

## Why base year in ILP instead of NRC? – Haomee

### 'Base year in ILP is to give privilege for free entry and settlement to non-indigenous people'

IT News  
Imphal, June 23:

A day after the state cabinet of the N. Biren Singh led government have approved for inclusion of base year for the Inner Line Permit System (ILPS) as 1961, the Federation of Haomee (FoH) has come out with strong objection questioning the need for a base year in the ILPS instead of implementing National Register of Citizenship (NRC) under a base year.

"Government should give a clear definition of the native people in the ILPS being implemented in the state", a statement by Sapamcha Jadumani, President of Federation of Haomee said, adding that inclusion of base year as 1961 will only give opportunity to the non-indigenous people in entering and settling in the state.

"Base year for the ILPS means, this regulation will not cover the non-indigenous people who have entered and settled in the state before

1961", Jadumani said.

The state cabinet should have taken the decision after studying the modalities of how the ILPS are being implemented in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, the president of Haomee said.

It said that there is no base year in the ILPS being implemented in the three states of North East India. The ILPS covers all the non-indigenous people, that is why the regulation protect the indigenous people by the three states. Outsiders, who have settled since the last 100 to 500 years are still treated as non-indigenous outsiders by the three states under the regulation, the Haomee statement said.

Even as the ILPS has been passed by the parliament on December 11, 2019 and came into effect from January 1 of 2020, the state government still did not give any definition of the native people. By the inclusion of the base year as 1961, all the non indigenous

people who have entered from other part of India as well as from the neighbouring country will identify as indigenous people, the Haomee said.

"This act is nothing but to end the existence of the indigenous people whose population is in threatening condition", the statement by Haomee said.

The statement by the president of the Federation of Haomee (FoH) also shows serious concern to the inaction of the government of India and Manipur in deporting the foreigners who have illegally entered and settled in the state.

"The Government of India and Manipur have never taken up any steps to deport the illegal migrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar who have entered the state under the Foreigners Act 1946", the statement said. This make the existence of the indigenous people threatened.

"If the intention of the Government of Manipur is to protect the indigenous people of the state then the need of

the hour is to trace out the non-indigenous illegal settlers and should give a proper definition of the native people", the Haomee said.

The government should implement NRC keeping the base year as 1951, the statement added.

The Federation of Haomee also reminded the agreement reached between AMSU and AMSOC with the then Chief Minister of Manipur R.K. Dorendro on July 22, and August 5, 1980 and also the agreement reached between the then Governor of Manipur V.K. Nair on November 9, 1994. In both the agreement it was stated to detect and deport foreigner base on the report of National Register of Citizens, 1951 and also as per the village directory 1951.

"Inclusion of base year in the ILPS is to be-fool the people by diverting the real issue", the Haomee said and urged the government to revoke the cabinet decision adopted yesterday for inclusion of base year in the ILPS.

## Chief Minister N. Biren Singh flags off Olympic Day Run 2022



IT News  
Imphal, June 23:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today flagged off the Olympic Day Run, 2022 at the Courtyard of the Olympic Bhavan, Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal. The event was organized by the Manipur Olympic Association on the occasion of World Olympic Day which is observed on 23rd June every year.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh extended his best wishes to all sports players for a better future and to bring laurels to the State. Stating that games and sports had always contributed a lot towards bringing a healthy and disciplined society, the Chief Minister assured that the State Government would provide all possible support for development in the particular field. He maintained that the sporting spirit of the State had helped to overcome the high rate of HIV infection in Manipur.

Mentioning that the Government had always been doing their best for the welfare

of sportspersons despite its scarce resources, the Chief Minister assured to provide all necessary support for organizing State Games and Youth National Games in the State. He further stated that the Government would take up steps to construct grounds in all 16 districts under Khelo India and also to set up Centre of Excellence considering the importance of sports in shaping the society.

He informed that the Government had already started providing financial assistance to various sports clubs. Pension scheme for sportsperson who have represented in National and International tournaments, irrespective of discipline, had been started. N. Biren also informed that the Daily Allowances for sportspersons participating in the National level competitions had been increased from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500. He also informed that the Government is coming up with Chief Minister's Annual Sagol Kangjei Championship. It would be of much support to Sagol Kangjei players and pony breeders, he added.

President, Manipur Olympic Association and MLA of Heirok AC Dr. Th. Radheshyam Singh stated that the Olympic Day is observed in the state with the motto to stand together for a peaceful Manipur and added games and sports had always taken an important role in maintaining peace and sense of brotherhood in the State. Development of a society is possible only when peace prevails, he added. He further paid his salute to all the Olympians and senior sportspersons for bringing a movement of sports in the State.

President, Manipur Basketball Association and MLA of Keishamthong AC Nishikant Samam, President, All Manipur Mukna Association and MLA of Wangkhei AC Th. Arunkumar Singh, Director General of Police, Manipur P. Doungel, Commissioner, Youth Affairs and Sports Bobby Waikhom, Government officials and sportspersons also attended the programme among others.

The Olympic Day Run was participated by many young and budding sports players of different disciplines.

## CM inaugurates Solar Power System for Government Health Facilities

IT News  
Imphal, June 23:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh virtually inaugurated the Solar Power System for Government Health Facilities of three districts of Chandel, Churachandpur and Tamenglong at the Chief Minister's Secretariat today.

SELCO Foundation in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services has installed 68 Health Centres across the three districts and provided them with energy efficient equipment, including a Radiant Warmer, Suction Apparatus, Spot light, Solar Direct Drive Vaccine Refrigerator and luminaries. The project is one of the 100 Action Points for 100 days of the State Government.

Interacting with concerned officials of the three districts and representatives of SELCO Foundation, N. Biren Singh appreciated the SELCO Foundation and Government Officials



for successfully implementing the project. He added that with the implementation of the Solar Power System, 68 Health Centres across three districts would be having 24/7 power supply.

The Chief Minister mentioned that remote areas of the State had been facing irregularities in power supply due to the long rainy season and its consequences like landslides and floods. He continued that the Government understands the problem faced by Health Centres in remote areas interrupting their services. As such, the Government supported the proposal of SELCO Foundation to provide interrupted power supply through solar power systems, he added.

He stressed the importance of proper maintenance of the solar power projects. He suggested that a person each should be assigned in all the 68 Health Centres to look after the solar panel and other components. Training should be provided to the person in consultation with SELCO Foundation if required, he added.

N. Biren also proposed CEO, SELCO Foundation Shri Harish Hande, who attended the programme virtually, to cover all the remote areas of the State by the project and assured all possible support from the Government side.

Chief Medical Officers of the three districts expressed their thankfulness to the Chief Minister for coming up with the initiative to provide uninterrupted power supply to Health Centres and added the Health Centres are now able to provide better health care services to the public.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary V. Vumlungmang, Director, Health Services Dr. K. Rajo and representative of SELCO Foundation also attended the programme among others.

## No Laws or Act passed by center or state can shatter the land rights of Zeliangrong – ZUF

IT News  
Imphal, June 23:

Armed group, the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) no act or law passed by the nation or state can shatter the rights of the Zeliangrong community over the ownership of land in the Zeliangrong inhabited areas. The statement was given in connection with the declaration of "Tairengpokpi - Tamenglong Protected Forest", that was published in Manipur Gazette, Extraordinary, in 1966.

"The said notification has directly ignored the rights of the traditional forest dwellers whose ancestry has endowed upon the generations. Furthermore, the land of Zeliangrong since time immemorial have been preserved and owned by the community having their sovereign customary power and rights long before the cre-

ation of Manipur state. There has been no Act or law passed by the state or the nation to nullify or supersede the Customary rights of the tribal community. Our history of Struggle against foreign occupation and that of colonial power were never for or in defence of Manipur state. It is solely the instinct of natural rights of the community to defend and protect their land that Haipou Jadonang and his contemporary and Rani Gaidinliu fought for and not otherwise for Manipur. Our struggle continues post India Independent up to this day with the age-old traditional rights to self-determination over our land and its resources. Therefore, any attempt from any quarter to claim possession of our land and forest will be resisted and fought for", a statement b by John Pame, Secretary, Information & Publicity, ZUF said.

The statement said that the Government of Manipur should reconsider the claim notification order or any other Act or law passed by the state in matter of the land of Zeliangrong so as communal harmony and mutual respect and recognition of each other rights prevail.

The "Tairengpokpi - Tamenglong Protected Forest" Manipur Gazette, Extraordinary, published by authority on Sept. 21, 1966 and Govt of Manipur Secretariat, Forest Branch Notification, Imphal, the 10th January 1966" said, "Whereas the forest land (excepting bonafide village patta lands) described in the schedule given below is not included in a reserved Forest but is the property of the government over which the Government has proprietary rights to the whole of the forest produce.

contd. on page 4

## Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram endorses Draupadi Murmu as India's next President

IT Correspondent  
Guwahati, June 23:

Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram (ABVKA), India's largest tribal welfare organisation, admires the recommendation of former Jharkhand Governor, Draupadi Murmu as the candidate for Presidential polls by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA government in New Delhi. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh backed organisation ardently believes

that a historical decision has been taken to nominate a Santali Janajati lady as the Presidential candidate when the entire country has been celebrating the glorious epoch of 75th years of independence under the theme of Swatantrata ka Amrut Mahotsav.

"We recognize this as a historic moment of far reaching impressions pertaining to 12 crore Janajati people of Bharat. The Janajatis are an integral constituent of tradition and inheritors of an esteemed

culture of the great Indian nation. However they have been overlooked and disregarded for many centuries. ABVKA congratulates Prime Minister Narendra ji Modi and all the political parties of NDA for nominating a representative of Janajatis for the top most constitutional post in the country," said a statement issued by ABVKA president Ramchandra Kharadi from a Kendriya Karyakari Mandal meeting held at Namsai in Arunachal Pradesh.

The entire life journey of Draupadi Murmu has been a saga of strife. Hailing from Mayurbhanj district in Odisha, Draupadi Murmu devoted her life to serving the society and empowering the poor, downtrodden as well as the marginalized, defeating every adversity and distress to carve out a political career. She has rich administrative experience and had an outstanding gubernatorial tenure of Jharkhand State.

contd. on page 4

# ★ Editorial

## Of safety Food and authority's response

Just a few days back one person reported died of food poisoning and few other of the same family hospitalized. To be precise, there may various unreported cases where people died or suffer from different illness due to consumption of unsafe food.

With the increasing pace of life and the corresponding increase in social as well as work pressures, food habits of the people around the world have taken a hit for the worse. The most glaring evidence of this unfortunate changing trend is the gradual increase in the number of fast-food joints and ready-to-eat snack bars as well as local kiosks catering to the public with mostly fried stuffs to satiate the hunger instantaneously. Food that can be had on the go is being preferred over those which are healthy and wholesome but takes time to prepare. However, there is also an increasing awareness amongst the conscious and connected public cutting across age groups and professions regarding the need to inculcate a good dietary habit in order to combat the increasing stress and strains of our daily life. The general consensus amongst the conscious eaters is that fruits and vegetables play a vital role in maintaining the health and even reversing the harmful effects of work and environment.

A very disturbing news doing the rounds about some unscrupulous elements using unfair and potentially harmful methods of ripening fruits in the state have however put a question mark on the safety and reliability of the food products being sold in the state. However, the incident should not come as a surprise to many as the practice has been carried on for decades without any significant restrictions or objections from the authorities. The failure of those authorized and entrusted to ensure the safety and usability of foodstuffs for so long have only emboldened these elements who would not think twice about using any and all means at their disposal, fair or foul to speed up their earnings.

The menace of food adulteration and indiscriminate use of chemicals to either speed up the ripening process or to slow down the rate of decomposition is not confined to fruits alone. If anybody would care to recollect, there had been news of farmers using chemicals to increase their products both in size as well as quantity, or even halt the process of decomposition by using formaldehyde as reported in the case of fishes being brought into the state. On the other hand, there is also the disturbing report of plastic rice and even eggs being dumped into the country. While most of the chemicals used for such purposes such as Calcium Carbide have been banned by the government, their use is still rampant. There is still the danger of misusing those chemicals which are still not banned such as Ethylene (if used within certain limits) as there is every chance of the chemical being abused in the mad rush for quicker profit.

Today, the threat of harmful chemicals contaminating our foods on a daily basis is a very real and disconcerting one, and such practice cannot be allowed to propagate and continue any longer. However, the issue is a complex one especially in a state like Manipur where the mechanism to ensure safety of food is almost absent as of now, and any means or effort to check such unfair practices requires the combined involvement of the whole community, government agencies, policymakers, fruit-sellers, farmers, scientists and consumers to find an effective solution to this matter. Meanwhile, the best and most satisfying option is to start our own fruit and vegetable garden.

## I.T. Road-The present hardship and its consequences

By: Thanggoulal Khongsai



What could be more astonishing to have been able to spend very precious time with your loving daddy on Father's day? The answer to this is something that may differ from person to person depending on the relationship with their father or the surrounding situation that can manipulate our attention. This year father's day was the day where Mother Nature invade I.T Road in such a horrific condition posing alarming and panic in the region of the people living with the most pathetic and neglected condition-like in the state.

### Father's Day incident: - On Landslide

Alarmed by the landslide reportedly caused around 7:00-8:00 am Sunday morning at the heart of T.Waichong that wash-off the Hotel belonging to a widow woman on that fateful hour was such that the local villagers along with neighboring villages collectively took part with the help of two JCBs to clear debris. Such was never expected on the day where women and children would celebrate their husband's day with big surprise. However, the surprise being more damaging in the village caused by the landslide, this year father's day was a day to remind authority in power to rethink and reconsider the way they have perceived the region of I.T Road.

Meanwhile, there were also two major landslides between Banglabung and Joupai the night before T.Waichong landslide incident happened. One of occurrence i.e between Gelnal and Joupai was so severe that it cut-off the main highway with the rest of the regions. It is at this critical juncture that even two wheelers motors are not possible to pass through adding it more burdens to villagers from Joupai-Tamei. I have received a report that many are running out of essential commodities such as Oil, Onion etc as there is no means of transport to reach their villages. Fortunately, some of those from neighboring villages came all the way from their village by foot just to buy their essential needs at Gelnal or T.Waichong. It is for this reason that the people in the region are in need of Govt attention to deliver their parts as most of the people are handicapped-like situation. Any further delayed to look into the plight of the people in the region may necessary be deem considered unconstitutional. We are hoping for the people's Govt to act swiftly and restore normal activities within a day's delayed.

The other landslide that occurred

between Banglabung and Gelnal may be less severe as compared to the other mentioned. However, the quantum of damages it caused in the region is undeniably equivalent to that of the severe one. As speculated by some of the local elders, there is a possible threat that another landslide may occur again if incessant rain follows. This poses serious insecurities to some of the locals whose main livelihood will not be spared by the Mother Nature as many are already a victims of recent landslide and flood as their paddy fields and cultivable lands were lost completely. Thankfully, JMDC managed to clear this landslide yesterday.

### On Flood:

As always in the limelight, the Irang River of I.T Road has once again faded the face of many people in the region. The incessant rain have not only caused landslide and damage land and paddy fields located far from the Irang river bank, it also wash away some of the paddy fields located at its bank. It was on the 20th Feb, Monday that I went to witness the major paddy fields by my own that were washed away by the river; to my surprised the damaged it caused was beyond my expectation. Spoken to some of the owners whose paddy fields were completely devastated or partially, many of them are no longer hoping to receive Govt attention as their suffering from road to electricity, PHC to education etc have been denied to them for many years. The plight of these farmers whose sole livelihood are erase by natural calamities, there can none other than people's govt to come for rescued to restore their normal livelihood.

Besides the paddy fields being

wash away, many of the electrical poles installed particularly on the paddy fields and river bank have already been fallen otherwise wash away. As per my own witnesses, I have found eight posts lying on the ground. There will be more posts expected to be washed away by the river. Such was the invasion of I.T Road by the Irang river on that father's day. Until this day, the entire region of I.T Road is dispel from electricity causing more panic in the region as the most in dire need of electricity are women who tends their infant child. Moreover, many of our daily activities have been stopped due to no power supply. This is not the first time I have stress the electrical condition of I.T road. It may also be pointed out that, major electrical poles are on the verge to fall which needs immediate attention for the replacement as such.

As I have personally assess paddy fields that were washed away by the recent floods within Gelnal territory, close to 1800x70 Sq ft was completely washed away and an estimate of around 4 hectares were also submerged. These indications are from my personal on-spot witnesses where it didn't include major parts of the fields in the areas. As per reports from the locals, major devastated and submerged paddy fields at Gelbung, Chahwa, Phokion, Wakotphai etc have been no different from what had happened to Gelnal paddy fields. All these have created more insecurities to the people in the region as the quantity of rice production for their family consumption will adversely be reduced and affecting their economic and sustainable condition in the coming year. This may possibly caused famine in

the region.

Nevertheless, some of the canals supplying water to many paddy fields are already obsolete as destroyed by the recent flood. In some way or the other, the plight of suffering caused by the flood are all the same. As such fields that were not washed away by the rivers are still facing canal problems. These canals are not only block by the pebbles and stone carried by the flood, but also by the landslide caused at different locations. For instance, the landslide at Joupai totally blocked the canal which supplies water to more than 13 paddy fields. Similarly, major paddy fields whose main sources of water is taken from the Irang river are already been blocked. Many of them are so severe that no human labor will be able to open it anymore. This is the present state of farmers in the area whose main livelihood solely depends on the paddy fields.

### JMDC:- The sole responder:

In every natural calamities occurred in the region, Joint Monitoring and Development Committee, I.T Road could not set aside its eyes from such as govt immediate intervention has never been witness over the past many years. This compels JMDC and CSOs to respond every calamities within our own limitation to ease the public activities and suffering.

However, despite the efforts taken up multiple times by JMDC and CSOs in the areas in every critical incident, govt have been seemingly ignoring efforts and their responsibility thereby putting more financial and labour burden to JMDC and CSOs of the area. Govt should established cordial relations with the public in the area and help to address their concern.

It is therefore a serious matter that Govt including concern three MLAs of the region should acknowledged the plight of the area posed by recent incessant rain and restored their normal lives and activities without further delayed. As gleaned, many life have been under severe threat and mental trauma due to lack of Govt concern and intervention. Further negligence of the area by the authorities may led misunderstanding to public and therefore, taking stock of the condition, it is a time for the govt to find amicable solution to the problem of I.T Road at least in the interest of voice of the voiceless citizen of I.T Road.

(The writer is an Info & Publicity Secy, JMDC I.T. Road. Views express are personal. Can be reached at [thanggoulalkh@gmail.com](mailto:thanggoulalkh@gmail.com))

## Significance of 7th round of Bangladesh-India Joint Consultative Commission meeting

By: Dr. Shakuntala Bhabani

In the past, India and Bangladesh's relationship has been based on a common sociocultural legacy, respect for one another, and significant cooperation in every practical area. India's Neighborhood First policy places a lot of emphasis on Bangladesh. Additionally, it is India's principal trade partner in South Asia. The two nations have frequently cooperated to meet shared issues and have never shied away from taking action to ally each other's sincere worries.

Ahead of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in September this year, on June 19, 2022, New Delhi hosted the seventh session of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC). Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's Minister of External Affairs, and Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Bangladesh's Minister of Foreign Affairs, served as co-chairs of the JCC.

The seventh iteration of the India-Bangladesh JCC got underway with a warm reminder of the shared bonds between the two nations that were established as a result of their shared sacrifices during Bangladesh's Liberation War in

1971. Importantly, this occasion has established intimate historical and friendly ties that go beyond the conventional idea of a strategic collaboration.

Both Ministers hailed the unprecedented visits to Bangladesh in 2021 by the President and the Prime Minister of India to celebrate three historic events: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 100th birthday, the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence, the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and India.

The teaser for "Mujib-making of a nation," a collaboratively produced biopic on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was unveiled at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2022. This served as evidence of the mutual respect between the two nations, which has grown stronger over the past ten years.

The JCC met digitally in September of 2020; this was the first in-person meeting since the Covid-19 epidemic broke out. The efforts made by both countries in the struggle against COVID-19 were appreciated by both

Ministers. The Ministers examined every area of ongoing cooperation, including the implementation of decisions made at the JCC's most recent session in September 2020, the virtual summit between the prime ministers of the two nations in December 2020, and the visits of President Ram Nath Kovind in December 2021 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2021.

Despite the difficulties brought on by the Covid-19 outbreak, both nations have collaborated more closely than ever before in every field, from border control and defense to beneficial trade and investment.

According to the MEA, both nations have helped to improve the sub-regional multimodal connectivity, cooperation in power and energy, capacity building for development, and cultural and interpersonal ties.

The two ministers have decided to work even closer together to strengthen and deepen their current cooperation in the areas of common rivers and water resource management, cybersecurity and IT, renewable energy, agriculture and food security, sustainable trade, climate change, and disaster management.

Both Ministers acknowledged and valued the extensive engagements that have taken place through a variety of

bilateral institutions between the two nations.

Both parties agreed to intensify their efforts to forge new partnerships with regularity and renewed vigor. In this regard, both Ministers instructed their staff to hasten the cooperation that will benefit both parties.

The Bangladeshi Foreign Minister, Mr. Momen, also made a courtesy call on Indian Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and other dignitaries of the Government of India during his tour to New Delhi.

According to a mutual agreement between the two Ministers, the 8th round of the India-Bangladesh JCC will take place in Bangladesh in 2023.

According to a joint statement released following the discussion, all parties stressed the significance of the forcibly displaced Rohingya people from the Rakhine State returning to Myanmar in a safe, timely, and sustainable manner. They are currently being protected by Bangladesh.

The two ministers decided to collaborate closely in order to further develop and improve their collaboration in the areas of information technology and cybersecurity, renewable energy, agricultural and food security, sustainable commerce, climate change, and disaster management.

In order to further expand and develop reciprocal engagement across all sectors of bilateral cooperation, India and Bangladesh have emphasized the necessity of closer cooperation.

They also welcomed the unprecedented visits to Bangladesh by the president and prime minister of India in 2021 to commemorate three historic occasions: the centennial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth, Bangladesh's 50th anniversary of independence, and the golden anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh.

Both India and Bangladesh place a lot of importance on the joint meeting dialogue. To strengthen connections with Bangladesh, the friendship discussion with India essentially indicates the improved bilateral understanding.

By exchanging ideas and points of view, misconceptions are eliminated. On how to better handle the problems that have recently generated discord in bilateral ties, formal meetings between government high officials must be continued.

During high-level meeting, this unique relationship's warmth and kindness are frequently on display. Every time a high-level meeting occurs, some groups in both nations, notably the media and civil society, hope to see

some advancement in the Teesta water-sharing agreement. There were no exceptions to this rule in any of the recent meeting. But according to media reports, India claimed that it was making significant internal efforts to resolve the unresolved issues with Bangladesh. But we were pleased to said that after the problem was discussed in the official meeting, India reiterated its commitment to finding a solution as soon as possible.

India and Bangladesh both complain about new issues in their bilateral relationships every year, thus it makes sense that they would discuss these issues here. In order to establish the finest ties possible between them, the two friendly nations merely attempted to strengthen the ties by understanding mutual position. In this aspect, they are successful. The meeting was successfully wrapped up.

The entire relationship between India and Bangladesh has benefited thus far from the recent high-level bilateral meeting. All of these trips have advanced the friend

(The author is a Kolkata-based educator (Assistant Professor) and Southasian affairs researcher in the Political Science department at a Kolkata Honors College which is affiliated to the University of Calcutta)

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# 13,313 new daily cases, surge in 5 States: Worried Centre's Covid review meet today

Agency  
New Delhi, June 23:

India registered 13,313 new cases of Covid-19, after which the tally of active cases rose to 83,990, while the total caseload stood at 4,33,44,958, the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday said.

The active cases comprise 0.19 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.60 per cent, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, 38 Covid deaths in the last 24 hours took the toll to 5,24,941.

An increase of 2,303 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.03 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 2.81 per cent, according to the

ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,27,36,027, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.21 per cent.

According to the ministry, 196.62 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive.

Mansukh Mandaviya calls review meet amid rising cases  
Amid rising Covid-19 cases in India, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has called a review meeting with the core team of experts on Thursday, said sources.

Earlier, on June 13, Mandaviya chaired a meeting through video conferencing with Health Ministers and senior officials of States and Union Territories (UTs) to review the progress of the vac-

ination exercise HarGharDastak 2.0 campaign.

"Covid is not over yet. There are reports of rising cases of Covid in some states. It is important at this time to be alert and not forget COVID Appropriate behaviour (CAB) such as wearing masks and maintaining physical distance to prevent the spread of the infection," he had stressed.

Centre concerned over uptick in 5 states

Meanwhile, even as Maharashtra and Kerala have 60 per cent of total active cases of Covid in the country, the Centre is reportedly concerned over rapidly increasing cases in states like Delhi, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

The "growth factor" in daily Covid-19 cases over last fortnight — between June 6-20

— indicating the rising trajectory of cases — is estimated to be above six in Tamil Nadu and over four in both Delhi and UP, reported TOI.

Meanwhile, daily Covid-19 cases in even Telangana and Haryana have had a growth factor of more than three over the last fortnight. However, Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka have growth factor below three despite the large share in active cases, as per the data of an official assessment mentioned in the report.

The assessment shows active caseload has more than doubled in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh over last one week. Overall, 10 states have more than 1000 active cases of Covid-19, whereas four states have active cases in the range of 500-1000, data till Monday showed.

# BJP's "Operation Lotus" slides Maharashtra Vikas

## Aghadi into minority

### The Defection of Shiv Sena MLAs- Assembly Speaker Holds the Key



The Shiv Sena workers pledging support to CM Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai on Wednesday night. (Inset: Clockwise top left- Shiv Sena MLA Eknath Shinde, Assembly Dy Speaker Narhari Zirwal and CM Uddhav Thackeray.)

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, June 23:

While the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government has been reduced to a minority due to BJP's "Operation Lotus", the Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly holds the key to grant recognition to the rebel group led by Shiv Sena MLA Eknath Shinde if the Special Session of the State legislature is held.

On Wednesday, Shinde forwarded a list of 34 MLAs to the Maharashtra Assembly Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal from Guwahati (Assam), where the breakaway is at present stationed. He also communicated that he has "appointed" MLA Bharat Ghogawale (Mahad, Raigad) as the whip of the Shiv Sena Legislature party (SLP). He also rejected the appointment of MLA Ajay Choudhari as the leader of the SLP made by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

In a tweet Shinde also termed the letter sent by Shiv Sena Whip MLA Sunil Prabhu directing Shambhuraaj Desai and Mahesh Shinde, to attend the meeting of MLAs convened in Mumbai on Wednesday or face disciplinary action, as illegal.

On Wednesday, the breakaway group camping at Guwahati passed a resolution appointing Shinde as the leader of the SLP. In the resolution, the group mentioned that "there is enormous discontent amongst the cadre of the party viz. Shiv Sena for forming the government with NCP and Congress who are ideologically opposed to our party". Shinde also said that in the last two and half years, the NCP and Congress flourished to the disadvantage of the Shiv Sena. Our group is for "Hindutva Forever" he said.

Although the Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray left the official bungalow "Varsha" located in South Mumbai and moved to his family residence at Matoshri at Bandra in North West Mumbai, saying that he was suffering from Covid-19, he did not resign.

In a Facebook live on Wednesday evening, Thackeray said that he was receiving calls from some of the MLAs that they were forcibly taken to Guwahati. "I am prepared to resign not only from the post of the chief minister but also from the post of the party chief, provided that those who have revolted should come forward and tell him that they don't trust him and as such I should resign. Even if they telephone me from Guwahati, I will be happy to resign. If the next chief minister is from the Shiv Sena, I will be too happy" he added.

To substantiate Thackeray's allegations that the MLAs were forcibly taken to Guwahati, the MLAs Nitin Deshmukh (Akola) escaped and returned, alleging a conspiracy on the part of the Bharatiya Janat Party and Gujarat authorities to abduct and harm him. Shinde spirited away the MLAs to Surat (Gujarat) and then to Guwahati and most of them wanted to return to Maharashtra, Deshmukh said. MLA Kailas Patil (Aurangabad) too escaped from the rebel camp on Tuesday.

However, a few more Shiv Sena MLAs left for Guwahati on Wednesday. Additionally, the Shiv Sena MP Bhavna Gavli (from Buldhana) wrote to Thackeray to toe the Shinde's line and sever ties with the NCP and Congress to join hands with the BJP.

**Shiv Sena to fight back**  
Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said that "If we get the chance, we will prove our majority on the floor of the House, and the struggle has just begun".

Now if Shinde joins BJP (or extends support as a separate group) with 40 odd MLAs, the strength of the BJP will be much

more than the required strength of 145 in the 288 Maharashtra legislative assembly.

#### Options

The BJP can demand a special session of the state legislative assembly and move a no-confidence motion against the MVA Government. Or approach the Governor demanding dissolution of the Assembly and imposition of the President's rule, till such time fresh elections are held.

#### Speaker's role

If the Assembly session is convened, then the breakaway group will have to obtain recognition from the Speaker. In that case, the strength of the ruling, as well as the Opposition, will have to be assessed on the floor of the House. However, the real test lies in according the recognition to the breakaway group by the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Narhari Zirwal (in absence of the Assembly Speaker). Whether the Shinde group will be recognized as "Shiv Sena Legislature Party" or will be recognized by some other name will be a crucial issue.

The breakaway faction MLAs cannot be disqualified since they are well above the two-thirds majority (compared to Shiv Sena's original strength of 55). Despite defections, the Shiv Sena will have 10 to 15 MLAs in the Assembly. Given the above, the decision of Zirwal will be very important.

It may be recalled that a majority of the Congress MLAs had defected to the National Congress Party (NCP) after breaking away from the Congress on the issue of Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin in May 1999. The NCP bigwigs-Sharad Pawar, Tariq Anwar, and late PAS Sangma were expelled by the AICC on May 20, 1999. The group was granted recognition as the NCP legislature party in the Maharashtra legislature at that time.

When the legislature is not in session, the disputes about the symbol and party name are considered outside issues and are dealt with by the Election Commission of India under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968. Besides, disputes related to the claim over the parties are dealt with as per the Registration of Political Parties Order, 2009 (Revised 2022).

Now Eknath Shinde seems to stake claim not only on the SLP but also on the entire Shiv Sena. However, given the massive protests across the state against the rebellion, he is unlikely to be successful in laying claim over the Shiv Sena.

# Assam down town University to host 8th Annual Job Fair on June 25th; see participation of 40+ MNCs

By A Correspondent  
Guwahati, June 23:

Leading educational institute Assam down town University (AdtU), Guwahati is all set to conduct the eighth edition of Annual Job Fair 2022 on June 25th that the university campus for the students across India. Touted as one of the largest job fairs of Northeast, the day-long event is expected to be attended by 4000 job seekers, who can get recruited by more than 40 reputed national and multinational companies including Downtown hospital, Alembic Pharmaceuticals, Ampath, Just Dial, Talent Acquintance, Marico, Dabur, Sodexo etc. Last year the job fair provided a platform for recruiters and young talents, had 3,500 job seekers taking their shots at over 50 reputable organizations present.

The Job Fair is aimed at candidates having 0-5 years of experience. It will cater to the students from various verticals such as Management, Social Sciences, Pharmacy, Engineering, Nursing, Paramedical and Sciences.

According to CMIE data, India's unemployment rate rises to 7.83% in April. The highest unemployment rate was recorded in the northern state of Haryana at 34.5 per cent, followed by 28.8 per cent in Rajasthan and 21.1 per cent in Bihar. Meanwhile, the joblessness was lowest in Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Assam, where the unemployment rate stood at a minuscule 0.2 per cent, 0.6 per cent and 1.2 per cent respectively.

"Being the Northeast India's leading placement driven university, we are trying to bridge the gap. With our ex-

cellent infrastructure and our motivated, high caliber and student friendly faculty, we provide our students a skill-oriented future across all the advanced study programmes currently ongoing in AdtU. As today's world is evolving at a fast pace, we at AdtU strongly feel that there is a need to remain in synchrony with a process of constant change and transformation and to make our students not only job-ready but also future ready. Our unabated endeavor is to empower them with new age life skills which come handy in placing themselves in future service career destination. Yet we are aware that, for newly minted college graduates, placement session can be a tumultuous time filled with anticipation, anxiety, happiness and disappointment and they require to be provided with opportunity to face

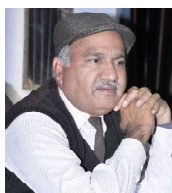
and experience placement session in real time and real sense. With this background in mind, we have come up with this largest "Job Fair 2022" so that the students get a hang of the placement scenario. I would like to extend my warm wishes for their every success in the "Job Fair 2022" and the future service career said Prof. (Dr.) N. C. Talukdar, Vice Chancellor, Assam down town University.

The job fair at AdtU is also a win-win situation for the companies, which can get quick access to a large number of talents and complete their recruitment processes in one place. They don't have to ponder about the arrangements as all these are taken care of by the university.

The job fair can be attended for free by registering at <https://forms.gle/ocSBHymb1jdeFwt5>.

## Career Guidance

# Students and the science of feedback



By: Vijay GarG

Feedback for students should be constructive, positive, and timely to augment the interlinked, symbiotic relationship between learning and teaching.

Feedback should be treated as a dialogue between the faculty and students.

For students, feedback comprises an integral part of effective learning. Whether in college or school, the principles of fusing feedback to facilitate better learning remain the same. Not only does it help students understand subjects better, but also guides them on how they can improve learning skills.

Educationalists believe that academic feedback is more

strongly and reliably linked to achievements compared to other teaching modalities. Moreover, it can enhance a student's self-awareness, self-confidence, and eagerness to learn and be extremely useful in the choices of higher education and beyond.

#### Boosting learning outcomes

Significantly, effective feedback during the first year in university can facilitate their transition to higher education and beyond, simultaneously supporting student retention. However, students must accept and assimilate it to augment their learning and boost assessment outcomes. While educators should explain what has been done correctly and incorrectly, the focus must be on what is being done right. By providing the latest information about students' grasp of theories, facts, or the achievement of a specific skill, feedback improves the ability of professors to teach as per the requirements of the situation.

Although feedback can be formal or informal, one must not forget that, consciously

and unconsciously, professors provide immediate feedback in their classes. In most instances, this happens via gestures, facial expressions, and comments. Whether formal or informal, faculty must ensure that feedback provided in class is always constructive and solution-oriented. Harsh or negative feedback will be counterintuitive and defeat the common cause of ensuring students perform well in academics and higher educational pursuits as well as professional careers.

Accordingly, professors should take note of how students react when given feedback before others in the classroom. Besides comprehending the immediate reaction, this will help assess whether the student is reflecting on the message conveyed and then works as per the feedback.

Where informal feedback is concerned, it is instant and, often, more effective. For example, professors may amble across the class and, standing by a student's desk, comment about his/her work. In this manner, students could be

commended for good work and offered immediate suggestions for further improvement.

Conversely, grading every assignment can be counterproductive as students tend to compare themselves with classmates instead of focusing on their work and ways to improve it. Marks or grades must only be given during formal assessment.

Research has shown that students progress more when feedback is received via comments rather than grades. Not surprisingly, the degree of motivation and achievement remained higher in students who only received comments as feedback, unlike those given grades. Therefore, in the case of slow learners particularly, it is best to offer feedback via positive comments only as their already-low self-esteem may fall further if negative/harsh words are used.

#### Feedback on feedback

Considering the key role of feedback, it is sometimes said that professors must be given more feedback on feedback. Various student surveys across the globe show that

they feel feedback is inadequate and not timely. However, teachers assert students don't heed their advice.

So, where does this leave the feedback process, especially from the students' perspective? The best option is for professors to reconsider the process of providing feedback and customising their teaching modalities going by students' valid feedback.

Additionally, merely giving feedback isn't enough. To enhance its effectiveness, it should be treated as a dialogue between the faculty and students. In this way, there will be opportunities for tutors to bridge the gap between the current and expected performance. This can be achieved by redoing the assignment and ensuring improved work that meets the expected standards, clarifying that the faculty's feedback is effective.

Ultimately, teaching and learning can become a truly symbiotic relationship, benefiting both students and tutors while providing more productive outcomes for all stakeholders.



# Assam Flood: Death toll rises to 101, Over 55 lakh people affected; CM reviews deluge-hit areas

Agency  
Guwahati, June 23:

The flood situation in Assam remained grim on Wednesday as 12 more people were killed and 55 lakh people affected across 32 districts with the rising Brahmaputra and Barak rivers inundating new areas, officials said. Four people died in Hojai, three each were killed in Bapeta and Nalbari, and two people lost their lives in Kamrup, they said.

With these deaths, the toll in this year's flood and landslides rose to 101, they added. The flood situation in the three districts of Barak Valley — Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi — remained critical as the water levels of Barak and Kushiara rivers continued to rise, inundating vast tracts of land, officials said.

As per a bulletin of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 54,57,601 people have been affected by the floods in 32 of the 36 districts in the state. Among the worst-affected districts are Bapeta where 11,29,390 people are suffering, Kamrup where 7,89,496 people are affected and Dhubri where 5,97,153 people are hit by the devastation.

Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal visited a relief camp at Phulaguri Higher Secondary School in Kapili block in Nagaon district, and interacted with the affected people. He said that a central team would visit the state soon, assess the damage, prepare a report and submit it to the government for support and assistance.



Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also travelled to Nagaon, by train, to review the situation. He toured the different flood-hit areas in a boat and interacted with the people who have taken shelter at the relief camps in Kamrup College and Raha Higher Secondary School. He also interacted with flood-affected people taking shelter at the Chaparmukh railway station. Sarma met the flood-affected families at makeshift relief camps along the national highway in Nellie in Morigaon district and assured them of all possible help.

The chief minister is likely to visit Silchar in Cachar on Thursday to take stock of the situation. The devastating floods, caused by incessant rainfall, have affected 112 revenue circles and 4,941 villages, officials said.

In all, 2,71,125 people have taken shelter in 845 relief camps in the state, they said. According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the Kopili river was flowing above the danger level at Kamrup in Nagaon district, the Disang

and the Brahmaputra at Nimatighat, Tezpur, Goalpara and Dhubri.

At least 26 of the total 233 camps have been inundated by the floodwater in Kaziranga National Park with 11 animals dying due to drowning.

## Assam Rifles foils cross border smuggling

IT News  
Imphal, June 23:

Tengnoupal Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) foiled cross border smuggling of contrabands near Chawla village, Tengnoupal district today. During border domination patrol, troops of Assam Rifles found packages concealed in dense foliage near Chawla vil-

lage. On thorough search of the packages, contrabands items to include liquor, cigarettes, food items and electronic items were recovered.

The recovered items were assessed to be worth Rs 6.05 lakhs.

The recovered contraband items were handed over to Customs Representative, Moreh for further investigation.

# Assam Rifles felicitate environmental activist

IT News  
Imphal, June 23:

Churachandpur Sector under the aegis of IGAR (South) facilitated environmental activist MrRohanAgrawal (20) in Tuibong, Churachandpur district today.

RohanAgrawal hails from Nagpur, Maharashtra, who is undertaking a journey to spread awareness on environment conservation by walking and hitchhiking.

So far, Rohan has covered about 10,000 km on foot and 40,000 km across 23 states by hitchhiking in a time span of over 660 days since he set off. During his three days visit to Churachandpur, he interacted with students & CSOs. He was also full of praises for Assam Rifles and the work being done by Assam Rifles for the uplift-



ing the far flung areas of North East India.

In a brief interaction, he informed that he is an adherent of the ancient India Gurukul culture of journey called 'Destan' to understand different religions, languages, cultures and people to broaden one's outlook on life and to be a good person. He further said that he undertook the journey

with a mission to make people aware about plastic pollution, and the ill effects of using plastics, and also to spread the message of humanity and brotherhood to unite India.

Rohan also talked about his next mission to Siberia. On his way to Siberia, he will cross 12-13 South Asian countries. Presently he is also pursuing online graduation.

Contd. from Page 1

## No Laws or Act passed by center...

And whereas the Chief Commissioner is of the opinion that an enquiry into and record of the nature and extend of the rights of the Government and of private persons in or over the said forest land is necessary but that they will occupy such length of time as in the meantime to endanger

the rights of the Government; Now therefore, in exercise of the power conferred on him by section 29 of the Indian Forest Act ( Act XVI of 1927) read with the Government of India, Ministry of states Notification No. 104 -J dated the 24th August 1950, the Chief Commissioner, Manipur hereby de-

clares it as Protected Forest and that provision of Chapter IV of the said act shall be applicable to the land mentioned in the schedule below subject to the condition that this declaration shall not abridge or affect any existing rights of the individual or communities in the said land".

## Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram endorses....

ABVKA expresses its confidence that her experience and understanding of policy matters and compassionate nature will greatly benefit Bharat. The organisation

also appeals to all opposition political parties to support the nomination of Draupadi Murmu and elect her unanimously. Applauding the NDA government for the commendable decision steering social

cohesion, ABVKA stated that it has given a rare opportunity for all recognised political parties to pronounce their commitment towards comprehensive development of the Janajatis.

## Sports

# FIH Pro League: India defeat USA 4-0 to finish third in their debut season



Agency  
Rotterdam, June 23:

The Indian Women's Hockey Team registered a comprehensive 4-0 over the USA to secure third place in their debut FIH Hockey Pro League campaign in Rotterdam on Wednesday. Experienced forward Vandana Kataria (39', 54') starred with a brace, while Sonika (54') and Sangita Kumari (57') scored a goal each to help India sign off the prestigious league on a high note ahead of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2022.

The Indian team got off the blocks quickly, with Sharmila Devi making a fantastic run inside the USA's circle in the opening minute, but her shot

went wide of the goalpost. In just the next minute, the USA earned their first Penalty Corner of the match, however, Savita made an easy save to deny the USA an early goal advantage. India replied with a brave foray, with Sharmila taking a shot just a few yards away from the goal, but the USA goalkeeper was successful in averting the danger.

The latter stage of the opening quarter saw some end-to-end action, with both teams trying to make spaces in each other's striking circles and showcasing good defending skills. The USA also won their second Penalty Corner of the match in the 12th minute but failed to break the deadlock.

Both teams tried to look for

opportunities to score in the opening minutes of the second quarter, but neither could find an opening. India, however, enjoyed the possession throughout the second quarter. They even earned two Penalty Corners in the 23rd and 26th minute, respectively, but the USA defence unit kept Indians at bay, thus ending the first half in a 0-0 stalemate.

India started the third quarter positively and earned themselves a Penalty Corner in the 33rd minute of the match. However, they couldn't carry out their attempt as they missed out on trapping the ball. Moments later, another glorious opportunity came for India as they won a PC after a good video referral call and it was experienced for-

ward Vandana, who successfully deflected the ball past the USA goalkeeper to give India a much-needed 1-0 lead. India did create a couple of chances to extend their lead, but each of their attempts went off target. In the 43rd minute, the USA won a PC but failed to convert it as Ashley Hoffman's shot flew high over the Indian goal.

The Indian team started the fourth quarter aggressively and created potential goalscoring opportunities to extend their lead. However, the USA defence stood tall and kept Indians at bay. Not letting the missed opportunities affect their momentum, India upped their ante and piled extensive pressure on the USA defence.

Thus, as a result, India went on to score two goals inside one minute. Vandana and Sonika each scored a goal in the 54th minute to make the scoreline 3-0. USA responded quickly and earned themselves a PC, but Savita stood tall and kept the ball away from their goal. India added a fourth goal to their tally in the 57th minute through young forward Sangita. The USA were again rewarded a PC in the last minute of the match, but the rock-solid Indian defence led by Savita ensured India sign off their debut FIH Hockey Pro League campaign with a massive 4-0 win.

# Indian women go down 0-1 to Sweden in 3-nations U23 football event



Agency  
Stockholm, June 23:

A spirited show by the Indian women's football team went in vain as an injury-time goal helped Sweden post a 1-0 win in the three-nation U23 tournament at the Angeltorps Stadium here.

Mid-fielder Linn Vickius scored the solitary 96th minute goal to help the Swedes earn the victory on Wednesday night.

India dominated the proceedings right from the get-go and earned themselves a flurry of goal scoring opportunities.

The first big chance arrived for India into the 12th minute of the match when midfielder Manisha Kalyan tried to draw

the first blood after receiving a ball from her teammate Martina Thokchom. However, it didn't result in a goal after the ball went straight into the keeper's hands.

Manisha got an opportunity to score again when, in the 35th minute, she went in for an attempt once again, but the attack was thwarted by the Swedish defenders. The Swedish goalkeeper Emma Holmgren was perhaps the busiest athlete in the field in the first half, as the Indians got yet another chance in the 40th minute, but the former saved it with ease. On the other side of the field, the Indian goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan was also vigilant in the face of a few attacking moves by the opposition.

While the first half resulted in stalemate despite a brand of tactical football by both sides, the second half kicked off with Sweden mounting several attacks, but the Indians smartly defended to maintain parity. India earned themselves the best chance to take a lead when striker Pyari Xaxa missed her target by a whisker in the 73rd minute.

However, when it looked certain that the game was heading towards a draw, Vickius scored the all-important goal for Sweden off a corner from midfielder Ebba Hed, and earned her side the victory. India will take on the USA in their next game on June 25.