

## MSPDCL promotes three managers to DGM in-charge by ignoring the seniority list

IT News  
Imphal, June 17:

The Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (MSPDCL) has promoted three managers as In-Charge Deputy General Managers by ignoring the seniority list.

According to information obtained by the Imphal Times, MSPDCL recruits 34 Managers (Electrical) through MPSC, with 13 promoted to In-Charge DGM.

Tuangkanson, Kanghujam Nabakanta Singh, N. Birjit, Wangkheimayum Sonia, Thongram Iomcha Meitei, Shougajam Niti Devi, Irengbam Ashachandra Singh, Lourembam Momocha Singh, Thanglalsam, Chandramani

Sl. No.	Name	Date of birth	Educational Qualification	Date of appointment	Whether on or promotion	Remarks
1	Kanghujam N. Birjit	20-04-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
2	Kanghujam Nabakanta Singh	01-04-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
3	N. Tuangkanson	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
4	Wangkheimayum Sonia	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
5	Thongram Iomcha Meitei	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
6	Shougajam Niti Devi	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
7	Irengbam Ashachandra Singh	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
8	Lourembam Momocha Singh	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
9	Thanglalsam	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
10	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
11	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
12	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
13	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
14	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
15	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
16	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
17	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
18	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
19	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
20	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
21	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
22	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
23	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
24	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
25	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
26	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
27	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
28	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
29	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
30	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
31	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
32	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
33	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	
34	Chandramani	04-05-1985	B.E (EE)	04-02-2014	DN	

Mangsatabam, Letkhomang Haokip, and Usham Rocky Singh are the thirteen managers who have been promoted to the post of in-charge DGM.

According to the MSPDCL's seniority list, employee in serial No. 12 on the list was promoted by ignoring serial number 11. Employee in serial no. 20 in the list was promoted by ignoring serial numbers 13-19 and finally employee in serial no. 25, was promoted by ignoring serial numbers 13-19, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

Whether promotion of employees not in the basis of seniority list is permitted by the MSPDCL service rule or not is a matter needed to be clarified by the authority.

## Cleanliness should be the mantra for good health: Governor



IT News  
Imphal, June 17:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan has reiterated that cleanliness should be the mantra for maintaining good health and therefore all should be united to work for ensuring a clean and healthy environment. He was speaking at an interaction programme of all district level officers, representatives of local bodies and people held today at the Indoor Hall of S. Kula Women's College in Nambol Sub-Division of Bishnupur district.

Governor said, all should take care of his or her health as it is the primary prerequisite for any activities. He said, without good health no work can be done and therefore to ensure a good healthcare system, the government has been

taking up many initiatives. Stating that we are all aware that people all over the world are facing unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, Shri La. Ganesan said, due to prompt action taken up by the government, this dreaded disease is almost under control. But we still have to be alert and careful. The relentless efforts of health workers and front-line warriors are indeed commendable and praiseworthy by one and all. Governor urged all sections of the society to get vaccinated, which is the best way to defeat the pandemic.

Governor further said that the Centre has committed to eliminate Tuberculosis (TB) from the soil of India by 2025 and therefore we all should work to achieve this target. He asked the concerned authorities to conduct a survey

within the district to find out the number of TB patients and report to the concerned so as to enable them to carry out appropriate remedial measures.

Stating that the activities of anti-social elements have considerably decreased, Governor appealed to the people to work for development and peace. All should cooperate with each other and work for the development of the nation, he added. Earlier, the Governor heard grievances faced by the people and asked the concerned officials to take up steps at the earliest.

Thongam Shanti Singh, MLA, I. Nalini Devi, MLA, M. Ashnikumar Singh, Chairman, LDA and Deputy Commissioner, Bishnupur L. Bikram attended among others in the programme.

## AR apprehends a PREPAK (PRO) insurgent

IT News  
Imphal, June 17:

Khoump Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police apprehended an insurgent (Self Styled Lieutenant) of proscribed group PREPAK (PRO) from Yumnam Khunou, Bishnupur district, Manipur today.

Based on specific input, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched a joint operation which led to the apprehension.

The apprehended insurgent was handed over to Manipur Police for further investigation and legal proceedings.

## BYDA felicitates shining star of Class-XII Examination

IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, June 17:

The Babupara Youth Development Association (BYDA), Jiribam felicitated seven students of Jiribam District who had achieved first division in Class-XII Board Examination.

For honouring the students, the Babupara Youth Development Association (BYDA) office bearers and advisors visited to the residence of the students and felicitated them with a certificate and mementoes for their relentless hard work and efforts.

During the felicitation, the General Secretary of BYDA Javed Laskar said they have felicitated the students for their abilities as well. These awards help to give them due recognition in the society and motivate them to move ahead and rise above their expectations." He also wishes the students good luck for their future endeavours.

## '11 Villages of Leimarol Hill range accept to work with Haomee'



IT News  
Imphal, June 17:

Authority of 11 (eleven) villages of Leimarol Hill range in Kasom sub-division of Kamjong district has given assent to work with the Federation of Haomee in its mission to protect the identity, culture, tradition and history of the indigenous people of the region.

In a statement by Dr. Khomdom Lisam, Publicity Secy. Haomee, it is stated that

a meeting of all authorities of the villages of Leimarol Hill range was held at Kasom Khullen Community Hall yesterday.

In the meeting leaders and villagers of various communities including Tangkhul, Kabui, Maring, Paomei, Thangal and Meitei attended the meeting and deliberated on the issues being faced by the indigenous people who have been living there since time immemorial.

Speakers on the occasion

seriously discussed about the influx of foreigners, who have now shattered the rights of the indigenous people. They expressed dissatisfaction over the attempt by foreign migrants who have been trying all means to distort the history of the indigenous people of the area.

Speakers on the occasion called on about the need for standing united to face any challenges that may shattered the peaceful existence of the people there.

## Let we Survive – a play that depicts the lives of Sangai staged

IT News  
Imphal, June 17:

A new theatre production of the United Women's Social & Cultural Forum, Chingamkha Liwa Ningthoujam leikai, Imphal West was staged yesterday at its auditorium.

The play "Eikhoibu Hinghanbiyu", which literally means "Let we Survive" was produced under the financial assistance by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi.

Inaugural function of the premier show was attended by Retd. Deputy Director of DIPR, N. Krishnakumar Singh, Playwright and Director Natyashri K. B. Sharma



and Ksh. Somorendro Singh and the President of the United Women's Social & Cultural Forum N. Shyama Devi as dignitaries.

The play is about the story of an innocent family of a deer living on a wet land of Keibul Lamjao of Moirang. The deer are very cute and beautiful to look at. The rela-

tionships between the male and female deer are very cheerful one and they live together not only lovingly and dearly but also peaceful. But then the customary law of human beings breaks the peaceful living of the deer.

The story depicts the present conditions of the Sangai.

## CM attends book discussion at JNMDA



IT News  
Imphal, June 17:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh attended a book discussion on "Veer Savarkar: The man who could have prevented partition", authored by Central Information Commissioner, Government of India Uday Mahukar and Chirayu Pandit, at Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy Auditorium, Imphal today. The programme was organised by Intellectual Forum of North East - Manipur.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren stated the book titled "Veer Savarkar: The man who could have prevented partition" is not just a book but an awareness to the people of

our Country. He continued that our present generations need to know about the freedom fighters, who had played important roles in making the present day India. He maintained that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government had taken up certain initiatives to bring up those unsung freedom fighters, who had contributed much in shaping the country, to the knowledge of our youths.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to have discussions and symposiums on our history and certain other issues which would act as a roadmap towards a better Manipur.

He also praised the au-

thors for coming up with such a book which would be knowledge sharing to the people.

The Book discussion programme was also attended by Central Information Commissioner Uday Mahukar, Vice-Chancellor, Dhanamanjuri University Prof. Nongmathem Rajmuhon Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University Prof. Naorem Lokendra Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University of Culture Prof. Paonam Gunindro Singh, Director, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Prof. Ahanthem Santa Singh, Kargil War Hero Col. (Dr). Rajesh Adhau SM and General Council Member, Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi Sh. Nabachandra Sharma among others.

★ **Editorial**

**Oil Palm tree plantation: Mizoram Experience**

The Mizoram Legislative Assembly has passed The Mizoram Oil Palm (Regulation of Production & Processing) Act, 2004, on December, 2004, for implementing Oil Palm cultivation in PPP mode involving the State Agriculture Department, partner companies for setting up of Oil Extraction plants and the farmers. (Notification No.A.10218/141/04-LJD/21 dated 8th December, 2004)

Cultivation of Oil Palm in Mizoram was started in 2005. Mizoram is being recognized as the pioneer of Oil Palm cultivation amongst the States of North East India.

As per information available in the web site of the Agriculture Department, Government of Mizoram, Oil Palm Cultivation was taken place in an area of 26,680 hectares (as on July 2021), at 197 villages of seven districts viz. Kolasib, Mamit, Aizawl, Serchhip, Siaha, Lunglei and Lawngtlai.

Director of the State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Government of Mizoram, C Lalnithanga had said that oil palm is an environment-friendly crop that absorbs carbon dioxide. He even stated that - There is a misconception that oil palm needs too much water. In reality, they need less water than rice, sugarcane and bananas. Rainfall that Mizoram receives annually is adequate for oil palm.

In a public discussion held on May 27, 2022 organised by Solicitous Citizens of Manipur at Thoubal district, a resource person said that 25 selected activists from North East states visited Kolasib district of Mizoram to take stock of the progress of Palm tree plantations on December 2021. While interacting with the farmers who had taken up oil palm tree plantations, the team was told that at the beginning around 150 farmers of the district started oil palm cultivation in 2008 by clearing the zoom cultivation areas and also by clearing some of the wild trees. In December, 2021 there were only 30 farmers left who continue the palm tree plantations. The question is why 120 farmers who have taken up the palm tree plantations left and started planting coconut and other crop plantation. If the palm tree plantation is benefitted there is no reason on why majority of the farmers in a village of Kolasib district should left the palm tree plantation.

According to Journalist Purabi Bose some farmers belonging to Mara tribe in Kolasib district had even stated that they would not have given permission for oil palm plantation but no farmers were asked in the regard. For some farmers in the district, switching to oil palm plantations was the only way to be on the right side of the government. They had told that, "Farming agricultural crops used to give us food security for our family. Oil palm plantations provide nothing to women. It is squeezing out blood both from my land and my body." (Source: Scrolin – Journalist Purabi Bose, September 11, 2018)

As reported in the *North East Today* on Nov. 7, 2021, Mizoram's Association for Environment Protection (ASEP) and Conservation came out with a strong statement against the move stating that the centre's move to promote oil palm cultivation in Northeastern states could be disastrous.

An oil extraction plant, established by the Godrej Agrovet company at Bukvannei village in Kolasib district has not been of much help to the farmers, as per report.

Lallianpui, a scientist at Wildlife Institute of India and member of the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation in Mizoram, said, "Globally, all tropical countries with commercial palm oil cultivation have faced ecological declines and socio-economic consequences". (Times of India, Aug 31, 2021)

Senior Scientist of Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), T. R. Shankar Raman had stated that after a span of around 8 years, the landscape of Jampa region in Mizoram has been significantly changed. He stated that before the conversion of the area into palm tree forest (Mono forest) around 50 species of birds use to visit the area however, only 10 species of birds are hardly found in the Palm forest. That was in 2015/16.

The Mizoram experiences on the mission Oil Palm Tree plantation needs to be seriously analyzed, as the state of Manipur is all set for mass plantation of the Oil Palm Trees in the state.

**Remembering great Indian Hornbill- A bird that was murdered**

By: Dr. Aniruddha Babar

In his book, *The Deeper Minds of All Ages*, Friedrich Nietzsche wrote:

"The deeper minds of all ages have had pity for animals, because they suffer from life and have not the power to turn the sting of the suffering against themselves, and understand their being metaphysically. The sight of the blind suffering is the spring of the deepest emotion."

It is shocking and surprising to see how brutal and low a man can get in their life. The dark shadow of a Murder of the Great Indian Hornbill is bound to haunt murderers, their supporters and silent witness to the murder (those heartless villagers who were present at the scene of crime) whole their life but also to a people like me who became disturbed and devastated for a moment seeing the naked celebration of insane cruelty to a beautiful Bird.

The video of brutal abuse of the Great Indian Hornbill Bird (designated as endangered bird), who is not only a pride of Nagaland but also the entire India, shakens the conscience of humanity. In video, as I have seen, he was painfully stretched, hold tight, abused and brutally beaten. If you can see the video, you may observe the pain and suffering Hornbill was going through in his torturous ordeal in the hands of his murderers. That entire gory scene, compel me to inquire into the mind of all those people who were actively participating in the CRIME. What could have been their motivation to brutally assault a helpless Bird? What made them so violent? Did Bird assault them? Did bird arrive in their homes, their fields with Guns and Swords? Did Bird abuse them or their family members with swear words? What instigated their anger?

My friend in Germany, who is a noted Psychiatrist once told me that the acts of cruelty to animals are symptomatic of a deep mental disturbance. Research in psychology and criminology shows that people who commit acts of cruelty to animals do not stop there—many of them move on to their fellow humans. Murderers often start out by killing and torturing animals as kids and continue their gory fascination for the same as adults. She was trying to discover the seeds of potential human killers in the actions of Men and Women who tortured animals to death.

Can we all recall the murder of pregnant Elephant after she ate pineapple filled with firecrackers? In 2018, a horrific tale of animal abuse surfaced when it was reported that 4 men allegedly gang-raped a male dog in Mumbai. Also, an animal abuse video went viral after a group of men were seen torturing a dolphin on camera. On July 29, 2018, a news surfaced as to the rape of pregnant goat by 8 men in Haryana, on May 18, 2018 Hyderabad was shocked to read that 100 stray dogs were culled and dumped in a forest area in Kongara, on January 12, 2018 Eleven monkeys were found killed near the National Highway-8, about 66 km from Jaipur, in Rajasthan. Forest officials said they were beaten with sticks and then splashed with an abrasive chemical, probably an acid. There have been many incidents of animal cruelty that came on surface in the media.

The first question that comes instinctively is why would someone inflict such pain on a helpless and harmless animal? A study on childhood experiences of psychopaths by Marshall and Cooke revealed two distinct factors—familial and societal—both of which were highly correlated with adult psychopathy scores. These results indicate a connection between the experiences psychopaths have in childhood, and their influence on the adult outcome.

Robert Agnew explained in the article "The Causes of Animal Abuse—A Social-Psychological Analysis", published in the journal *Theoretical Criminology*, that the first cause is ignorance about the abusive consequences of our behaviour for animals, the belief that abuse is justified, and the perception that abuse is personally beneficial. Second, a set of factors including individual traits, like empathy, the individual's socialisation, the individual's level of strain or stress, level of social control, the nature of the animal under consideration, and the individual's social position, together determine the behaviour of the abuser.

Other studies have explained the third—and worst—reason. They enjoy hurting things—because it makes them feel good and powerful. They simply enjoy pain and violence. This group of people suffer from serious psychological problems that will probably not go away on their own. Psychological intervention is essential for them.

Hitting, shouting or incurring any type of violence against an animal without feeling is a very worrying trait in a person. Also, there have been cases wherein the observations made as to the dual nature of personalities of perpetrators, for e.g. a person who is very kind, caring and good to pet animals, shown visible tendency to become abusive, violent and ultra-cruel towards street and wild animals. The tendency to enact cruelty toward animals is closely linked to a mental illness. Such psychological pathologies seriously affect a person's ability to feel and reason. Such people do not stop with animal abuse, but escalate their abusive behavior towards closely related people for e.g. Lovers, Parents, Friends, Husband/ Wife/ Children etc. There have been observations made that domestic violence or relationship abuse is closely related to intentional animal abuse tendency in Men.

The accused of murder of the Great Indian Hornbill have been arrested by the Police and I am sure necessary action will be taken against them under relevant sections of various laws. Law will make sure that they will not escape the punishment. However, what I personally feel is that, the culprits should be made to undergo mental health evaluation as well. Most of the time we don't realize that certain people in the society with violent tendencies are actually "living Time Bombs". Such people needs to be immediately identified and put through a rigorous mental evaluation and curative medical procedures. Police administration can play a big role in this. Simply by observing the nature of crime, extent of involvement of the accused, nature of actions involved, emotions of accused towards the crime he/she committed, gravity of cruelty involved, visibility of abnormal tendencies, authorities can very well construct psychological picture of perpetrators which can help them to decide as to whether the perpetrators also need to be sent for mental evaluation. Even, after the court convicted the culprits charged in offences related to animal abuse and cruelty, they should also be regularly put under the supervision of highly trained mental health expert so that the 'violent tendencies and their uncontrolled expressions' can be dealt with the help of modern medical science.

I think we have to understand certain things very clearly. Animals have emotions and they deserve right to life as much as we all do. Here, there is no reason to challenge the liberty of Man as to what to eat and what not to eat, but as there is an international consensus— even the animals and birds reared for food must be killed by inflicting as little pain as possible. The point is—treat Animals and Birds with human sensitivity whether they are systematically reared for food or they are wild creatures.

The law of land must be respected and followed unquestionably. We have Wild Life Protection Act 1972, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, Sec. 428 & 429 of Indian Penal Code—which provides for punishment of all acts of cruelty such as killing, poisoning maiming or rendering useless of animals. These legislations have been enacted to obviate unnecessary pain and suffering of animals and similar legislations continue to be enacted according to changing circumstances. Also, we have to understand that all these legislations are very much applicable to Nagaland and they do exist here to protect Animals and Birds. Moreover, The Constitution of India makes it the "duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for all living creatures." This constitutional duty of animal protection is supplemented by the Directive Principle of State Policy under Article 48A which state that: The state shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

We have a mature legal system which reflects the collective conscience not only of all of us, but the entire world. However, what we need is a mature human mind. Sensitive and Sensible human being. Mankind has been around on this planet for more than Five to Seven Million years, and it is surprising that we have not learned anything. I have no hopes from the people of the past but since I believe in the Law of Evolution— I have firm conviction that the future generations will be better than us.

Let us learn to live like human being and respect all sentient beings.

(The writer is a Professor of Political Science & International Law Dept of Political Science, Tezso College, Nagaland)

**Need for the establishment of Mathematics University in India**



By: Vijay Garg

There have always been fine intellectuals in India. Great mathematical scientists like Ramanujan and Arya Bhatt belonged to India. They have given India a different identity by researching mathematics. This topic has evolved greatly with time. But still many students are not interested in this topic. They describe this topic as being difficult, complicated, and boring. The main reason for this is this ignorance of the math are students, parents and every person who comes in contact with students. Not only students but teachers too present this topic in difficult terms to the students. To motivate students to pursue Mathematics as a subject, it has become very important to give them knowledge of mathematical topics, its elements, math courses, jobs in the field of mathematics, and employment opportunities. Therefore, it is necessary to celebrate mathematical week, math month, mathematical year for understanding the importance of mathematics and explaining its importance to students. There is a need for special focus on this subject. This is possible only if there are people with knowledge, place, organizations which focus solely on this subject. A mathematical university should be set up where intellectuals and experts related to Mathematical subjects, related mathematical materials, mathematical literature etc. are available and where ways to make mathematics easier, interesting can be found.

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**The Eclipse has Ended - India's Coal Sector Witnessing Rays of Development**

By: Pralhad Joshi

In the 75th year of independence, Hon'ble Prime Minister has given us a call to come together and celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and make it a mass movement. India has come a long way in the past 75 years. Coal sector of India, however, saw major development and reforms only in last 8 years. India's energy and industrial ecosystem are witnessing extraordinary scenario today. With scorching heat waves, record-breaking temperature, and industries booming with a promising economic recovery after the global pandemic, there is an unprecedented growth in the power demand. Because of our positive reforms, today we are well equipped and confident to face this situation and turn challenges into opportunities. The achievements and contribution of the coal sector to fulfil India's energy needs are significant. Coal is the very source from where India gains its strength. Behind the record numbers of

electricity connections provided in the last eight years, behind the industrial and manufacturing sector operating non-stop 24 x 7, behind the economy's stellar performances, Coal has played the role of industrial backbone. From darkness of opacity towards Boosting Transparency. A slew of policy interventions and bold steps, since 2014, have helped the Indian coal and mineral mining sector grow in a responsible, sustainable & industry friendly manner. The Coal Mines Special Provision Act was enacted in 2015, putting an end to the decades of malpractices and arbitrary allocation of resources. CMSP enactment played a vital role in ensuring availability of coal for sectors such as steel, cement, and power utilities, which are necessary for the development of the country and to augment coal production by transparent allocation of coal mines through auction. 10 tranches of auctions have been held

between 2015 to 2020. 35 coal blocks have been successfully auctioned through these tranches. A total of 85 coal blocks stand allocated—including auctioned and non-auctioned blocks, with a total Peak Rated Capacity (PRC) of 440.6 MT. In order to ensure availability of coal to the power sector, the government introduced Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India (SHAKTI) policy in 2017. Coal linkage was extended to power sector under SHAKTI policy for just and efficient distribution of coal. Dawn of a New Era: Commercial Coal Auction. Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the auction for Commercial Coal Mining in 2020. Launch of commercial coal auction was like a fresh breeze to the entire coal sector by bringing transparency, ease of doing business, investment opportunities, and helping open the sector.

End use restrictions for utilization of coal were removed, 100% FDI was allowed for more investment and healthy competition. The 2020 reforms resulted in creation of a free market for coal with private participation, bringing competition and greater efficiencies. A number of procedural changes were also introduced for the 1st time towards the development and regulation of coal sector, such as incentive of 50% rebate for early production, allowing single bid, liberal entry norms etc. Since the launch of Commercial Coal Auctions in June 2020, 4 tranches have been completed. 47 blocks have been auctioned so far with a peak rated capacity of 101.5 MTPA. These blocks will generate approx. Rs. 11,172 crore revenue and potential employment for more than 1.17 lakh people. Captive coal producers have been allowed to sell 50% of their production in the open market after meeting the demand of their end use plants.

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# India adds 12,847 new Covid cases, 14 fatalities; active cases up by over 4800

Agence  
New Delhi, June 17:

India reported a single-day rise of 12,847 coronavirus infections, taking the tally of cases to 4,32,70,577, while active cases increased to 63,063, according to the Union Health Ministry data issued on Friday.

The data updated at 8 am also recorded 14 fresh fatalities, pushing the overall death figure to 5,24,817.

The active cases now constitute 0.15 per cent of the total infections, while the country's COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.64 per cent, the health ministry said. The case fatality rate was 1.21 per cent.

An increase of 4,848 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.47 per cent and the weekly positivity rate



was 2.41 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease rose to 4,26,82,697.

A total of 5,24,817 deaths

have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,880 from Maharashtra, 69,853 from Kerala, 40,110 from Karnataka, 38,026 from Tamil Nadu, 26,225 from Delhi, 23,525 from Uttar

Pradesh and 21,207 from West Bengal.

Of the 14 new fatalities, eight are from Kerala, three from Maharashtra, two from Delhi and one from Karnataka.

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

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

According to the ministry, 195.84 crore doses of vaccines 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. It went past the four-crore mark on January 25 this year.

# 'ULFA-I chairman' Mukul Hazarika not to be extradited to India, wins legal battle in UK court



Courtesy: NE Now  
Guwahati, June 17:

Alleged chairman of ULFA-I - Mukul Hazarika alias Abhijeet Asom - will not be extradited to India.

The development follows a legal battle that Mukul Hazarika won a legal battle in a UK court.

Mukul Hazarika, an Indian-origin doctor from Assam, had been fighting a case on his proposed extradition to India on a terror charge.

He was charged with terror charge for allegedly being chairman of ULFA-I.

The UK court that heard the matter discharged Mukul Hazarika of the charges on Thursday.

75-year-old Mukul Hazarika, a British national, is a general medical practitioner from Cleveland in northern England.

He was sought by the Indian government for prosecution for allegedly waging wage

war against the Government of India and conspiring to commit terrorism under the UAPA.

The court of Westminster magistrates in its judgment said that the accused must be discharged as the particulars in the case were not satisfactory.

There is no admissible evidence that establishes that the defendant is Abhijeet Asom, chairman of ULFA-I, justice Michael Snow of Westminster magistrates' court said.

"I conclude that there is no admissible evidence that provides the essential identification that the defendant was the chairman of ULFA-I or gave the speech at the training camp. I am satisfied that a tribunal of fact, properly directed, could not reasonably and properly find that the defendant was Asom or convict on the basis of the evidence. I discharge the defendant pursuant to s84(5) 2003 [Extradition Act]," he said.

Notably, Dr Mukul Hazarika alias Abhijeet Asom, the former chairman of the Paresh Baruah-led ULFA-I, a London based doctor, was recently quizzed by the MI6 to ascertain his real identity.

According to reports, following interrogation, Abhijeet Asom quit ULFA-I, fearing an extradition to India by the United Kingdom government.

India made a formal request of extradition of Mukul Hazarika alias Abhijeet Asom to the UK in connection with an NIA case.

A case was registered by the NIA in 2017 against Abhijeet Asom under Sections 18, 18A, 18B and 20 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and sections 121A and 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Last year, ULFA-I chief Paresh Baruah had claimed that the outfit's then chairman Abhijeet Asom was a 'fiction' created for security forces and intelligence agencies.

# Agnipath protests: Bihar Deputy CM Renu Devi's residence in Bettiah attacked - damage reported

Agence  
Patna, June 17:

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi's residence in Bettiah was attacked on Friday by army aspirants protesting against the new recruitment scheme - Agnipath. "Our residence in Bettiah was attacked. We suffered a lot of damage. She (Renu Devi) is in Patna," her son told news agency ANI as violent protests continued for the second day across Bihar. Devi belongs to the BJP, which is in power in the state in alliance with the JD-U of Nitish Kumar. The protesters also attacked the residence of Bihar BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal in Bettiah.

Interestingly, the JD-U has asked the Centre to review the new scheme under which soldiers will be recruited only for four years. Under the new scheme, the soldiers will be engaged for four years and after that 75 per cent of them will be relieved with a package of Rs 11.71 lakh. The army aspirants are protesting against this four-



years term saying it is not justified as they spend years in preparation and the scheme will leave them jobless after short stint.

JDU National President Rajiv Ranjan Singh on Thursday said that the army aspirants are worried about their future and unemployment after four years that the government should reconsider its decision.

"Due to the decision of Agnipath, the fear of dissatisfaction, despair and bleak future (unemployment) is clearly visible in the minds of the youth, and students of the country in-

cluding Bihar. The central government should immediately reconsider Agnipath scheme because this decision is also related to the defense and security of the country," he said.

Today, the protesters created ruckus and vandalised railway stations in Begusarai, Lakhisarai and Hajipur. They burnt tyres on railway tracks and blocked roads.

Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi today urged the state government to make provision in the recruitment of Agniveers in the

police services. The soldiers recruited under the new scheme will be called Agniveers. He said several state governments have agreed to give preferences to Agniveers in the recruitment in police services. "The Bihar government would have to take the same initiatives to provide jobs to Agniveers after their 4-year tenure ends," he said.

So far, BJP-ruled UP, Haryana and Assam have announced that the soldiers after four years will be given preference in police and other government recruitments.

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# The Eclipse has Ended - India's.....

**Mining with Responsibility: Mission Coal Gasification & Green Initiatives**

The government is also conscious about the fact that while coal is going to remain the most important source of energy in the country, clean coal technologies and diversification is the only way forward. We are committed to scaling up mining activities in the country in an environmentally sustainable way.

National Coal Gasification Mission took a definite direction with Hon'ble Finance Minister announcing 4 pilot projects, during her budget speech this year. In order to incentivize more participation and increase coal production, the rebate of 20% was increased to 50% for successful bidders using their coal for coal gasification and liquefaction. Coal PSUs have pre-

pared an investment plan of almost Rs. 2.5 Lakh crore by 2030 in new business areas, clean coal technologies and new mine development projects. NLC India is the first CPSE in the country to achieve solar power generation capacity of more than 1 GW.

Till now, Coal/lignite PSUs have planted almost 100 million trees/saplings.

**Slew of reform continues**

In a more recent step, one time window has been granted to PSUs for surrendering Non-operational coal mines without penalty. Around 16 coal blocks will be freed by Central/state PSUs. Another particularly important reform includes merger of e-auctions and offer of coal through a single e-auction window. 5 types of e-auction windows were merged together. Coal offered has been made transport mode agnostic

with default option being through rail mode.

To utilise mined out land that is unsuitable for coal mining we approved the policy for optimal use of land acquired under CBA Act. The policy provides for utilisation of such land for the purpose of development and setting up infrastructure relating to coal and energy. The policy will unlock land for various coal and energy infrastructure development activities that would encourage investment in backward areas of the country. With this recent-most reform, and many more underway, Coal sector is ready to take all challenges coming its way and continue playing the parental role of fulfilling India's burgeoning energy needs.

As a result of these slew of reforms the coal mining sector

stands transformed today. In the last 8 years domestic Coal Production has increased by 37.3% and Domestic Coal Offtake has increased by 43%. Domestic Coal Production has increased from 716 MT in FY21 to 777 MT in FY22, a growth of 8.5%. Coal Production from Captive mines during the same period has increased from 66 MT to 86 MT, a growth of 30%. Domestic Coal Offtake has increased from 691 MT in FY21 to 818 MT in FY22, a growth of 18.4%.

In the 8 years of good under the leadership of Hon'ble PM, India's Coal sector has seen unprecedented growth and emerged from an eclipse which was cast upon them for far too long.

(The writer is Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs)

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# Need for the establishment of....

Large scale research related to mathematics is needed. This work is possible only and only in a mathematics university. There is a need to do something to bring about a change. The demand for mathematics is very high today. Without it, every person, every state and every country is incomplete. There should be some books and experts, who make this topic easier. Children do not know what the real purpose of reading is, like algebra, trigonometry etc. But when they realise the actual situation, they get afraid. Then they say how easy it was in the 10th

grade, simple and in their mother-tongue. But as soon as they are in Eleventh grade, students get disheartened due to new syllabus, new topics and foreign language and then lose. Only a few percent of the students succeed. This University may send these experts to schools and colleges and guide the students and teachers from time to time. This type of field should not be ignored. Rather, there should be every possible effort to maintain this glorious gift from intellectuals. Time always requires a change. Governments are heavily involved

in this change. For example, Medical University, Technical University, Veterinary University, Agricultural University, Ayurvedic University, Homeopathic University have been established. Similarly, a mathematical university should also be established. The government should look into it completely. Central Government should take initiative for Mathematical University. If the state government takes initiative in this matter then with the help of the Central government, the first university of mathematics can be established in India

# TWO DAYS CRAFT AWARENESS PROGRAM HELD

Two days Crafts Awareness Programme was held on 13th June and 14th June at Thayong Village, Imphal East, Manipur. That Awareness Programme was held on Under AHVY Scheme for Handicrafts Artisan Sensitization of Scheme of DC (H) in Cluster activities under AHVY. Benefits of E-commerce /GeM portal, Murda Loan and Welfare activities of DC(H). It was organized by Alliance For Integrated Management (AIM) Urupok Takhellambam laikai Imphal West, Manipur and sponsored by Office of the Devel-



opment Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textile Govt of India.

Yunnam Jagyashwori Devi Assistance Director Handicrafts O/o the D.C. (HC), Ministry of Textile Govt of India and Birenjit Retd. Asst. Direc-

tor, Handicrafts and Handloom, Govt of Manipur and Ngouru Mainsam State Awardee were consented to Grace the Programme as Chief Guest, President and Guest of Honours respectively.

# 16 dead in Assam, Meghalaya floods, 1,700 villages under water

Agency  
Guwahati, June 17:

The flood situation in Assam and Meghalaya has deteriorated with rising water levels in major rivers and 16 people losing their lives, amid incessant rain triggering landslides in many places across the two states.

At least 11 lakh people in 25 districts have been affected by the floods with the newly formed Bajali district being the worst hit. The water levels in the Brahmaputra and Gauranga rivers were flowing above the danger level in many areas, officials said.

The flood waters have submerged 1972.80 hectares of cropland in the flood-hit districts. According to state government data, 1,510 villages under 72 revenue circles are currently underwater.

The administrations of flood-affected districts have issued alerts, urging people not to go out of their homes unless it is urgent or there is a medical emergency.

Most parts of capital Guwahati has come to a standstill due to waterlogging for the third consecutive day. Several landslides have also been reported in Guwahati city with three persons getting injured in Ajantanagar in the Noonmati area.

In Baksa district, a portion



of a bridge collapsed in Subankhata area on Wednesday due to incessant rainfall and rise in water level of Dihing river.

At least six trains have been cancelled, and four partially cancelled following waterlogging on the tracks between Nalbari and Ghograpar of the Rangiya division in Lower Assam, according to an official.

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor and director Rohit Shetty have contributed ₹ 5 lakhs to the CM Relief Fund for the flood-affected people in the state, Chief Minister

Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted, thanking them for their act of generosity.

Apart from Assam, extremely heavy rains have affected normal life in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh also. At least 13 people have died in Meghalaya and three in Assam due to landslides, lightning and flash floods.

In Meghalaya, the state government has formed four committees to look into four regions of the state. Each committee headed by a cabinet minister. The National highway 6 is closed for heavy traffic after

parts of the highway caved in and was washed away. The highway is the lifeline of Tripura, southern Assam, Mizoram and parts of Meghalaya.

Both Assam and Meghalaya received 272mm excess rainfall than normal till Wednesday. The weather department has extended the red alert in the two states till this weekend.

## Meritorious students feted

IT News  
Imphal, June 17:

Rajkumari Nevita Devi, 11th position holder in the Science Stream in the just declared result conducted by COHSEM 2022 was felicitated today by Self Economic Planning for Adult Women (SEPAW). Sagolband Bijyogvinda Lareinjam Leirak Keli Makhong, Imphal West.

Laishram Vanshika Devi, who score highest mark in Anthropology in the class XII exam 2022 conducted by COHSEM 2022 was also felicitated.

# Age relaxation for Agnipath scheme indicates

## Government's concern for the youth: Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh

PIB  
New Delhi, June 17:

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh today asserted that the AGNIPATH scheme is a golden opportunity for the Indian youth to join the Armed Forces and serve their motherland. In a statement, Shri Rajnath Singh, who is on a two-day visit to Jammu & Kashmir, said that many youths did not get the opportunity to join the Armed Forces, as recruitment process could not take place for last two years. Keeping in mind the future of the youth, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that the government, on the directions of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has increased the age limit for the recruitment of Agniveers from 21 years to 23 years for the recruitment cycle of 2022.

"The relaxation of age indicates that the Government cares for our youth. Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the Services are committed to commence the recruitment process at the earliest. We invite the youth to join the Armed Forces and serve the Nation through AGNIPATH," the Raksha Mantri.

Later, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh attended the 9th Executive Council and 4th General Body meeting of Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports (JIM&WS) at Pahalgam. In the presence of the Raksha Mantri and Lieutenant Governor, J&K Shri Manoj Sinha, the meeting deliberated on the ways to ensure smooth functioning of the institute and early resolution of pending issues.

The Raksha Mantri, in his

address, lauded the rigorous training standards, excellent management, devotion and technical proficiency of the trainers and instructors that have established JIM&WS as one of the leading institutes in the country. He described mountaineering and allied activities as a sign of not just physical endurance, but also of mental toughness and enthusiasm.

Rajnath Singh appreciated the increasing number of women participants in these activities, which once witnessed male dominance. He also acknowledged the differently-abled Divyangjans who are completing mountaineering expeditions with skill and enthusiasm. He made special mention of Indian mountaineer Ms Arunima Sinha who became the first woman amputee to scale Mount Everest with her firm determination. It is, therefore, very important that all training programmes in this institute are oversubscribed, he said.

Saying that the Government's focus on increased public-private partnership in various fields has provided a new thrust to the country's development, the Raksha Mantri suggested JIM&WS to join hands with the private sector in order to further their training programmes. "There are many technologies, expertise and innovations in the private sector which are not available with the public sector. Collaboration with the private sector will help JIM&WS to connect the people, especially the youth, with activities such as mountaineering and ensure local

prosperity," he said.

The Raksha Mantri exhorted the institute to further acquaint people, especially the youth, with mountaineering and winter sports through its various training programmes and infuse patriotism, courage & energy in them. He said, this will not only increase the popularity of these activities, but also generate employment opportunities, thereby giving a boost to local economy. This will also increase the participation of the local community and provide an opportunity to connect with their culture, he added. The Raksha Mantri stressed that local people should not just be a Sherpa, but partners in the national-cultural unity.

Rajnath Singh reiterated the Government's resolve of development of border areas to bolster national security and said that institutions like JIM&WS can help in carrying forward that vision and contribute to the progress of the country. Emphasising on the importance of environment protection, he called upon the institutions like JIM&WS to promote eco-sensitive tourism and contribute in saving nature. He concluded his address with the hope that JIM&WS will become one of the leading institutes of the world in the coming times.

On the occasion, the Raksha Mantri also inaugurated a Col KS Mall Bouder Climbing Wall and Himalayan Museum at the Institute. The aim of JIM&WS is to expose the youth to nature and develop their personality, character and confidence through adventure sports.

# Blood Donation Camp held at RIMS Hospital

IT News  
Imphal, June 17:

Indian Dental Association, Manipur State Branch in association with Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Dental College, RIMS Imphal organised A Blood Donation Camp today at Department of

Transfusion Medicine, RIMS Hospital, Imphal as a tribute to the Martyrs of the Great June Uprising.

During the program Dr. B. Gokulchandra Sharma, President, IDA Manipur State Branch, Dr. Kojiam Sashikumar Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Oral Medicine

and Radiology, Dental College, RIMS and Honorary Secretary, IDA Manipur State Branch and Dr. Deepak Ningombam Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Convener, IDA Continuing Dental Education (CDE) were also participated.

## Sports

# FIFA World Cup: Host cities and stadiums across USA, Mexico and Canada announced for 2026

Agency  
New York, June 17:

Mexico City's iconic Azteca Stadium and the Los Angeles Rams' multi-billion-dollar SoFi Stadium were among 16 venues named on Thursday to stage games at the 2026 World Cup being held in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

At a televised announcement in New York, officials confirmed 11 US cities as host venues, along with three venues in Mexico and two in Canada for what will be the first ever 48-team World Cup.

The United States venues are all stadiums used by NFL teams, and include the New York Giants' MetLife Stadium and the Los Angeles Rams' \$5 billion SoFi Stadium, which hosted this year's Super Bowl.

Both venues are seen as contenders to host the 2026 final.

The 2026 tournament marks the first time three coun-



tries have hosted a World Cup, with the bulk of the games taking place in the United States.

Mexico will be hosting the finals for a third time after serving as solo hosts in 1970 and 1986.

Mexico City's Azteca Stadium, named on Thursday as one of the venues, will be the first stadium to feature in three separate World Cups.

Other Mexican venues include Guadalajara's Estadio Akron and Monterrey's Estadio BBVA.

Canada's venue cities include Vancouver's BC Place and Toronto's BMO Field.

The list of US venues stretch from coast to coast, featuring several cities that hosted games in the 1994 World Cup finals.

Other venues include the Dallas Cowboys giant AT&T Stadium in Arlington and the Miami Dolphins' Hard Rock Stadium.

The Kansas City Chiefs' Arrowhead Stadium — the loudest stadium in the world according to the Guinness Book of World Records — also made the cut.

NFL venues in Seattle, San Francisco, Atlanta, Houston, Boston and Philadelphia were

also on the list.

However the venue for the 1994 World Cup final — the iconic Pasadena Rose Bowl in suburban Los Angeles — was not included.

The identity of the cities that will host the opening game and 2026 final were not disclosed on Thursday.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in an interview on Fox Television following the venue announcement that decisions on the opening game and final would be taken at a later date.

"We will take our time with that decision," Infantino said.

"There are still some discussions to go on and we'll certainly choose the best cities for the openings and the finals.

"But every match will be a final at this World Cup."

While all three host countries will share games from the group stage through to the last 16, the United States will host all games from the quarter-finals onwards.

Agency  
Mumbai, June 17:

FIFA and Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022™ have officially announced the schedule for the biennial youth tournament and Bhubaneswar is set to host India's group stage matches beginning 11th October, while Goa has been awarded both semi-finals. Meanwhile, the showpiece game is set to be played in Navi Mumbai on 30th October.

The schedule further revealed that the 24 group stage games will conclude on 18th October and the matches will be shared among all three host states — Odisha, Goa and Maharashtra. The quarterfinal round of games will be held on 21st and 22nd October following which the semis will be held on 26th October.

The Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar will see hosts India compete in all three group stage games on 11th, 14th and

17th October 2022. Meanwhile, the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai and the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda, Goa will equally share the four quarterfinal games.

Extending their gratitude to all stakeholders, LOC Project Directors, Ankush Arora and Nandini Arora, in a joint statement said, "We are extremely grateful to FIFA, our host states and all other stakeholders for their continued support in the aligned vision of uplifting women's football.

"The launch of the schedule is a significant moment on the road to the historic tournament. The preparations for hosting India's second FIFA competition are progressing as per timelines and we remain confident of delivering a highly successful tournament, one which will provide a platform for future stars of women's football to shine."

A total of 32 games contested by 16 teams will decide the winner of the seventh edition of the biennial youth tour-

namment over 10 matchdays, with each venue hosting double headers on each matchday. All participating nations now eagerly await the Official Draw on 24th June to find out their definitive path to lifting this coveted trophy in Navi Mumbai.

On the back of the successful FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017, which broke the record for being FIFA's most attended youth World Cup ever, India 2022 is carrying on the positive legacy. This youth tournament has touched the lives of 2500 children through its Kick Off The Dream™ Football Carnivals, which aim at encouraging gender-inclusive participation. Promoting women in leadership, the LOC has also equipped the Indian footballing ecosystem with 162 female coaches in the grassroots through its legacy initiative, the Coach Education Scholarship Programme. Further editions of both, the coaching programme and the football carnival, are planned in the lead up to the 11th October kick off.