith Pramanik have visited CRPF Camp at Langjing her in Imphal. The Union Minister was attended by a team of CRPF led by Ravideep Singh Sahi, IGP of Tripura Sector, CRPF, who is holding the additional charge and all Senior Officers of Manipur and Nagaland Sector, CRPF.

On his arrival in CRPF Campus, Langjing, Guard of honor was given to the Union Minister at Quarter Guard. He visited the entire campus and saw the various elements of CRPF. Subsequently, he visited Composite Hospital, CRPF, Imphal where Dr. O.B. Singh, CMO(SG) welcomed the Union Minister and briefed about hospital functioning. He distributed fruits to in-door Patients, enquired about



their health condition and wished them early recovery.

A PowerPoint Presentation was given to the union Minister by Sh. Ravideep Singh Sahi, IGP. He also joined the jawans in High Tea and interacted and ascertained about their well being.

Union Minister addressed the Press and intimated about the purpose of his visit to the various parts

of the country including CAPF camps as a part of the 75 years of Indian Independence celebration, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", whereby feedback could be obtained about the development happened so far under the able guidance and leadership of PM in the country and to evolve future plans for more development.

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Naga Political Solution should be inclusive, honourable and acceptable – Naga Students

IT News
Imphal, June 12:

The Naga Students' Federation in collaboration with the Naga Students' Union, Delhi staged a 'A Peoples Rally' under the theme "Call for Peace" in New Delhi yesterday calling for inclusive, honourable and acceptable political solution to the Naga issue.

The people's rally was attended by Federating Units of NSF, Nagas in Delhi, leaders, church pastors, elders, well-wishers and people from mainland India who supports the cause of the Naga movement.

Eno. Kegwayhun Tep in his Presidential address underlined the purpose of the rally stating "Nagas call for peace in its essence is simple; it is a prayer for harmonious and peaceful co-existence. It is a symbol of our inherent desire to pursue

building peace, both within and without."

The President also called on the "government of India to honour its political commitment. He categorically stated that there should only be one solution as there is only one Indo-Naga political problem. He further asserted that the proposed political settlement should be inclusive, honourable and acceptable that recognises Naga people's identity which should be brought to its logical conclusion at the earliest."

The message of the Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) was read out by Eli. Fabiola Chinir on behalf of the NMA. The NMA stressed on the killings and atrocities committed by the Indian armed forces in the Naga Homeland.

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Islamabad villagers unhappy over CM remarks on the name of their village

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, June 12:

The villagers of Islamabad, Jiribam expressed unhappiness over Chief Minister N. Biren Singh remark on the name of their village Islamabad.

In a press briefing, the General Secretary of Rainbow Club, Islamabad Fakar Uddin stated that the Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh in his speech said that the renaming of village name willfully without the consent of government is unacceptable. He said such step of government is very good, as the name of the village will remain in the history of Manipur.

Further, Fakar Uddin stated that in the same speech of Chief Minister, it seems to be that the name of Islamabad village was also newly renamed which feels unhappiness to the villagers of Islamabad.

Clarifying their stand, the General Secretary of Rainbow Club, Islamabad said the name and settlement of Islamabad village was started from 1908, when the then Raj Darbar President Raja Dhumba Singh along with some political leaders visited to Jiribam and elected a Meitei Pangal namely Abdul Jabbar as a first Moujadar of Jiribam and permitted for naming and settlement of villages of Jiribam along with Islamabad village.

He also appealed to Chief Minister of Manipur for providing an opportunity for a meeting with the villagers regarding the same.

Today's press briefing was attended by the President of Rainbow Club, Islamabad Abdul Halim; General Secretary, Rainbow Club Fakar Uddin along with village elders, elected members, Meira Paibi and Club members.

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by

Shri N. Biren Singh

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur

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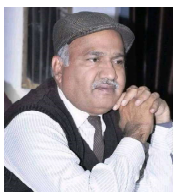
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CITY CONVENTION CENTRE, IMPHAL EAST, MANIPUR

Farmers should do farming without pesticides



By: Vijay GarG

Scientists clearly believe that organic or natural farming can play a remedial role in reducing the growing environmental crisis around the world. It is noteworthy that natural farming is being adopted on a large scale in the northeastern states of India. Gradually it is becoming popular among farmers in South, Central India and North India also.

The central government is also engaged in promoting it. But the speed at which it should grow, it is not getting success in increasing it. For this, more concerted efforts are needed. For the past few years, the central government has started various initiatives to promote neem-coated urea. The central government has also been doing a lot of publicity about its merits. But has neem urea reduced the toxic elements growing in food grains?

It is worth noting that in India, neem-coated urea is being made in chemical fertilizer factories, but still there has been no significant reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers, but chemical fertilizers have become more expensive than before.

The cost of cultivation has also increased in the last few years. In such a situation, progressive farmers have started adopting the option of natural farming. Now farmers have adopted natural or organic farming as a powerful alternative.

Significantly, the trend of Indian farmers towards organic or natural farming is increasing continuously. But the central and state governments have not provided those facilities to promote organic farming, which would have facilitated the farmers to do organic farming. Despite this, organic farming is becoming the choice of common farmers.

If the central and state governments remove the shortage of seeds, organic fertilizers, water, agricultural machinery and electricity, then farmers may not hesitate to make organic farming their first choice.

A lot of research is also being done about natural farming. Farmers are trying new things. Due to this agricultural scientists are also more excited about natural farming. Agricultural scientists believe that by promoting organic or natural farming, it helps to improve the environment, food, land, human health, and the purity of water.

In agriculture and horticulture, the use of pesticides in crops is considered necessary for better yield and elimination of diseases. But indigenous farming and horticulture have raised questions about this notion. These pesticides may be considered necessary for better yield or to eliminate diseases, but they have created many problems and complications. They have become the cause of diseases.

It is worth noting that due to lack of knowledge about the diseases and problems caused by the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, farmers have started using them a lot. The effect of this has been that even using such produce is falling prey to serious diseases. Despite this, the farmer is not able to get rid of their use.

The agriculture departments of the central and state governments consider the use of insecticides essential. Since the dominance of multinational companies has increased in the country, then foreign medicines of pesticides have started being used more for agriculture and horticulture. Because of this, the farmer and his family are in more trouble.

On the other hand, the speed with which natural farming has helped the environment in Sikkim, it has become clear that if every farmer of India adopts natural farming, then many problems of Indian society can be solved.

It is worth noting that agricultural scientists have been warning about the problems caused by the use of pesticides for years. But neither the central government is looking into it, nor the state governments. As a result, many serious diseases caused by the use of pesticides are increasing. Endosulfan is the most commonly used insecticide.

It is sprayed not only on crops, but also on vegetables and fruits. According to environmentalists, the use of pesticides is having a huge impact on the environment. One of the reasons for air pollution is the excessive use of pesticides. If seen, many problems of children are arising due to pesticides. Pesticides are the cause of many cancer, skin diseases, eye, heart and digestive problems.

The point of view is that the pesticides which have been banned in America and other developed countries are being used indiscriminately in India. Whereas, all the organizations related to environment and agriculture have warned the governments about its wrong effect.

Now that the risk of serious diseases is increasing due to the use of pesticides, on the other hand, farmers in many parts of the country are also experimenting with better farming without the use of pesticides. Farmers of Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have conducted successful experiments in this direction. In this, instead of pesticides, spraying three days old whey and use of dry neem leaves has been very effective.

Farmers in nineteen districts of Andhra Pradesh have proved that pesticide use can be stopped by successfully cultivating without pesticides and producing higher than ever before. This not only increases the fertility of the land, but also helps in protecting the environment. Due to such safe use, no one gets any disease from food, vegetables and fruits.

Most of the agricultural scientists have now started considering organic farming as beneficial and safe for the farmer and farmer. He believes that only through organic farming, farming can come out of losses and become profitable. With this, while the migration from villages to cities will reduce, the problems increasing due to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides will also be reduced.

No one can deny that most of the companies manufacturing pesticides are foreign i.e. multinational. Indigenous farming reduces the sale of pesticides by multinational companies. This affects their interests. But the way farmers of eastern, northern and southern states have set an example by doing successful farming without pesticides on a large scale, it should be adopted by farmers across the country.

With this, they will not only get pure food, vegetables, fruits, but will also be able to protect the environment as well as get rid of expensive pesticides. In view of the changing seasonal cycle, farmers of North and East India also need to adopt this practice of farming and horticulture free from pesticides. For this, only the organizations which want the interest of the farmers will have to come forward.

The Unheeded Cry of Children in Labour



By: Sr. Regina Mareem

In today's fast changing world, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. Everyone is in need of food, love and care. The rich people own land, a good house, money, power, property etc. from which they make money, whereas the poor have little or no property at all. This is one of the major causes of the growing gap between the "haves and the have-nots". Among the "have-nots" a major portion is the children in some kind of labour.

Recognizing the enormity of the problem of children in labour, the International Labour Organization (ILO) established the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002. Since then on every June 12th, the day is observed around the world in almost 100 countries. The purpose is to emphasize the need of creating an

environment in which children grow and have a decent life combating the menace of child labour across the world. The estimates of the ILO state that there are almost 152 million children working in child labour in the world with 50% of them in hazardous conditions. In ILO terms, Child Labour is "employment that deprives children of their youth, potential, and dignity while also being damaging to their bodily and mental health." Child in labour is denied their right to education and a happy childhood. Poverty being the major cause of children in labour makes children leave school and get in to work.

Article 24 of the Indian Constitution states, "No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed in any hazardous employment." Such act leads to social, moral and mental harm to the children. Cases of child labour can be found in almost every state or country. It is one of the serious social evils that is to be eradicated. Children in labour are in a very pathetic condition. They are the most neglected and vulnerable group, as they are from very poor families. Most of them are school dropout, ignorant and illiterate/semi-literate. They migrate into cities and townships, looking for employment in order to support their

family income and in search of livelihood, far away from their parents and relatives, with no legal protection and no trade unions to defend their rights. The dignity, rights and duties of the children are often overlooked and forgotten. They are more considered as a tool rather than as a productive labor force working for the economic wellbeing of the employer's family. The child labor prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986 aims to eradicate any kind of child abuse in the form of employment, prohibit the engagement of children in any of hazardous employment, who have not completed 14 years of age. The Act prohibits the employment of children in certain occupations and processes.

Children in child labor also do domestic work. They render service like washing and cleaning utensils, washing clothes, sweeping, cleaning the house, babysitting etc. Other jobs like working in brick fields, factories and in industries are job areas where children are found to be working.

Reason for the choice of work is that majority of the children leave home because of poverty at home, lack of job, financial constraints, inability to attend regular class, parental pressure, peer pressure and desire for independence from the

grip of parental control. At times children are forced to work under bad working conditions and inadequate wages, lack of proper food and minimum health facilities. They are at times physically exploited, sexually abused and mentally harassed. But they are afraid to raise their voice, hide their unshed tears for fear that they would be thrown away without a job. Children are unable to speak and demand their rights for themselves. Children are the future pillars of our society. As we observe the "World Day against Child Labour", let us join hands together creating a platform for the voiceless and marginalized children. May they be protected from economic exploitation and trafficking that will do harm to them and their safety, health, physical, mental, moral and social development. As someone rightly said, children should work not in fields but on their dreams. We can hold hands to support the cause of emancipation of children in labour and join together to build a world that is safe and supportive to children where they can grow to maturity as decent and dignified persons.

[The author is MSMHC, Centre for Development Initiative CDI (Coordinator), Manipur Domestic Workers Movement]

Climate Change and Air Pollution are two sides of the same coin

A National Framework Law is needed to take care of both

By: Gitanjali Sreedhar

The alterations taking place in the natural world are becoming patently obvious to all of us. Erratic weather patterns, rising sea levels and melting glaciers due to climate change are reshaping societies across the globe, and this holds true for India too. Global warming induced by human activity is predicted to be around 1.0°C over pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. If current trends continue, global warming will likely hit 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052.

Climate change has an impact on air pollution, and air pollution, in turn, has an impact on climate change. As a result, climate change may have an impact on local air quality. Thus, rising greenhouse gas emissions as well as deteriorating air quality have further exacerbated this problem.

This article examines the connection between air pollution and climate change, as well as the policy responses in India to this interconnected problem.

Climate change and air pollution are inextricably linked. The main source of carbon dioxide, or CO₂, emissions — the exploitation and burning of fossil fuels — is also a major source of air pollution. Furthermore, many air pollutants contribute to climate change by influencing the quantity of incoming sunlight reflected or absorbed by the atmosphere, with some pollutants warming the Earth and others cooling it.

Methane, black carbon, ground-level ozone and sulphate aerosols are examples of short-lived climate-forcing pollutants ("SLCPs"). They have a huge impact on the climate: after CO₂, black carbon and methane are among the leading contributors to global warming. The presence of ozone in the atmosphere has a warming influence on the climate; black carbon, a combustion-derived particulate pollution, contributes to the warming of the Earth, whereas particulate sulphates serve to cool the Earth's atmosphere. Changes in weather patterns as a result of climate change may also have an effect on the movement, dispersion, deposition and production of air pollutants in the atmosphere. Last but not the least, an increase in temperature,

for example, will lead to an increase in the emissions of biogenic volatile organic compounds.

Due to the inter-relation between the two, issues concerning climate change and poor air quality ought to be dealt concurrently with the application of policies and procedures that have been designed in an integrated fashion. These integrated strategies would avoid the negative feedback of climate on air quality, or vice versa, that has already been proven as a result of climate change; for instance, the detrimental effects on air quality caused by the subsidisation of diesel vehicles (which emit less CO₂) but more particulate matter ("PM") and nitrogen oxides, or NO_x, as well as the increased usage of biomass combustion without sufficient emission controls.

Rapid CO₂ emission reductions are essential, but not sufficient, to reach the Paris Agreement objective of keeping warming to 1.5 (or even 2) °C. The importance of considerable reductions in emissions of non-CO₂ climate forcers, particularly the air pollutants methane and black carbon, is emphasised in the United Nations' ("UN") Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's special report on the implications of 1.5°C global warming. Furthermore, while economic decarbonization will lower CO₂ and air pollution emissions in general, pursuing the phaseout of fossil fuels is insufficient — for air quality or climate. To begin with, emissions from other sectors are important: methane and black carbon emissions from agriculture, for example, have significant health and climate implications, while coolant emissions (especially hydrofluorocarbons) from the cooling industry are extremely effective climate warmers.

Second, it is necessary to consider both CO₂ and air pollutants when designing and selecting climate and air quality solutions to guarantee that the anticipated advantages are realised. Some climate-friendly technologies, such as the combustion of biomass and other biofuels for home heating and transportation, may emit more particulate matter, particularly black carbon, than the technology they replace, causing continued harm to human health, and per-

haps warming the planet.

In addition to contributing to the limitation of global warming, strong reductions in methane, black carbon and ground-level ozone have other important benefits for sustainable development. Reducing SLCPs is critical for slowing down the rate of climate change over the next several decades, and for protecting the people and regions most vulnerable to near-term climate impacts. In 2013, the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development had released a primer on SLCPs which explained their detrimental effects. SLCPs contribute almost 40-45 per cent of climate emission, and as their atmospheric lifetime ranges between only a few days to a decade, it is important and essential to tackle them aggressively to mitigate climate change faster.

By acting concurrently on climate and air pollution, we can take advantage of synergies between the Paris Agreement climate targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals in order to enhance lives now, and minimise future climate warming. Recognising the interdependencies, there was responses at a global level early on in 2012 when the UN Environment Programme and six countries formed the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants to pool resources and maximise the co-benefits of mitigation measures. While the coalition is global in scope, initiatives undertaken help raise awareness about SLCPs, and improve and expand national and regional actions.

In the early 1970s, the harmful effects of anthropogenic activities on our natural resources were becoming more apparent to the general public. Therefore, during the UN General Assembly on Human Environment that was held in Stockholm in June 1972, a resolution was passed that urged the nations of the world to preserve natural resources such as air.

Giving effect to the decisions taken at the Stockholm Conference, India enacted the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 ("Air Act") as a special law to prevent and control the harmful effects of air pollution. This Act is seen as the first concrete step taken by the Indian

government to combat air pollution. The key regulatory trigger in the Act is Section 19, which allows state governments to notify areas as "air pollution control" areas, ban fuel use, or burn other material. Section 20 empowers the State Government to issue instructions to Motor Vehicle Registration authorities regarding enforcement of emission standards laid down by the State Pollution Control Board. The State Board can grant consent to establish or operate industry(s) in an air pollution control area.

The Air Act was enacted four decades ago and it has not amended much since then. Thus, the Act does not address climate change expressly, which has been a major drawback in the legal framework.

In January 2019, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had launched the National Clean Air Program ("NCAP"). It is a comprehensive strategy with actions to prevent, control and reduce air pollution, and improve air quality monitoring across the country. The Programme aims to reduce fine particulate (PM_{2.5}) and particulate (PM₁₀) air pollution by 20–30 per cent by 2024. 122 cities have been identified, and city specific action plans are being formulated. Ostensibly, action taken under this policy would also address impacts of climate change. NCAP recommends that these Clean Air Action Plans are formalised and planned in alignment with the already existing policies such as the National Solar Mission, the National Action Plan on Climate Change, and other such policies.

The various policies and strategies adopted by India reflect an effort towards mitigation of climate change and air pollution, but there is room for improvement and adopting measures which will add to the progress. According to a review of India's energy and climate policies by the International Energy Agency, current air pollution and climate initiatives, if completely implemented, might improve air quality, but are insufficient to achieve the levels suggested by the World Health Organization.

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Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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India sees over 8,000 COVID-19 cases for 2nd day in a row as active tally rises to 44,513; Maharashtra and Kerala lead surge

Agency
New Delhi, June 12:

India today reported more than 8,000 fresh COVID-19 cases for the second consecutive day, pushing the active tally to 44,513. Data from the Health Ministry on Sunday morning indicates that the country recorded 8,582 infections and four fatalities in the past 24 hours. At the state level, Kerala and Maharashtra are leading the surge with nearly 15,000 active cases each.

The active cases comprises 0.10 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.66%. The daily positivity rate has now risen to 2.71%. An increase of 4,143 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

While India had done away with most pandemic-induced restrictions earlier this year, the resurgence of cases in some areas have prompted warnings from local authorities. In Maharashtra for example, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar had said on June 3 that the use of face masks would be made mandatory



once again if the spike continues.

Several cities including Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata have seen a sharp rise in cases. Maharashtra on Saturday saw a marginal dip in COVID-19 cases, reporting 2,922 fresh infections and one fatality. Of these, Mumbai reported 1,745 new cases in the last 24 hours. Delhi reported a slight surge with 795 cases on Saturday. West Bengal meanwhile saw a 30% jump in new COVID-19 cases on Sat-

urday, reporting 139 COVID-19 cases. Around 75% of the new cases were detected in Kolkata.

Earlier this week the Centre had asked states like Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi and Karnataka to follow the five-fold strategy and amp-up testing. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan had recently written to the officials of five states, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu to closely monitor emerging clusters, maintain

adequate number of testing and send samples from infected individuals for genome sequencing.

"There are few states which are reporting a higher contribution to India's cases indicating the possibility of a localised spread of infection. There is, therefore, a need to follow a risk assessment based approach on the public health responses without losing the gains made so far in the fight against the pandemic," he had written.

BJP led NDA is advantageously placed in the Presidential Elections on July 18

Final result depends on the decision of BJD and YSRCP leaderships

By Harihar Swarup
New Delhi, June 12:

How the President of India is elected? The Election Commission has notified the election of India's next President on July 18. A look at the voting procedure, how the votes of MLAs and MPs are weighted, and how, previous elections have played out?

The President is elected by an electoral college consisting of MPs of both the houses of Parliament and MLAs of the states and Delhi and Puducherry. Nominated members of Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and assemblies and members of state legislative council are not part of the electoral college.

The votes are weighted, their values determined by the population of each state as per census 1971. The value of each MLA's vote varies from a higher of 208 in Uttar Pradesh to a low of 7 in Sikkim. This means UP's 403 MLAs contribute 208x403=83,834 votes to electoral polls while Sikkim's 32 MLAs contribute 32x7=224

votes. The weight votes from all the assemblies add up from all assemblies add up to 5.43 lakhs.

The process demands that 776 MPs (543 in Lok Sabha 233 in Rajya Sabha) should contribute the same total of votes as the MLAs. Thus, the value of each MP's Votes is 5.43 lakhs divided 776 rounded off to 700. The combined electoral value from the assemblies and Parliament adds up 10.86 lakhs.

How is the ruling NDA and the opposition parties placed. The BJP-led NDA is far ahead of the Congress and its allies, but still short of the half way mark at the moment. Adding up the votes of the MLAs and MPs on either side, but not contesting 57 vacant Rajya Sabha seats (16 of which went to polls on Friday while the other 41 have had MPs elected unopposed), the NDA has 48% of votes (BJP 42% and allies 6%) while the Congress (13.5%) and its allies (10.5%) have 24%. These allies include DMK, Shiv Sena, NCP, JMM and smaller parties like Muslim league, RSP and MDMK.

Apart BJD has 2.8 per cent and the left parties 2.5 per cent.

The BJP is banking on the YSRCP and BJD support since that would take the NDA candidate beyond the half way mark. Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Andhra chief minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy called on PM last week.

On the opposition side, it remains to be seen which way TSR, Samajwadi Party and AAP vote. The TSR, which was once considered fence sitter and even backed the government on some key bills, has been attacking BJP of late. The AAP is at logger heads with both the Congress and BJP.

The first election in 1952 was won without a contest. In 1957 Rajendra Prasad was fielded for the second time. His rivals were Nagendra Narayan Das and Chaudhary Hari Das. Prasad swept the poll and was the only President to get second time. There were contests in subsequent Presidential elections.

(IPA Service)

Shah seeks early probe of rape, sexual assault cases in time-bound manner

Agency
New Delhi, June 12:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday sought early investigation of rape and sexual assaults cases against women and stringent punishment against the offenders in a time-bound manner.

He said this at the 25th meeting of Western Zonal Council held in Diu.

"The home minister stressed the need for early investigation of rape and sexual offenses against women and children and stringent punishment in a time-bound manner in these cases," a home ministry official said.

Shah said additional director general of police level of-

ficers, if possible women officers, should be entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the investigation of all such cases in the police headquarters of each state.

Referring to expanding banking network in rural areas, the home minister said according to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Department of Posts will introduce additional 20,715 India Post Payment Bank live touch points which will provide banking facilities in addition to regular postal services.

Co-operative banks and other banks including India Post Payments Bank should ensure that every unbanked village in the Western region is provided with banking fa-

cilities within 5 km within the next year, Shah said.

He said states should include schemes of all states other than centrally-sponsored schemes on the Direct Benefit Transfer platform.

The home minister said work should be done towards providing mobile connectivity to all the villages in the Western region within a year. Cash deposit facility through common service centres should be extended in a time-bound manner and all banks should be linked to the platform and this should be reviewed quarterly, he said.

The issue of rates of water supply to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu by the Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board

was also resolved in the council meeting, the official said.

The regional councils provide a forum for discussion in a structured manner on issues affecting one or more states or issues between the Centre and the states.

In the last eight years under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, the number of meetings of the Zonal Councils and its Standing Committees have increased by three times, the official said.

There have been 18 meetings of various zonal councils and 24 of their standing committees in the last 8 years, whereas in the corresponding period of last 8 years only 6 and 8 meetings were held

respectively.

Out of the 30 topics discussed in the 25th Western Regional Council, 27 have been resolved and only three are left for further discussion.

It shows the resolve and commitment of the government towards the all-round development of the nation in the spirit of cooperative federalism, the official said.

Regional councils help in developing a coordinated approach through discussion and exchange of views between states on important issues of social and economic development, the official said, adding the meetings of the Zonal Council should be used by the states and union territories to share their best practices.

AR provides teaching aids at border villages



IT News
Imphal, June 12:

Chassad Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) provided teaching aids and stationary items to children of Chahong Khunao and Chahong Chingthak villages, Kamjong district yesterday.

The event was organised with the endeavour of fostering the importance of education amongst the less privileged children of these remote border villages. As part of the event, informative charts, books and writing materials were distributed.

Assam Rifles provides Medical Assistance to accident victim

IT News
Imphal, June 12:

Somsai Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) provided life saving medical assistance to a road accident victim near Kharasom village, Ukhrul district on June 10.

Susana Ronag while re-

turning home on two wheeler, met with an accident in route and suffered a head injury. On receipt of information, troops of Assam Rifles acted promptly and administered first aid and stabilised her medical condition. She was later shifted to Medical center for further treatment.

Lost

I have lost my Mark Statement of All India Senior School Certificate Examination 2013, bearing Roll No. 2629068, issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education on the way between my residence and Canchipur on May 1, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Suraj Huidrom
Khagempalli Huidrom Leikai
Imphal West, Manipur

Courtesy: The Leaflet

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Climate Change and Air Pollution are two sides....

Policymakers must recognise that there are synergies between air pollution and climate policy objectives in numerous areas. Otherwise, both the benefits of anti-air pollution and anti-climate change policies will be devalued. Incorporating these synergies into the design and implementation of future policy frameworks will result in a more effective response to the nation's most pressing health issue.

There is also a need to look into agricultural policies and have specific strategies in place, since it is a major contributor to deteriorating air quality. This is especially true in the agriculture-dependent northern states where crop residue is burnt due to a lack of effective alternatives for the farmer commu-

nities. There needs to be awareness building mechanisms about existing government policies which would support and encourage moving away from such unsustainable practices, such as machine banks.

Another major sector which needs special focus is green financing. There needs to be a more focus and understanding of the ESG pillars (Environment, Social and Governance). The financial sector has an important role to play in the fight against climate change by supporting reductions in climate change risk and mitigating the impact of adverse climate events.

The relationship between air quality and climate change highlights the fact that addressing one or the

other requires collaborative and multi-level policy solutions with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders to be effective and sustainable. Severe air pollution in cities is a result of rapid urbanisation, which is accompanied by increasing energy demands, transportation and population. This places pressure on cities to be efficient in their urban development processes, hence sustaining their economic growth.

Cities must strive to strike a balance between economic development and environmental conservation. This makes it even more crucial for decision-makers and municipal governments to develop policies and support measures to combat air pollution and climate change. Cities are

consequently at a crucial juncture to address air pollution as a cross-cutting issue and to respond locally to climate change, a global concern.

State governments must come up with plans and mitigation measures which are suitable and conducive to their states and cities as the landscape keep changing in India. A mitigation measure which could work for one state might not work for the other. For example, in Punjab and Haryana, policy solutions must necessarily revolve around agricultural residue burning, whereas in Delhi, the main focus shifts to addressing road dust, construction debris and vehicular emissions.

At the national level, it might do well for the govern-

ment of India to focus on mainstreaming climate change into the existing laws and policies. The constitutional authority to adopt climate-related framework legislation is manifestly present. There is demonstrated history for using international accords to enact domestic environmental legislation under Article 253 of the Constitution. Alternately, a national framework law is possible under Article 248's residual powers reserved for the Centre. For instance, the Ozone Depleting Substance (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 can serve as a template for domestic laws addressing global, rather than only domestic, environmental concerns. (IPA Service)

India Achieved New Milestones in 'gram Swaraj', Democratic Empowerment of Panchayats: PM Modi

Agency
New Delhi, June 12:

Asserting that India has attained new milestones in 'gram swaraj' and democratic empowerment of panchayats in the last eight years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged sarpanches to make efforts for saturation coverage of welfare schemes, conserving water and making the upcoming Yoga Day special.

In a letter to sarpanches (village heads) days after his government marked its eighth anniversary, Modi listed several issues on which he sought their support while appreciat-

ing their contribution in the last eight years. He asked them to work to make the eighth International Yoga Day, which falls on June 21, special and to encourage everyone in their village to join the exercise.

They can select an ancient or tourist place or a place near a water body in their area for everyone in the village to do yoga on the day, he said, urging them to share pictures to inspire others. People all over the world observe the day enthusiastically, and pictures of them doing yoga in different corners, from skies to the Himalayas and sea, in the preceding years have made Indi-

ans proud, the prime minister has written.

Noting that "Yoga for humanity" is the theme of the Yoga Day, he said the COVID-19 pandemic has made people realise the importance of health and how big a role yoga can play in this. Emphasising on the need for conserving every drop of water, Modi asked village heads to continue making collective efforts in villages in this regard while pitching for rain water harvesting measures.

To achieve this goal, the country has resolved to make 75 'amrit sarovars', a reference to water bodies, in every district in the 75th anniversary of

its Independence, he said. With the prime minister often stressing on the need for saturation coverage of welfare measures to help every eligible beneficiary, he told sarpanches that they will have a big role in this and asked them to speed up their efforts to ensure that no one is left out from the benefits of government schemes.

"When every eligible person in the village gets full benefits of schemes, then the village as well as the entire country will prosper," he wrote. Modi also asked them to continue with the efforts for 'Swachh Bharat' (clean India) with all seriousness.

AR conducts interaction with Meira Paibis and Youths

IT News
Imphal, June 12:

Mantripukhri Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised an interaction with Meera Paibis and youths of PUC

Club, Kairang Mamang Leikai, Imphal East district yesterday.

The meet focused upon measures to empower local youths, women and also provided the platform for discussion on various issues being

faced by Meira Paibis and Youths of Kairang area. A total of 45 individuals attended the meet and appreciated the sustained efforts of Assam Rifles in maintaining security and peace in the area.

Assam Rifles conducts Medical Camp

IT News
Imphal, June 12:

Modi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) conducted medical camp at Larong Khullen village, Chandel district yesterday.

In continuation with the efforts of Assam Rifles to reach out and extend a helping hand

for the local populace and assist them in humanitarian aid, a medical camp was organised to provide medical checkup, first aid and essential medicines to local populace including children of Larong Khullen Village.

As part of the medical camp, relevant information on various aspects were provided to in-

clude hygiene, sanitation, COVID-19, lifestyle diseases by Assam Rifles Medical Officer. A total of 119 locals benefited from the camp.

Locals appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles and conveyed their heartfelt thanks for addressing their medical requirements.

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Nisith Pramanik, Union Minister of State for YAS visits CRPF Camp...

During his short visit Nisith Pramanik showed a lot of interest and curiosity in the activities and role of CRPF. He appreciated the role of CRPF in Manipur and boosted the morale of Officers & Jawans of CRPF. He reiterated the sacrifices being made by CRPF men for the sake of the country.

On this occasion, Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, DIG (Adm, Prov & Accts), P.K. Nayak, DIG (Ops, Int & Works), Manoj Kumar Sharma, Commandant (Prov & Accts), M&N Sector & Dinesh, Commandant, GC, CRPF, Imphal were also present.

Naga Political Solution should be inclusive, honourable and acceptable

"Today, we call upon the Government of India to honor the peace negotiations and bring about sustainable peace in our Naga homeland by an honorable, acceptable and inclusive solution, to the Naga people at the earliest. The Naga Mothers called for recognition of our Naga Flag under which thousands have marched and laid down their lives and a working Constitution that will protect our Naga identity of social, cultural traditions and practices, basic Naga laws, our land and resources."

The Naga Mothers also reiterate their demand for the repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, which has violated every form of human rights in our Naga homeland. Eno. K. Elu Ndang, General Secretary, Naga Hoho called on the Prime Minister of India not to backtracked from his commitment in resolving the Naga issue. The Naga Hoho also appealed to "all communities and

nationalities in India" to extend their fullest support in resolving the decades old protracted Indo-Naga political issue."

Eno. Gentleson Vashum on behalf of the Forum for Naga Reconciliation stated that, "The experience of yesteryears has shown India's ability to accept the Naga historical and political rights. This has resulted in what seems like an enduring stalemate where aspirations were conveniently side-lined and people turned to mute spectators. The Government of India's quest for peace was fraught by political onepmanship, political manoeuvring and political mismanagement which did not lead to any constructive, meaningful or transformative outcome. Rather, it led to a botched peace where Naga life was turned upside down and basic fundamental rights suppressed for decades."

Dr. Kh. Pou of the Global Naga Forum underscored that,

"Nagas did not attack India or create problems for India. Nagas are anti-India. What the Nagas have been doing, since the British left the sub-continent, is merely to stand up for our birth-rights as human beings. Nagas wanted to safeguard our God-given autonomy and freedom in the lands of our birth, just like Indians and Burmese did in theirs. Nagas wanted no trouble with India or Myanmar." The Global Naga Forum stressed that "inclusive and honorable" political solution for the Naga people and expect an honorable solution based on the following: respect for Naga historical and political rights, official recognition of Naga Flag and the Constitution, inclusive solution not part solution, but solution for all the Naga areas, repeal of AFSPA and demilitarization of the region and complete autonomy in governance over all the ancestral Naga homeland.

Thirtung Wanglar, President of All Naga Students' Association, Manipur (ANSAM) noted that the Nagas "were placed under two nations and put under four states on the other, arbitrarily divided the Nagas to suppress and repress our aspiration." And emphasized that the "adversaries had been trying to divided and crush the Naga people with different design and scheme that suit their interest." He stated that, "They had drawn artificial boundaries, they had militarized our land, they employed different economical packages and other means to subdue us ever since she gains her independence. Despite all these, Nagas stood firm until today and shall remain as one people."

Eno. Tapan Bose, former Secretary General, South Asia Forum for Human Rights and member PIPFPD also sent a solidarity message stating that the Nagas are "one of the most

upright, honorable, compassionate and peace loving people."

Eno. Vijayan MJ, General Secretary Pakistan India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy underlined that "Peace is neither a generosity of the occupier state nor a subject matter of solicitation or negotiations! Peace is a right of all civilised people and communities. Peace in that sense is not just the absence of armed conflict ad ear , but the establishing of dignity, people's rights, democracy and justice." He also urged the government of India "to adhere to the understanding and agreements reached with Naga groups. Any betrayal of such commitments will only make South Asia more vulnerable to violence."

Eno. Neingoulo Krome, the Secretary General of the Naga Peoples' Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR) reminded the gathering of the various stories of human

rights violations and atrocities committed by the Indian armed force. He stated that, "Naga history is written in blood, fire and ashes." And "every Naga family has lost son, or daughter, or father or mother." But in recent years Nagas has become stooges of divisive politics. He also cautioned the youths not to be "caught up with ego- tribal egos, degree egos".

The rally saw the participation of all the Federating units of the Naga Students federation (NSF) and also the constituent units of NSUD along with the members of Delhi Eastern Nagaland Students' Union, Delhi (DENSU). The event was chaired by Siipuni Ng Philo, General Secretary of the Naga Students' Federation and the rally concluded with a mass sloganizing. The NSF also sent a representation to government of India seeking urgent attention to the Indo-Naga political issue.

Sports

Sahal Samad's late strike keeps India's Asian Cup hopes on track

Agency
Kolkata, June 12:

Sahal Samad's injury-time strike earned India a dramatic 2-1 victory over Afghanistan in Kolkata on Saturday that keeps the country's hopes of qualifying for next year's Asian Cup finals alive.

Sunil Chhetri looked to have secured Igor Stimac's side a second straight win after they beat Cambodia on Wednesday with an 86th-minute free kick, only for Zubayr Amiri's header two minutes later to pull the Afghans level.

But Sahal's strike into the bottom corner in the 92nd minute swung the result in India's favour and ensures they remain level on six points at the top of Group D with Hong Kong.

Jorn Andersen's outfit cruised to a 3-0 win over Cambodia earlier in the day with goals from Matt Orr, Sun Minghim and Philip Chan that kept Hong Kong on track for a first Asian Cup appearance since 1968.

Hong Kong face India on Tuesday at the Salt Lake Stadium and a draw should be enough to take both nations through to the finals.

Only the winners of the six



qualifying groups will advance automatically and they will be joined by the five runners-up with the best records.

Palestine claimed their second win in a row in Group B with a 5-0 thrashing of Yemen in Ulaanbaatar to lead the standings by two points from the Philippines, who needed an injury time goal from Gerrit Holtmann on his debut to hand Mongolia a 1-0 defeat.

AS Roma striker Eldor Shomurodov hit a hat-trick in Uzbekistan's 4-0 win over the Maldives that leaves the Central Asians on top of Group C

with six points.

The Uzbeks lead Thailand on goal difference ahead of their meeting on Tuesday following a 2-0 win for the Thais over Sri Lanka.

In Group E, Bahrain came from a goal behind to defeat Malaysia 2-1 in Kuala Lumpur, with Abdulla Yusuf Helal's 81st-minute penalty securing the points for the Gulf side.

The Bahrainis top the group with six points, three ahead of both Malaysia and Turkmenistan, who handed Bangladesh a 2-1 defeat.

Kyrgyzstan's Viktor Maier

scored both goals in their 2-0 win over Myanmar in Group F to allow them to pull level on six points with Tajikistan.

The Tajiks had a 53rd-minute goal from Shervoni Mabatsheev to thank for their win over the Southeast Asians to stand on the cusp of qualification for the finals.

In the later Group A matches in Kuwait City, Jordan stayed top with a 1-0 win over Indonesia, while two goals from veteran Kuwaiti striker Yousef Nasser helped the hub hosts to a 4-1 victory over Nepal.

Sreejesh saves penalty stroke, Indian men shock Olympic champions Belgium 5-4 in FIH Pro League

Agency
Antwerp, June 12:

Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh saved a penalty stroke in an exhilarating shoot out after making some breathtaking saves in regulation time as the Indian men's team stunned Olympic champions Belgium 5-4 in the first match of the two-legged FIH Pro Hockey League here on Saturday.

The Indian team was down 1-3 with just eight minutes left in the match but made it 3-3 to force a penalty shoot out. Sreejesh foiled an attempt from Alexander Hendrickx, who was taking his third PS, when the shoot out was locked 4-4 and Akashdeep Singh found the net to make it 5-4 for the Tokyo Games bronze medalists.

Sreejesh, as usual, was brilliant under the bar, foiling a number of attempts from the hosts throughout the match but his two saves in the final quarter proved to be crucial.

The eventful first quarter ended in a goalless stalemate with Sreehesh doing a fantastic job under the bar, making two saves.

It was India who had the first opportunity to open the scoring but both the short corners went abegging as the home goalie foiled those attempts with his rock solid defence.

Akashdeep too fluffed a shot near the goalpost which on any other day he would have flicked inside the post.

However, early in the second quarter, India found the net when Abhishek's shot rebounded off the custodian's leg and Shamsheer Singh (182) tapped the high ball into the net after it came off the post.

Belgium found the equaliser through Cedric Charlier (212), who deflected a pass from Nicolas de Kerpel in lightning quick time. It was Arthur van Doren, who pushed it towards Kerpel from the left flank.

Both the teams got a penalty corner each but did not

utilise.

The hosts broke the deadlock in the third quarter with Simon Gougnaud (362) slotting a fierce hit home after being fed by Florent van Aubel, who controlled the high ball nicely to push it towards his teammate.

Sreejesh saved India from more ignominy when he made two heroic saves, parrying the ball away with his stick, stretched fully on his right.

De Kerpel, though, finally breached the defence with a furious hit off a penalty corner to make it 3-1.

India were given a lifeline in the match when Manpreet Singh won a penalty which Harmanpreet converted and two minutes from the hooter, Jarnpreet Singh found the equaliser through a short corner.

India opted for a variation as Jugraj let it slip towards Jarnpreet from behind his back after faking a stroke, and the latter blasted that into the net.