

African Swine Flu alert: Kakching district declared as 'control area', bans sales of pork

IT News
Imphal, June 25:

Following the confirmation of positive cases of African Swine Fever (ASF) in pigs in the Pig Breeding Farm, Hiyanglam, Kakching district on Friday by the District Veterinary Office, the district administration of kakching district has declare its jurisdiction as 'control area', banning movement of pigs as well as selling of pork, pig, feed and related items.

In an order issued by the deputy Commissioner



Kakching district, Somorjit Salam, IAS, it is stated that

the containment measures is being taken up in view

of the impending threat of the disease (ASF) to prevent spread of the disease in the area. The district has been declared 'control area' under Section 6 of "The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animal Act, 2002".

Under Section 17 of the act - No Pig shall be moved from place where it is kept within the controlled area and no pig, pork, feed and related items are ban for sale in the district.

Director, RIMS inaugurated two newly advanced CT Scan machine at OPD Block and Trauma Center



IT News
Imphal, June 25:

Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal inaugurated Newly Installed Advanced CT Scan (Siemens) at New OPD Block, RIMS Hospital, Imphal & Newly Installed Advanced CT Scan (Phillips) at Trauma Center, RIMS Hospital, Imphal today

in presence of Prof. N. Sanjib Singh, Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital, Imphal, Prof. S. Subhaschandra Singh, Head of Radiodiagnosis Department, RIMS Imphal. The Program was also attended by staffs and faculty members of RIMS Imphal.

During the inauguration program, Director stated that the two machine namely:- TRAUMA CT Model: - AC-

CESS CT - 32 slice machine Manufacturer: - Philips Health Care Co. Ltd. 2) Radiodiagnosis New CT - Scan machine Name: - SOMATOM go. All CT - 192 slice enabled Machine Manufacturer: - Siemens Medical Equipment Ltd. is Capable of sophisticated imaging such as: Artificial Intelligence enabled, Cardiac CT/coronary angiography, Perfusion

analysis of brain for stroke & Brain tumors, Neuro-vascular angiography, Peripheral vascular angiography, Renal angiography, Paediatric imaging, Dual Energy CT for implants, foreign bodies & characterization of Renal stones, imaging of Gout to detected uric acid crystal non-invasively, High speed image acquisition (complete a scan in seconds to minutes) 192 slices/image single gantry rotation, Higher and better image Quality, Lower Radiation exposure to patient and other routinely done CT-Scanning of different body parts can be performed easily and in short duration giving more advantage for well-being of health care professionals during their service.

Further, Director also mentioned that RIMS Hospital has priority of opening up World Class Modular OT and also planning to inaugurate Burn Unit and Psychiatry Building.

Manipur's pride: After PhD, Dr. Ronica is the first Manipuri to be appointed as Professor at China's Yunan University

IT News
Moreh, June 25:

Dr. Yengkhom Ronica Devi of Manipur, who was recently conferred doctorate degree on June 9, 2022 by Yunan University, Govt. of People's Republic of China, has become the first Manipuri to be appointed as professor in the University. Dr. Ronica was conferred on with the doctorate degree on her thesis - International Relation 'Research in Ethnic Conflict'.

The Manipuri girl is also the first Indian to speak in Chinese language during convocation ceremony. Co-incidentally, the convocation held on June 23, 2022, where Ronica spoke in Chinese language was the 100th Convocation ceremony of the Yunan University.

Dr. Ronica is the eldest daughter of Yengkhom Mani Singh and Yengkhom Ongbi Brajeshwari Devi of Kakching Wairi Senapati Leikai, Kakching district, Manipur, India. Both her parents are private school teacher presently staying at Moreh Premnagar Ward No. 5 in Tengnoupal district.

Even though Ronica's parents are originally from Kakching, she along with her younger sister and younger brother were brought up at Moreh town as her parents had to stay there. After completing her class X exam conducted by the board of Secondary Education Manipur from Netaji Memorial English School, Moreh she completed her class XII examination from Padma Ratna English School, Kakching. She completed her graduation and later Master degree from Visva Bharati University, West Bengal (B.A. - Chinese Language and Culture).

After completing M.A. from Visva Bharati University,



Ronica continue another Master degree course in Teaching Chinese language as 2nd Language at Yunan University, China after getting scholarship from Chinese Scholarship Council, Government of People's Republic of China. She did her Ph.D in International Relation 'Research in Ethnic Conflict' from the Yunan University under the supervision of Prof. Liu Zhi (Department of International relation Yunan University, China).

Talking over phone to our Moreh Correspondent, Dr. Ronica said, "Since my childhood, I have had some craziness about learning different languages and it became my aim life after my XII. For sure I have to mention Pabung Elangbam Rabei, Reid, Manipur Police officer & Tamo Manju Elangbam were the first two person that gave me knowledge about Visva Bharati University. So in the year 2008, I got admission to Visva Bharati Cheema Bhavan with the help of Tamo Manju. At the beginning of my course people use to say what I'm going to do learning a foreign language, but today here I

am and people saw what I'm doing in this field. After my bachelor's degree course, I was lucky enough to visit China in 2012. After my first visit to a Chinese university namely Yunnan university, I'm in very love with the environment the campus the atmosphere the friendliness of Chinese people, etc., etc. So after coming back I started aiming for an abroad study. In short lucky, I got my Chinese Scholarship just after mummy MA course. Again I am lucky that the University that selected me was the University that I visited in the year 2012. 2014 I came to Yunnan University for my further study. Now Yunnan province Kunming city is my second home. I love the life here, love the people".

She further said, "Dear friends learning language is very new to our society but there are lots of opportunities for this. For those who want to try please go for it. Even now I'm providing free Chinese online classes for those who sincerely appreciate learning it. Finally, I'm very thankful to my Baba and Mommy for your hard work and effort in upbringing me".

Bharat readies to welcome a Tribal President

By: Nava Thakuria
Guwahati, June 25:

If one believes in the simple mathematical calculation and minimum political honesty by public representatives in the Indian Parliament and State legislative assemblies, the largest democracy on Earth is expecting a lady tribal President in New Delhi. As Draupadi Murmu, a simple Janjati family woman turned a teacher turned a politician, gets the recommendation from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance government for the Presidential elections scheduled for 18 July next, her victory becomes almost imminent.

Hailing from Mayurbhanj locality of Odisha, who taught in Shri Aurobindo Integral Education Centre, the NDA's Presidential candidate earlier served Jharkhand as its Governor and her own State as a minister. After arriving in New Delhi,

Murmu has filed her nomination papers in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, BJP national president JP Nadda, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath, MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, etc. Her main opponent will be a seasoned politician, who had lately shifted his loyalty from the saffron party. Yashwant Sinha, a former Union minister, has been declared as the joint opposition candidate for the Presidential polls.

Election Commission of India had recently announced the schedule of Presidential elections as the five-year tenure of President Ram Nath Kovind comes to end on 24 July 2022. The nominations (for 18 July polling) are accepted till 29 June and the poll-result will be available on 21 July. For records, any citizen of Bharat can become the

country's President after fulfilling a few conditions. The aspirant must be at least 35 years old and he/she has the qualification to be elected as a member of Lok Sabha. On submitting the nomination, the aspirant needs 50 recognised proposers and 50 seconders.

Unlike other democratic nations, the common Indians do not elect their President directly, but the Head of the Republic is voted by the people's representatives (meaning the Parliamentarians and Legislators) with the basis of Electoral College. It includes 543 members of Lok Sabha (the lower house of Parliament), 233 members in Rajya Sabha (the upper house) and 4,033 members of legislative assemblies across the vast country. Value of an MP's vote in Presidential elections varies with the total number of Legislators in State (including Union Territories) legislative assemblies. An MLA's vote-value

depends on the number of electorates of the concerned State/UT.

The ruling BJP has 92 Rajya Sabha members (including four nominated MPs, who cannot vote) and 301 Lok Sabha MPs, which is more than the half of combined strength of both the houses. The saffron party also enjoys support from its allies like Janata Dal-United, Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party, Apna Dal, Asom Gana Parishad, Mizo National Front, National People's Party, etc. As the BJP retains power in 18 States, it enjoys impressive numbers (along with the political allies) among Legislators too.

Meanwhile, in Murmu's home State, the Biju Janata Dal government chief Naveen Patnaik urged all political parties of Odisha to support her (even though they are not NDA allies). Patnaik, who is in power for over two decades, also appealed to the opposition parties

to withdraw their candidate (Yashwant Sinha). Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy indicates his party YSRCP may support Murmu. Others which may join the league comprise BSP (Uttar Pradesh), TRS (Telangana), AAP (Delhi & Punjab), JMM (Jharkhand), AIADMK (Tamil Nadu), etc.

For the ruling BJP, there were a number of choices for the Presidential polls including the incumbent vice-President Venkaiah Naidu and a few reputed Governors of different States. But the party, which has been facing public anger (often turned violent) for the Nupur Sarma-Prophet Muhammad controversy, Agniveer defecation policy, other burning issues, silently picked up an efficient and honest Santhal political personality to replace a Dalit (Kovind is the second Dalit President of India after KR Narayanan) in Rashtrapati Bhawan.

The struggling life of Murmu can also impress anyone who looks through her days from a poor tribal family to complete her studies at Bhubaneswar Ramadevi Women's College against all odds. Born on 20 June 1958, Murmu started her career as a teacher before joining the Odisha politics. She was elected to the State legislative assembly twice as a BJP member. Murmu served various portfolios as a minister of the State government in Bhubaneswar. Incidentally she became the first woman Governor of Jharkhand (2015 to 2021).

Her first reaction over the development was a big surprise. 'I am surprised, I was not able to believe it,' said Murmu while speaking to journalists and added that she would work with the constitutional guidelines if elected to the coveted post. PM Modi in an initial tweet commented that Murmu has a rich

administrative experience and had an outstanding gubernatorial tenure. Meanwhile, the Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram (ABVKA), backed by BJP's influential ideologue Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, termed Murmu's candidature as a historic moment for 120 million Janajati people of India.

"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," said Ramchandra Kharadi, president of ABVKA, which is identified as India's largest tribal non-government welfare organisation. He asserted that a historical decision has been taken to nominate a Santhali Janajati lady as the Presidential candidate when the nation is celebrating the glorious 75th years of its independence.

★ Editorial

N. Biren Singh 2nd term - Now plaguing with unscrupulous issues

The second term of the BJP's N. Biren Singh led government in the state of Manipur has started plaguing with number of unscrupulous issues.

Keeping under control – the leaders of Civil Society organizations or utilization of the 'intimidation tools' to suppress activists of individuals and the silencing the voice of dissents by appeasing or intimidating the media is not helping his government any more. People today have started realizing the fact that, the promises and assurances to root out all form of corruption from the state is appearing as a mere joke, as multiple issues related to corruption have now been surface in the public domain. Issues about irregularities to the appointment of Vice Chancellor of the Manipur Technical University and that of the Chief Engineer-in-charge of Engineering Wing of Education (S) department, irregularities highlighted in media including this newspaper regarding misappropriation of government fund by officials of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) etc. are left unnoticed. Announcement to ensure door step delivery of the benefit under various flagship programme of government is history today. Promises of better road connectivity, better public transport, and mandatory attendance of government servants to their respective offices, schemes for improvement of education sectors, all turn out to be hollow promises.

One wanders, on where have the ambitious – "School Fagathansi Mission" gone? Students today came out in the street with placards demanding implementation of the Right to Education Act. Trust in government schools deployed with highly paid teachers, has been lost. And as a result, the students demands 25% free and compulsory education at private schools.

On the other hand, the recent decision for mass plantation of Oil Palm Trees and the adoption of base year for Manipur's native people as 1961 has revealed the quantum of "patriotism" to those who have been mandated to run the state. (Read Imphal Times Editorial, June 16 & 17, 2022. <https://www.imphaltimes.com/editorial/item/23085-oil-palm-tree-most-manipur-land-may-dry-up-after-25-years>) On the issues of human rights, justice has not been delivered to the 1528 victims of fake encounter not to mention about providing basic amenities like regular drinking water, health care services, etc.

It is worth mentioning that, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had once appealed the people to first talk with him or the government authority before going to the street for any kind of protest or agitation. That was in his first term. However, it was only after a journalist and another protestor got injured that the state government responded to the demand of the people under the aegis of the UCM, protesting solution to the disputed border issue between India and Myanmar where the fencing is taking place.

It is not even a year, that the N. Biren Singh led government has been mandated by the people of the state to continue the second term. With just 21 MLAs out of the 60 seats State Legislative Assembly, N. Biren Singh led BJP formed government with support of other political parties, beside the fact that the Congress party got 28 seats in the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly. This time the people of Manipur have given mandate with 32 seats to the BJP in the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election. Human being are not immortal so as the politicians. And opportunity doesn't come twice. People have given the opportunity this time and the N. Biren Singh and his team should not let this opportunity turns into disaster.

Deadly Pollution Due to bad air, the age of the countrymen is decreasing by five years



By: Vijay Garg

The poor quality of air works in a way to dampen all the efforts to give healthy and long life to the countrymen. The Air Quality Index report, recently released by the Energy Policy Institute of the University of Chicago, shows that poor air alone reduces the life expectancy of citizens by five years. If we talk about the capital Delhi and NCR, then air pollution is taking away ten years of people's life here. However, this is nothing new or surprising if seen. We have been hearing about the ill effects of air pollution for a long time. Every national or international report on pollution underlines the fact that the level of pollution in the air of Delhi has increased to a great extent and that the air is becoming toxic in all the big and small cities of the country. In this report also, India has been described as the second most polluted country in the world, while Delhi is the first most polluted city. It has also been told that the damage caused by smoking is not as much because of the poor quality of the air.

Millions of people die every year in the country from causes related to air pollution. And given the condition of air pollution, about 51 crore people living in North India i.e. about 40 percent of the country's population will be forced to offer it for 7.6 years of their life. However, the good thing about the report is that it has not only told about the magnitude of the situation, it has also taken into account the efforts to improve it. It specifically mentions the government's National Clean Air Program (NCAP), which aims to bring down the level of particulate matter in the air by 20 to 30 percent from 2017 levels by 2024. The report said that if it succeeds in bringing it down by 25 percent, then life expectancy will increase by 1.4 years nationally and by 2.6 years in Delhi. But it is a matter of intention. Reality is different. A report in January this year states that despite the NCAP, there has been no significant success in reducing pollution levels in Delhi's air in the last three years. Factors such as economic growth, industrialization and huge increase in fuel consumption are behind the increase in air pollution levels in the last two decades. Obviously, it is not easy to control them, but the problem of air pollution cannot be ignored anymore. There has to be a way to clear the air with the least possible damage.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

Recruitment process amidst Covid Era

By: Kaustov Kashyap

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we behave, eat and work. It has also altered the way we get hired now and how recruiters select the best candidates for a job.

So, job seekers need to make a note of the changes in the recruitment process. Unless you know what has changed, how will you adapt and fine-tune your job search strategy?

The COVID-19 induced slowdown has impacted the jobs worldwide but as economies open and business limp back to the pre-COVID period, more companies are looking to hire. In these times, it's essential to understand what's that recruiters are looking for in a candidate. How the hiring process has changed and what you can do to get hired.

So, let's take a look at what's new and what's different when it comes to searching for a job in these

tough times.

Offline to online hiring

Soon after the Coronavirus pandemic, most employers moved to online hiring completely to keep their employees and prospective candidates safe from getting infected. Today, there's more reliance on technology to screen, sort, interview and hire candidates.

Due to the shortage of open positions, getting a job in these times is difficult because there's more competition than ever. So, how do you adapt to the new hiring process?

- Get familiar with the technology
- Figure out how to get noticed in the crowded job market
- Upskill to increase your net worth
- Include relevant skills in your resume
- Keep your profile updated

In-person to video interviews

Since it's important to adhere to physical distancing to curb the spread of COVID-19, companies are relying on video interviews to select the candidates for a job. In fact, according to news reports large organisations such as Facebook, Google, Amazon, and LinkedIn have announced to move to online job interviews for the duration of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Are you prepared for the online job interviews? If not, it's time you understand the importance of video interviews. It could be a Skype interview or a video interview on Zoom, Teams or any other video platform. You should get an understanding of a video interview in general and how to conduct yourself during such a conversation.

Working from office to remote working

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, remote working or work from home has become a new reality for many

job seekers. Many employees reported in a survey that their companies have offered work from home until the situation normalises. As companies focus on a remote working model, it's important for job seekers to mentally prepare to work from home or a remote location. In the interview, you may be asked how you keep yourself motivated and organised when working from home.

On-ground job fairs to virtual job fairs

To save costs and to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, companies are focusing more on virtual job fairs. So, if you are looking for a job, virtual job fair should be a part of your job search strategy. The best part about virtual job fairs is that you can attend them from the comforts of your home and you can ask questions directly to hiring manager, if you have any.

(The writer is a HR & Career Consultant)

Skin problems that arise during monsoons



By: Shahnaz Husain

The pleasant days of magical. Monsoons are here again to provide respite from the brunt of the hot and sweaty summer. The buzz of monsoon has grown louder with barren land springs to life with lush green fields and rolling green hills across the country.

Who doesn't like the rains? Lush green landscapes, romantic drives, and cosy evenings with loved ones. Can't get better than this, right? Monsoon showers have arrived to give us respite from the sweltering summer heat and hope the rain Gods bless us with a good rainy season this year.

The onset of the monsoon drizzles provides refuge from the scorching summer heat. The cool raindrops make your skin dull and cause Skin Allergies, Hyper pigmentation, Facial Folliculitis, Dull, frizzy hair due to dirt, pollution, wetness and excessive humidity. The sudden downpour take a toll on skin and hair due to bacterial and fungal infection. Your skin needs extra care in rainy season as humidity level escalates triggering excessive oil secretion in the body leading to itching which may further facilitate skin and hair related issues.

Your skin is more susceptible to infections during monsoon due to excessive sweating, dehydration, photo-toxic effects of the sun and, of course, seasonal humidity. Prickly heat is one of the most common skin issues during this season.

If you suddenly notice skin allergies and skin infections on your face due to heat, humidity and rain then don't worry. Well, a few simple tricks to keep your skin glowing and your hair managed this monsoon.

In case of a skin infection, use an anti-fungal powder to avoid any further infection. Always keep your skin dry. Don't wear wet clothes. Also, wet shoes should be changed instantly. These small precautions go a long way in having a healthy and infection-free skin.

Beauty is not just a question of how you look, but how you feel, and at no time is this more relevant than during the monsoons. The rainy season isn't such a great time for look-

ing or feeling good. Both the skin and hair suffer due to high humidity. Sweat and oil deposits make the skin and hair really dull. So, I always adjust my skin and hair care routine according to the season.

A flower based skin tonic is ideal. I just can't do without a rose-based skin tonic during hot and humid weather. I keep a small bowl of rose skin tonic in the fridge, with cotton wool pads soaking in it. This way it is chilled and ready for use. One can do this with rose water too, a powerful natural skin toner. I wipe the skin with it several times a day. Rose is a natural coolant and most refreshing. The chilled toner also closes and refines the pores.

I also use cotton wool pads soaked in the skin tonic as eye pads. It is most relaxing and removes fatigue. Splashing the eyes with cold

water and cucumber also help to remove tan. Mango can be most nourishing for dry skin. Apply the mask on the face and wash it off with plain water after half an hour.

In case of a skin infection, use an anti-fungal powder to avoid any further infection. Always keep your skin dry. Don't wear wet clothes. Wet shoes and if you are drenched in rains then wet clothes/ wet shoes should be changed instantly.

I wash my hair more often during the monsoons. Tea and lemon juice make a wonderful hair rinse, adding shine to the hair. Just boil used tea leaves again, in enough water. Cool, strain, add the juice of a lemon. Use it as a last rinse after shampoo. The juice of a lemon and half a cup of rose water can also be added to a mug of water to make a fragrant last rinse.

not only gives body to the hair, but is also a wonderful cleanser.

Soaking the feet in warm or cold water can be most relaxing and also reviving. I add a tablespoon of coarse salt and half a cup of lemon juice to about one-fourth bucket warm water. Sometimes, I add a few drops of tea tree oil to the water. It keeps the feet free from skin problems. I soak my feet in this for half an hour. A cooling foot bath is also a great reviver during hot and humid weather. Add rose water, lemon juice and a splash of eau de cologne in cold water and soak feet in it to cool, clean and adds fragrance.

Maintain regular proper hygiene and keep skin fold area dry by using anti-fungal powder to absorb the sweat.

Avoid sharing of clothes or towels. Wearing tight synthetic clothes

Skin Problems That Arise During Monsoon

How To Prevent Them?



water also provides great relief. Sometimes, eye fatigue leads to puffiness. For this, I first wash the eyes with cold water and then with lukewarm water and repeat this alternate cold and warm water washing a few times. Sometimes, I soak tea bags in water and then apply them over the eyelids as eye pads. Tea helps to relieve puffiness.

For a monsoon face mask, mix 3 teaspoons oats with egg white and one teaspoon each of honey and curd. If you don't want to use egg white, add rose water or orange juice. Apply it on the face and wash it off after half an hour. Use it twice a week. Almond meal, or dry and powdered lemon and orange peels can also be added to the face pack.

Or, you can go for a fruit mask. They are most refreshing during hot and humid weather. You can also add cucumber pulp to the fruit mask, as it has an astringent effect and closes the pores. Ripe papaya pulp can be mixed with grated apple, water melon, pineapple and so on. Pa-

You can prevent your hair from becoming dull and Frizzy by applying a mixture of Apple cider vinegar and water. Mix a tablespoon of Apple cider vinegar mixed with half a cup of water, it will calm your tresses. Use a gentle shampoo to wash your hair and avoid using chemicals on the hair. We witness more hair fall during monsoons than the rest of the season mainly due to bacterial and fungal infection. The best way to avoid Facial Folliculitis is to avoid perspiration and to keep hair dry as much as possible. This can be achieved by taking regular and more frequent baths.

We should be careful while using public toilets because there remains the possibility of the presence of infectious agents. Consume at least 10-12 glasses of water as you can and also apply plenty moisturizers to keep skin hydrated. A skin moisturizer is a must irrespective of your skin type.

Sometimes, I apply the white of several eggs before my shampoo, leaving it on for half an hour. This

will not allow the skin to breathe or the sweat to evaporate and hence it is advised to Wear open footwear like chappals of breathable material, cotton socks and light loose cotton/ khadi clothes.

Nails become discoloured, brittle and dull due fungal infections during monsoon season. Trims your nails regularly during the rainy season as long nails attract muck, thereby leading to fungal infection.

During the monsoons, the body loses fluids through sweat. I take lots of "nimbu paani" and fresh fruit juices. I also turn to home remedies for small ailments. For sore throat and cough, I find ginger tea most soothing. I add some tender tulsi leaves to it, while it is boiling. Water boiled with just tulsi leaves can also be taken as drink in case of sore throat.

Take care and Enjoy the season with your loved one

(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

India records 15,940 Covid infections, 20 fatalities in a day

Agency
New Delhi, June 25:

India's tally of Covid infections rose by 15,940 in a day to reach 4,33,78,234 while the active caseload increased to 91,779, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday.

The death toll climbed to 52,974 with 20 more fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

Active cases rose by 3,495 in a day and now comprise 0.21 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.58 per cent, the health ministry said.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.39 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 3.30 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,27,61,481, while the case fatality rate was 1.21 per cent.

According to the ministry, 196.94 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5

and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, and 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20, surpassing the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, three crore on June 23 and four crore on January 25 this year.

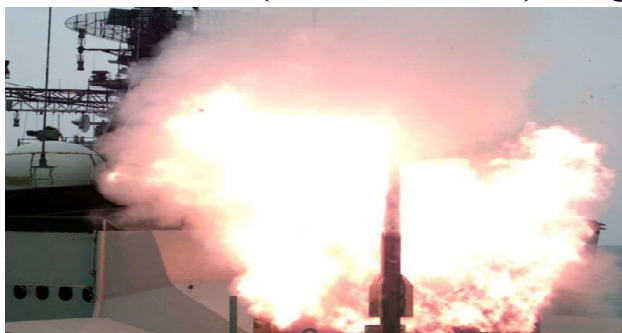
Of the 20 more fatalities reported, 11 are from Kerala, three from Maharashtra, two from West Bengal and one each from Bihar, Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan. A total of 5,24,974 deaths have been reported so

far in the country, including 1,47,896 from Maharashtra, 69,935 from Kerala, and 40,114 from Karnataka, 38,026 from Tamil Nadu, 26,243 from Delhi, 23,532 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,214 from West Bengal.

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 the state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) Flight-Tested



IT Correspondent
Mumbai, June 25:

Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) was successfully flight-tested by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy from an Indian Naval Ship at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on Friday.

The VL-SRSAM, a ship-borne weapon system, meant for neutralizing various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets. It is a quick reaction surface-to-air-missile developed by (DRDO).

During the mid-course flight, the missile uses a fibre-optic gyroscope-based inertial guidance mechanism while the terminal phase uses active radar homing.

With the lock-on before launch (LOBL) and lock-on after launch (LOAL) capability, the missile receives a mid-course update via data link. The missile is intended to replace the older Barak 1 surface-to-air missile system onboard Indian Navy warships. It will also be used as a short-range air defence system for Indian Air Force, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The launch of the system was conducted against a high-speed aerial target mimicking air-

craft, which was successfully engaged. The flight path of the vehicle along with health parameters was monitored using several tracking instruments deployed by ITR, Chandipur. The test launch was monitored by senior officials from DRDO & the Indian Navy.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, the Indian Navy, and the industry for the successful flight test and stated that the system had added an armour that will further enhance the defence capability of Indian Naval ships against aerial threats.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar appreciated

the Indian Navy & DRDO for the successful flight test of the VL-SRSAM and said that the development of this indigenous missile system will further strengthen the defensive capabilities of the Indian Navy.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr. G Satheesh Reddy complimented the teams involved in the successful flight test. He said the test has proved the integration of an indigenous weapon system onboard Indian Naval Ships. He added that it will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Navy and is another milestone toward Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India).

DRDO has planned to offload the manufacture of the missile to a private sector company. They are making it one of the first mainline weapon platforms to be produced by private industry under the aegis of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

Earlier this month India also successfully tested its nuclear-capable Agni-4 intermediate-range ballistic missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. The defence ministry said the test reaffirmed India's policy of having a 'credible minimum deterrence' capability.

Assam floods:

Toll rises to 118 after 10 more deaths reported in past 24 hours; situation remains critical in Silchar



Agency
Cachar, June 25:

The death toll due to floods in Assam climbed to 118 on Friday after 10 more people lost their lives in the past 24 hours. Still more than 45 lakh people are affected due to the calamity across 30 districts of the state.

Out of the 10 new deaths, two each were reported from Barpeta, Dhubri, Karimganj and Udalguri districts and one death each from Cachar and Morigaon. Water levels are receding in several rivers of the state. However, the Brahmaputra at Dhubri and the Kopili in Nagaon are still flowing above the danger mark, reported news agency.

Cachar's Silchar city is remained underwater for the fifth consecutive day. Two drones have been deployed in Silchar for carrying out flood inundation mapping. These drones are also being used to provide relief materials to flood-affected people. As per the news agency, Eight NDRF teams from Itanagar and Bhubaneswar along with a team of the Indian Army from Dimapur in Nagaland have been deployed in the city.

To rescue stranded people, 10 personnel of the CRPF and four of the SDRF with boats

have been airlifted to the Cachar district. Helpline numbers, 0361-2237219, 9401044617 and 1079 (toll-free), have been launched by the state government for the affected people.

Barpeta is the worst-hit district of the state with over 8.50 lakh people have been affected, followed by Nagaon where more than five lakh people affected due to floods. Close to 2.50 lakh people have reportedly taken shelter in 717 relief camps across the state.

On Friday, Industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his son Anant donated Rs 25 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to help people affected by the floods in the state. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma thanked the Reliance Industries Limited Managing Director for the donation.

Over 33.03 lakh people in 28 districts continue to remain affected due to the natural calamity in the state, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) informed on Saturday.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) continued flood relief operations in Assam and Meghalaya and has utilised C-130, AN-32, Mi 17V5, Mi 17V1, Mi 17s and ALH extensively.

This is the fourth day and

IAF has flown more than 65 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions and dropped 140 tons of relief material till today.

As per the reports, at least 10 people, including four children died after drowning in the flood water in the last 24 hours.

8.76 lakh people have been affected in Barpeta district alone, followed by 5.08 lakh people in Nagaon, 4.01 lakh in Kamrup, 2.76 lakh people in Cachar, 2.16 in Karimganj, 1.84 lakh in Dhubri, and 1.70 lakh people have been affected in the Darrang district of Assam.

Notably, 3,510 villages under 93 revenue circles of the state and nearly 91,700 hectares of cropland is still reeling under the flood water.

2,65,788 people affected by flood water are still lodged in 717 relief camps set up by the administration of 22 districts in the state.

The state government has deployed two drones in Silchar of Cachar district for carrying out the flood inundation mapping as well as to provide the relief materials in the inaccessible areas.

85.2 MT of items including packaged drinking water, rice, etc. have been air transported from Guwahati and Jorhat to Silchar.

Results of four Bypolls in Tripura will impact the 2023 Assembly Elections

BJP is on backfoot as law and order and price rise anger people

By: Sagarneel Sinha
New Delhi, June 25:

Despite a few stray incidents, the bypolls for the four assembly seats in the northeastern state of Tripura have seen a voter turnout of more than 78%. The four seats where bypolls were held are — Agartala, Town Bardowali, Jubaraj nagar and Surma (SC).

The assembly elections in the northeastern state of Tripura are only eight months away. And just a month ago, the ruling BJP had to change its chief minister Biplob Deb and appoint state party president Manik Saha to the post. The new chief minister, who isn't a member of the state assembly, himself was one of the candidates in these bypolls from the Town Bardowali constituency. All these circumstances made these bypolls crucial — as they are expected to give indications about the upcoming 2023 fight. The results would be declared on June 26.

The BJP's campaign was led by Manik Saha himself. The former Chief Minister Biplob Deb

too joined the campaign. Apart from them, Assam chief minister and BJP's strongman in the northeast Himanta Biswa Sharma too campaigned for the saffron candidates. BJP's Tripura-in-charge Vinod Sonkar, an MP of the Kausambi constituency of Uttar Pradesh, also participated in the saffron campaigning. Not only this, the saffron party had even appointed three observers — party general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and the two cabinet ministers of Assam, Ashok Singhal and Jayanta Malla Barua — for the bypolls in this northeastern state.

The main opposition CPI(M) led Left Front too was not in a mood to leave any open space for the BJP. Former chief minister and leader of the opposition Manik Sarkar and CPI(M) state secretary Jitendra Chaudhury led the Left campaign in the four constituencies.

For Congress, the campaign was led by state unit president Birajit Singha and by former state president Sudip Roy Barman, who himself was a candidate from the Agartala constituency.

Trinamool Congress' second-in-command Abhishek Banerjee too campaigned for the party candidates. Royal scion Pradyot Debbarman too campaigned in the Surma (SC) constituency, where the tribal party was in the fray to test its strength in the non-ST reserved seats having a chunk of tribal votes.

The most prestigious constituency was Town Bardowali, where the candidate himself was the new BJP chief minister Manik Saha. The candidates of Congress, Left Front and Trinamool Congress were Ashish Saha, Raghunath Sarkar (AIFB) and Sanhita Banerjee respectively. In the Agartala constituency, BJP's Ashok Sinha contested against Congress' Sudip Roy Barman. The Left's candidate was Krishna Mazumder (CPI-M) while Panna Deb was TMC's candidate.

In the Surma (SC) constituency, BJP's candidate was Swapna Das Paul while former MLA Anjan Das (CPI-M) was the Left Front's candidate. Pradyot Barman's TIPRA Motha's candidate was Baburam Satnam while the TMC candi-

date was Arjun Namasudra. In the Jubaraj nagar constituency, BJP's candidate was Malina Debnath while Sailendra Chandra Nath (CPI-M) was the Left Front's candidate. The candidates of Congress and TMC were Sushmita Debnath and Mrinal Kanti Debnath respectively.

The BJP has been losing a section of traditional Congress voters, who opted for the saffron party in 2018 to defeat the Left Front. That was seen first in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, where Congress emerged second pushing the CPI(M) to the third position and later in the civic polls held last year, where the organisationally non-existent TMC came third by fetching 16% riding on the support of most of these disillusioned Congress voters. These voters have now started trusting the Congress again as the grand old party has gained strength with the joining of former party president Sudip Roy Barman, who was in TMC and BJP for a brief period.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, there was erosion in BJP's base in Agartala, Town Bardowali and

Surma — barring Jubaraj nagar — in comparison to the 2018 state assembly polls, where the BJP under the leadership of prime minister Narendra Modi was successful in ending the 25-year long rule of the CPI(M) led Left Front. Particularly, in Agartala and Surma, BJP didn't even reach the 50% mark in 2019. Notably, Agartala and Town Bardowali were bastions of Congress while Surma was a stronghold of CPI(M) before the 2018 polls.

Only in Jubaraj nagar, a CPI(M) bastion, the BJP, which narrowly lost the seat in 2018, made gains in 2019. In the four constituencies, Congress made gains while CPI(M) led Left Front declined more in 2019. Out of these four constituencies, the Left came second only in the Jubaraj nagar seat in the 2019 polls.

Interestingly, this time in the Surma constituency, where the Congress got 30% votes in 2019, there was no candidate from the grand old party. It indirectly supported TIPRA Motha — a significant development given the fact that the Motha is the current

dominating party in the tribal belt.

However, drawing conclusions based only on the 2019 Lok Sabha polls would be politically incorrect. Four months after the 2019 polls, there was a bypoll in the Badharghat (SC) constituency where the CPI(M) made considerable gains in comparison to the Lok Sabha polls. Congress also made small gains.

The political situation on the ground has changed a lot since the Badharghat seat bypolls. The CPI(M) has intensified its political programmes across the state — both in the plains and hills. Congress has also been able to strengthen itself, though not in all parts of the state. At the same time, it would be naive to ignore the organisational strength of the BJP, which has only strengthened

itself after the 2018 polls with the help of Left voters. That's why despite losing a section of Congress voters in 2019, the saffron party was able to win the Lok Sabha polls.

Although the Left has intensified its political programmes across the state, still it is not yet clear how much the Left has been able to recover its lost base from the BJP. Apart from that, a relief for the saffron party is the reactivation of TMC post the civic polls. The BJP is hoping that the TMC may help the saffron party by eating into a portion of the Congress votes, particularly in Town Bardowali and Agartala. The upcoming political developments of the state would be decided by the results of these bypolls on June 26. (IPA Service)

WANTED BRIDE

34-year-old boy doing JOB in GOOD COMPANY seeks homely simple humble Nature girl for marriage.

Contact — 6239880087

Regular Invites for G7 Summits Under PM Modi Show India's New Position in World Order: Govt Officials

Agency
New Delhi, June 25:

India has become a regular invitee at the G-7 Summits as the West is no longer in any doubt that India, under PM Narendra Modi's leadership, needs to be a part of any sustained effort to solve the challenges being faced by the world, senior government officials told News18.

PM Modi departs on Saturday for the G-7 Summit in Germany. India has participated in both the Biarritz Summit in 2019, which was in-person participation, and the Comwall Summit in 2021, where India's participation was in a virtual format.

"As an active participant in many other divergent, plurilateral groupings like the Quad, I2U2, and BRICS, the Summit will further establish the indispensability of India in any noticeable North, South, or North-South platforms when it comes to searching for solutions and their implementation," a senior government official told News18.



The G7 are expected to discuss concrete initiatives and partnerships dedicated to climate, sustainable investment, global food security, global health and resilient democracies during the G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau. "India is a vibrant democracy and has taken leadership roles in these areas, making it an ideal partner for the G7 countries," the official added.

India is taking over the Presidency of G20 at the end of the year from Indonesia and the G20's ranks include all members of the G7. "Their support

will be vital for the success of India's upcoming G20 Presidency. Indonesia is also one of the partner countries that has been invited to the G7 Summit," the senior official pointed out.

Officials also said that India leads from the front on global issues like energy security and energy transition that will feature at G7. "The G7 Summit provides opportunities for forging closer partnerships to gain investment, technologies and new and additional climate financing under the current German G7 Presidency including

for a just energy transition that ensures just energy security. India leads from the front on these global issues and will bring a fresh perspective on climate change, carbon pricing, pandemic prevention, issues related to Intellectual Property, global food security and public stock holdings," an official said.

PM Narendra Modi will be visiting Schloss Elmau, Germany, at the invitation of Chancellor of Germany, H.E. Mr. Olaf Scholz, for the G7 Summit under the German Presidency on June 26-27, 2022. During the Summit, Prime Minister is expected to speak in two sessions that include Environment, Energy, Climate, Food Security, Health, Gender Equality and Democracy. The invitation to G7 Summit is in keeping with the tradition of strong and close partnership and high-level political contacts between India and Germany. Prime Minister's last visit to Germany was on May 2, 2022, for the sixth edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations.

Assam Rifles recovers cache of weapons and war like stores

IT News
Imphal, June 25:

Churachandpur Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police recovered cache of weapons and war like stores in Churachandpur district, Manipur today.

Based on specific input, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to the recovery of arms and ammunitions. The haul included one Lathode Launcher, three Lathode



bombs, two .22 pistols, one 9mm Carbine, one chinese grenade, one local grenade along with two Kenwood handheld radio sets.

The recovered items were handed over to Churachandpur Police Station for further investigation.

Govt panel recommends emergency approval for SII's Covovax for 7-11 year olds

Agency
New Delhi, June 25:

An expert panel of India's central drug authority on Friday recommended granting emergency use authorisation to Serum Institute's Covovax for children aged 7 to 11 years, official sources said. The recommendation has been sent to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for final approval. The application for emergency use authorisation was submitted by Prakash Kumar Singh, director (government and regulatory affairs) at Serum Institute of India (SII) on March 16.

"The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Covid-19 of the CDSCO deliberated on the EUA application of SII and recommended granting emergency use authorisation

for Covovax for children aged 7 to 11 years," an official source said. The expert panel in its last meeting in April had sought more data from the Pune-based firm over the application.

The DCGI had approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28 and in the 12 to 17 years age group subject to certain conditions on March 9. The country began inoculating children aged 12-14 from March 16. The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of front-line workers started from February 2 last year.

The next phase of Covid-19 vaccination commenced on March 1 last year for

people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions. India launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1 last year. The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 years of age to be inoculated against the viral disease from May 1 last year. The next phase of vaccination commenced from January 3 for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years.

India began administering precaution doses of vaccines to healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10. Precaution dose of Covid-19 vaccines for all aged above 18 years began at private vaccination centers from April 10.

AR provides medical assistance to road accident victims

IT News
Imphal, June 25:

Khoupum Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) extended life saving medical assistance to two individuals who met with a road accident near Khongbungvill on Old Cachar Road Noney district yesterday.

Emergency medical aid was extended to both the individuals by troops of Assam Rifles to stabilise their condition. Later, they were referred to Civil hospital for further treatment.

Nearest Police Station was also informed for further necessary action.

AR conducts lecture on Anti Drug Awareness

IT News
Imphal, June 25:

Loktak Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(S) organised a lecture on anti drug awareness to acquaint the local youths about the ill effects of drugs at Harmontang village of Churachandpur District, Manipur today.

During the event, 35 locals of Harmontang took the solemn oath to fight against drug abuse and get involved in nation-building activities.

The local populace applauded the efforts made by Assam Rifles for organising such an event and requested to frequently conduct these kind of lecture so that the local youths and students can be benefited.

Sports

Indian women face USA in three-nation U-23 Football Tournament

Agency
Sweden, June 25:

The Indian women's football team will look to beef up its attack when it takes on USA in the second match of the three-nation U23 tournament at Lar ds IP, Sweden on Saturday.

It was an injury-time goal which had spoilt India's broth and despite putting up a spirited effort, they lost 0-1 to Sweden in the opening match and the Suren Chettri-coached side will look to produce the goods against USA.

"If we want to win, we need to score," Chettri said in a release.

"We will play the way we played against Sweden and focus on attacking more this time."

"It was sad to lose the last game but the girls had put up their best effort against the number 2 in World FIFA ranking. We played a really good defending game, whatever skills we had we tried to show on the pitch and we will be doing the same tomorrow," he maintained.

One of the players who stood firm for 90 minutes but

conceded an injury-time goal was goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan.

"Aditi is an experienced player and she played a mature game last day. I would say she had put up all the effort for the team, but unfortunately, we lost," Chettri said.

Aditi too looked to take the positives and vowed to come stronger on Saturday.

"There are a lot of positives from the last game and the team is motivated to come back even stronger against USA," he said.

"It was disappointing to concede in the last moment but everyone gave their best effort

and I am proud of the girls. We understand the difference between the ranking and standard of the play, and hopefully, we will continue to perform well tomorrow as well."

Speaking about her own performance against Sweden, Aditi said, "I am really happy with my performance, and the game against Sweden was probably my best game so far."

"As a senior player, this is a kind of performance you expect from yourself. I am happy that I could contribute to my team against a tough opponent."

India U-17 women's team suffers 1-3 loss against Chile



Agency
New Delhi, June 25:

The Indian U-17 women's team suffered a 1-3 loss against Chile in its second match in the four-nation tournament despite an improved performance here. The women's side came into this match after haplessly going down to the Italian side 0-7 in the opening fixture.

Despite a slow start by both the teams in the initial stages, it was India that got a chance to snatch an early lead through defender Naketa,

whose long-ranger free-kick failed to put the Chileans in a spot of bother. In the 11th minute, Chile found a breakthrough in the 11th minute through Katherine Ramos, who inflicted a blow to the Indians.

While the Indians tried to bounce back quickly and were in search of an equaliser, Chile doubled their lead in the 19th minute, through a clinical header from Maitte. With the first half ending 2-0 in favour of Chile, India came out after the break and looked desperate to restore parity. With an uphill task in

hand, the Indians reduced the deficit and made it 1-2 when a ball from Neha landed at the feet of Kajol, and the latter skillfully headed the ball into the back of the goal in a flash.

However, despite a much-needed goal, the Indian side's aspirations were soon dashed when, in the 67th minute, when Chile's Ambar Rolino made it 3-1, putting a final nail in the coffin. The remainder of the game saw the Indians maintaining their attack but it was the Chileans who walked out of the field as victors.

Corruption-tainted Boxing Federation excluded from 2024 Paris Olympics

Agency
Paris, June 25:

Boxing's corruption-tainted world governing body will once again be excluded from organising their own events at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) confirmed on Friday.

The International Boxing Association (IBA) had already been barred from the 2020

Olympics in Tokyo with the organisation's presence in the 2028 Los Angeles Games also uncertain.

"In the interest of the athletes and the boxing community, the IBA will not be running qualifications and Olympic events," IOC sports director Kit McConnell told a press conference.

Boxing will take place at Paris 2024 but McConnell said the Olympic organisation re-

mained "very concerned by the governance, the refereeing and judging process and the finances" of the amateur boxing body.

The recent re-election of IBA president, the Russian Umar Kremlev, has been called into question by the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the IOC are also concerned about "its financial dependency" on the giant Russian gas company Gazprom.

Many Olympic boxing tournaments have been tainted by suspicions of corruption of judges and referees, from the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio.

The IOC will decide "in due time" on the terms of organisation of boxing in Paris, "by working closely with the organising committee and the representatives of the athletes", McConnell added.