

DC Cachar District receive flood relief assistance from Manipur Government



IT Correspondent
Jiribam, June 28:

In a bid to provide assistance to the flood affected people of Assam, Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh flagged off relief materials to Assam on Monday has been received by the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar District, Assam Kirthi Jalli at Jiribam gateway of the inter-State border of Manipur and Assam

today. The relief materials were handedover to the DC, Cachar, Assam by the Deputy Commissioner of Jiribam District W. Malemnganba Chenglei. Moreover, 40 personnel of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were also deployed to Assam State for assisting in the search and rescue operation in the flood-affected areas of the State.

Speaking with the media

persons, Deputy Commissioner of Cachar District, Assam Kirthi Jalli on behalf of Cachar District Administration thanks to the Manipur government for their helping hands at the time of severe flood in Assam.

She also added that sending of 40 SDRF personnel by the Manipur government will be really helpful to them in the rescue work of the flood victims in Cachar District.

Altnews Co-founder's arrest by Delhi police is a violation of all laws

By: Sushil Kutty
New Delhi, June 28:

At last the Delhi Police has gone and done the unpardonable. The capital's constabulary, which answers to the Union Home Ministry, summoned AltNews co-founder Muhammad Zubair from Bengaluru to Delhi and Monday, June 27, took him into custody in what looked like a sleight of the ham-handed. If it was a non-BJP government at the Centre, the Delhi Police wouldn't have carried out such an outrage, but these are not the best of days for the secular ecosystem, and in the eight years of Modi rule, whosoever stepped on rightwing, especially BJP, toes ran the risk of getting hauled over the coals.

Muhammad Zubair, with his unusual zeal for fact-checking, sifting alleged fiction from alleged fact, had made it his business to step on rightwing toes, fact-checking them and their "theories" with a vengeance rarely seen in this age of information, misinformation and disinformation; post-truth,

fake news, lies and outright lies. Zubair, it is said, can smell fraudsters and the farcical from a mile away, and if most of them were rightwing, it's not his fault!

At least that is why his over 600,000 followers on Twitter admire him for. The Delhi Police have been "after Zubair" for months; ever since he started "fact checking" Hindutva hardliners, like the ones who held the Haridwar and Raigad "dharma sansads", in which calls were given for the genocide of Muslims. And Muhammad Zubair called out such "dharma mas" with a regularity which got their goat. A couple of months ago, one such charlatan complained to police in Uttar Pradesh and Zubair himself was fact-checked!

Muhammad Zubair is often introduced as "journalist". That could be because both journalists and fact-checkers dabble in facts. At least the journalist is supposed to. That said, the illiterate often confuse fact-checkers with journalists. Needless to say, the fact-checker is more honorable than the journalist.

Post his alleged "unlawful arrest by Amit Shah's police", some of India's most-talked about journalists and top politicians have lined up in support of "journalist Muhammad Zubair". There cannot be greater honour for the tribe of verified and unverified journalists. Author and journalist Saba Naqvi has also been charged with hurting religious sentiments, and promoting enmity between communities. Her arrest could be just round the Hindutva corner.

The fact is, journalists and fact-checkers are becoming endangered under Modi-rule, more so after a couple of Government-verified "fringe elements" of the BJP's department of spokespersons found themselves in hot waters. Since then, Muhammad Zubair has been under scrutiny, primarily because he became very active on Twitter, not in his role of fact-checker, but as a Muslim whose religious sensibilities got hurt by the BJP spokesperson. And, because Twitter is sans boundaries, some of his tweets highlighting Muslims in India got picked up and

amplified globally.

The infamy India received internationally was fit to get anybody's goat. And Muhammad Zubair got the stick. It looked like the Delhi Police were waiting for the clock to strike pick-up time! Zubair has been booked under sections 295A and 153A, the same sections under which suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma found herself charged with.

But while Sharma has been given police security against people who want her "raped and beheaded", and is in a safe-house someplace secret, Muhammad Zubair is in police remand, allegedly taken into custody without lodging an FIR. Neither he, nor anybody in his "team" was given a copy of the FIR if at all there was one registered. Late night, Zubair was presented before a duty magistrate and remanded in police custody.

The police claim Zubair tweeted an image and words that hurt the religious sentiments of a particular religious community. That's his crime, which looked like monkey balancing.

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13th installation ceremony of the Rotary Club Polo City Imphal held

IT News
Imphal, June 28:

The 13th installation ceremony of the Rotary Club Polo City Imphal was held at the Hotel Classic.

As Chief Guest, Khumukcham Joykishan, MLA of Thangmeiband AC attended the ceremony, and outstanding individuals from various fields were recognised as part of the ceremony. Awards were given out and conferred.

Phillips Naoribam, IS Com TV Chief Editor and



Khogendra Khomdram Sangai Express Manipuri edition Editor were

recognised with awards for their achievements and contributions to journalism.

Arunbala Leima, a TV reporter, Sanasam Brojen, a weight lifting coach, and environmentalist Moirangthem Loyalgamba were also honoured.

Khumukcham Joykishan, MLA of Thangmeiband AC, stated that we should recognise and support the Rotary Club of Polo City Imphal's humanitarian efforts.

He also expressed his best wishes to the Rotary Club of Polo City Imphal and encouraged them to continue their humanitarian work.

State Handloom Expo 2022-2023 concluded

IT News
Imphal, June 28:

State Handloom Expo 2022-2023 which started on June 15 was concluded today at Urban Haat Nilakhuthi, Imphal East. The Handloom Expo was organized by Manipur Apex Handloom Weaver And Artisan C.S. LTD. under the sponsorship of Development Commissioner for Handloom Ministry of Textile Govt of India, New Delhi.

Thongbam Roksheni Devi, Pradhan, Nilakhuthi Gram Panchayat of Imphal East and A. Ronika Devi, President of AWAS presided the function



as Chief Guest and President of the function. Guest of Honour of today's function were Th. Ibemcha Devi, Project Manager Handloom

District Handloom and Textile Imphal East and Mandakini Devi of AWAS and Premabati Devi of Weaving Service Centre.

100% electric two-wheeler penetration in India possible by 2031

Incentive beyond 2024 and technological upgradation needed

By: Dr. Gyan Pathak
New Delhi, June 28:

With demand incentives withdrawn after FY 2024, maximum penetration of electric two-wheelers in India could be 71.54 per cent in Technology Driven Scenario by FY 2031, while with no technological improvement and reduction in battery cost, penetration level of 21.86% only can be achieved even if incentives are continued. However, combination of technological improvement and incentives can achieve 100% penetration, says a study titled "Forecasting Penetration of Electric Two-wheelers in India: A Bottom-up Analysis" prepared by TIFAC and NITI Aayog.

The importance of the study lies in the fact that the Indian vehicle market is primarily

dominated by the two-wheelers that are over 70 per cent of the registered vehicles in the country. With rising petroleum prices, air pollution and adverse impact of climate change, it is considered essential that India replace the vehicles run by petroleum products with electric vehicle. Therefore, any effort to address the problems associated with the fossil fuels in transport sector need to have a major focus on two-wheelers.

Government of India has already decided to push forward the use of electric vehicles in the country. Electric vehicle manufacturing ecosystem in the country is being strengthened through demand incentives, establishment of network of charging stations and administration schemes including publicity

and IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) activities. However, maximum number of electric two-wheelers to receive demand incentives will be 10,00,000 and they need to have maximum ex-factory cost of Rs.1.5 lakh. The incentive applicable for electric two-wheelers is Rs.15,000 per kWh of battery capacity, maximum up to 40% of the vehicle cost.

The electric two-wheeler technology has now matured to a significant level and a number of manufacturers have come out in the market with saleable products. Moreover, in terms of various categories of vehicles, the two-wheeler segment is most promising for electrification because the prices of electric two-wheelers have become competitive with that of IC

engine counterparts in recent times due to supporting policies of the Government of India. Such vehicles can also be served by relatively low power chargers and the growth trajectory of this industry appears to be promising.

It is in this context, a bottom-up estimation of future penetration of electric two-wheelers on yearly-basis was considered important to have needed insights into the required infrastructure, manufacturing capability, policies and technology development priorities. Sensing this need TIFAC and NITI Aayog jointly developed an Agent-based tool for analyzing the future penetration of electric two-wheelers in the country.

The results obtained from it in the Full Constraint Sub-Scenarios (base level of pro-

duction and infrastructure) under each of the eight Main Scenarios (Challenged diffusion, Performance driven, Low battery cost, Technology driven, Incentive driven, Battery cost challenged, Same performance, and Optimistic) was used for projection which suggest that improvement in technology and reduction in battery cost are crucial for self-sustainability of electric mobility.

The Optimistic Scenario, as per definition, requires a combination of all critical factors, the study says. The battery cost should continue its downward trend with a CAGR of 8%, range and power of the vehicles should increase by 20% by FY 2024 (due to technological progress) and Demand Incentive should continue till FY 2031. Otherwise, there is a wide variation in pro-

jected market penetration of electric two-wheelers among various scenarios.

In case of Challenged Diffusion Scenario, when most of conditions are assumed to be unfavourable, the maximum market penetration of only 5.82% is achieved in FY 2024, which is followed by a decline due to withdrawal of demand incentive and finally reaches 3.1% in FY 2031.

In the Optimistic Scenario, projected sale in FY 2031 is 220.15 lakh units. On the other hand, in the Challenged Diffusion Scenario the sale is 9.85 lakh units and 7.80 lakh units in financial years 2024 and 2031, respectively.

In case of all the scenarios when demand incentive was discontinued after FY 2024, there is an obvious impact of the withdrawal on sale. The In-

centive Driven Scenario, in which demand incentive is assumed to continue throughout but with only 2% reduction of battery cost annually and no improvement in range and performance, the electric two-wheelers sale achieved in FY 2031 will be 54.91 lakh units, at a market penetration of 21.86%.

The projected battery demand in FY 2031 varies from 1.28 GWh in Challenged Diffusion Scenario to 114.25 GWh in Optimistic Scenario.

The total requirement of charging points in FY 2031 is projected to vary from 29639 units in Challenged Diffusion Scenario to 774746 units in Optimistic Scenario. However, these are for Full Constraint condition, when available infrastructure and production capacity may restrict the sale. (IPA Service)

★ Editorial

To recharging underground water, harvesting rain water is the need of the hour

Experts today agree that due to increasing pollution and the mass deforestation taking place at various part of the world, particularly in the developing and the underdeveloped countries, has raised the mercury level making human unbearable at cities and town of many countries.

The temperature is increasing due to which climate change is taking place causing direct effect on the rainfall. This leads to excessive rainfall which leads to floods and will cause drought at many places. Taking the form of water, it goes ahead while destroying, but when there is less rainfall then ground water is exploited for the supply of water. Due to excessive groundwater exploitation, about two-thirds of the water blocks in the entire country have gone into the dark zone i.e. dangerous condition and the situation is getting worse continuously. Only about 8 percent of the total rainwater is being used underground, while the exploitation is many times more.

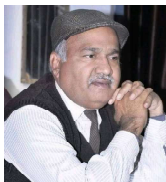
Atal Bhujal Yojana is an effort of the Central Government to improve the condition of ground water, which is to be accomplished by Jan Jagran (especially in rural areas) through State Governments. However, the State Governments and the officers of Irrigation and Water Resources Department are not seen working for implementation of the Yojana.

It is high time that the general public collect rainwater underground by making rainwater harvesting system wherever necessary and wherever it falls, while supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proclamation "Rain water, whenever it falls, wherever it falls". Store the rainwater from the roof by making drums and underground tanks and keep wide-mouthed pots, tubs, buckets etc. in the open during heavy rains. The water that will be collected in it is as if you have created it because water cannot be made in any mill or factory and in this way crores of liters of groundwater will be saved from exploitation. If the people still do not wake up and keep emptying the ground like this, then even drinking water will not be available, so take a pledge that we will save rainwater and increase groundwater.

Rain water should not be wasted, recharge should go into the ground. Ground water will improve, water will increase, everyone will have to save water. The danger of groundwater exploitation is great, giving quick orders for earthquake

Water should be recharged to increase groundwater, everyone will have to save water.

Growing scope of Genetic Medicine and Stem Cell Research



By: Vijay GarG

Various career paths are available in the field of Genetic Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

The fields of Genetic Medicine and Stem Cell Research provide ample career opportunities.

Among the various streams of science and medicine that have evolved with time, stem cell research and genetic medicine have risen as top contenders for various path-breaking discoveries. The treatment of more than 1,800 known monogenic hereditary disorders today, depends on the development of genetic medicines coupled with advanced stem cell research.

The field of genetic medicine comprises many areas, including the clinical practice of physicians, genetic counsellors and nutritionists, clinical diagnostic laboratory activities, and research into the causes and inheritance of genetic disorders. Simply put, it incorporates areas such as gene therapy, personalised medicine, and the rapidly emerging new medical speciality, including predictive medicine.

Stem cell therapy

Stem cells are basically adaptable and versatile cells in one's body that are capable of complex actions, unlike conventional medication. These cells exist both in embryos and adult cells and can differentiate into any cell of an organism with the ability of self-renewal. Stem cell therapy uses these cells to treat or prevent a disease or condition. Also known as regenerative medicine, it promotes the repair response of diseased, dysfunctional or injured tissue using stem cells or their derivatives.

Career prospects

Amid a prevailing global healthcare crisis, stem cell research and genetic medicine have given us hope. The former was — and continues to be — an integral part of research conducted to treat COVID-19 symptoms, and genome sequencing has been extensively employed globally to analyse mutations and variations of the virus. In the coming years, the industry is only expected to grow.

Also, there is a general misconception that only people with medical education can take up jobs in these fields. This is not completely true because students who have studied Biology, B.Sc. graduates with at least one subject of the Biological Sciences, MBBS, B.Pharm, B.D.S., B.V.Sc. or B.E. Biotechnology students are eligible too.

Possible career options include Clinical geneticist, Genetic Counsellor, Clinical Researcher, Research Scientist, Biochemical Diagnostics Professional, Biomedical Research Assistant, Biomedical Technician, Cancer Research Scientist, Biomedical Engineer, Molecular Genetics Professional, Laboratory Technician, and Laboratory Director.

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World can't fail to repatriate Rohingyas in Myanmar from Bangladesh

Dr Arpita Hazarika

Five years after the largest influx of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh camps, there has been little progress in the bilateral effort with Myanmar to return them to their country of origin. Since none of the 1.1 million Rohingya people could be brought back under the initiative taken by the two neighbors in 2018, Bangladesh repeatedly requested assistance from the international community, including the UN.

Authorities in Bangladesh believe that the Rohingya refugees' situation can be resolved through their safe, dignified, voluntary, and long-term return to Rakhine, Myanmar, where they were born and raised. In spite of the fact that over 600,000 Rohingyas have fled violence by Myanmar's security forces to safety in Bangladesh since August 2017, adding to the 350,000 who have already lived here since the late 1970s and are currently being protected in camps in Cox's Bazar and on the island of Bhasan Char, there has been little progress in their repatriation. The birth of 120,000 children, according to the minister of state for disaster management and relief, has led to an increase in the number of Rohingyas in Bangladesh after the 2017 influx.

In order to raise awareness and press for their demands, which include their immediate repatriation, the enforcement of the global political commitment of the responsibility to protect before their repatriation, and the repeal of Myanmar's

1982 citizenship law, the Rohingyas recently launched a go-home campaign in camps in Cox's Bazar. The Rohingya protest for World Refugee Day was the largest one since 2019, when more than 100,000 Rohingyas turned out for a program to demand accountability for the atrocities perpetrated against them and a safe return home.

The failure of efforts to repatriate the Rohingyas has largely been attributed to the Myanmar government's refusal to establish conditions in Rakhine that would encourage their voluntary and sustained return.

While Myanmar's government continued to instill terror in the Rakhine state in an effort to stall and, it would appear, avoid the process, bilateral efforts to repatriate Rohingyas have rarely succeeded. And not a single Rohingya could be sent back to Rakhine because they wouldn't return without assurances of their security and citizenship. Bangladesh has registered 876,000 Rohingyas for their repatriation, but only 35,000 of them have had their identities confirmed by Myanmar, and the country has not indicated when the repatriation process will start.

While bilateral efforts have failed, regional, global, and international forums—including the United Nations and its refugee agency—have also failed the Rohingyas by failing to put enough pressure on Myanmar to accept the Rohingyas

back in a dignified and secure manner. The go-home campaign was started by the Rohingyas living in the camps at Kutupalong and Teknaf in Cox's Bazar because they reportedly believed that the UN and the international community had not done enough to effectively pressure Myanmar authorities to grant them their citizenship rights and to repatriate them. Like the Bangladeshi government, the Rohingya believe that their repatriation is the only way to end their agony.

In previous influxes of Rohingyas into Bangladesh in the 1970s and 1990s, and Myanmar's subsequent voluntary repatriation of them through agreements and accords with Bangladesh, Myanmar took them back because they were subject to Western sanctions at the time, which is not the case now.

UK and other western nations continue to make significant investments in Myanmar despite having evidence of the country's persecution of Rohingyas and ICJ rulings upholding their justice (International Court of Justice).

The world including the UK must exert pressure on Myanmar's government to return their Rohingya citizens, as it has invested \$2.5 billion in Myanmar over the past three years and has more than \$500 million in bilateral trade.

The world should intensify pressure on Myanmar for the immediate repatriation of Rohingyas from Bangladesh as it could not continue

to take the burden of 1.1 million displaced Myanmar nationals. World leaders must bring pressure to bear on Myanmar to bring back its nationals, the persecuted Rohingyas, who fled a military crackdown to seek shelter in Bangladesh. Bangladesh cannot solve the [Rohingya] problem alone, and the international community should mount more pressure on Myanmar to solve it.

Dieng stressed the need for peaceful Rohingya repatriation with due dignity and safety for a permanent solution to the crisis.

The world community, which seems to be more concerned about refugees and the displacement of people from countries in the west, and regional forums, which seem passive in the resolution of the Rohingya crisis, must step up their efforts and have the Rohingya repatriation issue in equal focus while bilateral attempts at the repatriation of the Rohingyas, considered to be the world's most persecuted community, must continue.

(The writer is a Gauhati University, Assam, India based researcher. She is very interested in refugee affairs, political economy, security and strategic affairs, foreign policies of the Asia-Pacific region. She visited a number of countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, UK, USA, France, Japan, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Canada. She has research works on India-Bangladesh affairs)

Sushashan se Sashaktikaran – Easing the lives of Divyangjan

By: Dr. Virendra Kumar

Disability is a complex issue, managing disability involves multi disciplinary approval which causes multiple agencies and authorities in the Govt. setup both at the centre and the state level. When the Govt. took up under the able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, our principle of Governance is based on inclusiveness; **Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas**. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister always keeps the issues relating to the empowerment of the vulnerable including Divyangjan in the forefront of our development process. Given this objective the Govt. is continuously thinking towards creating an environment conducive for Divyangjan where they can exercise the rights equally and lead an independent and dignified life.

The forces of the Govt. for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is to streamline the legal framework, simplification of the process, including a better co-ordination mechanism among all concurred authorities and an improving delivery services.

When the Govt took over in 2014, we started working on having a new law for Divyangjan. Accordingly, the RPWD Act 2016 was enacted that came into force for 19.04.2017. The Govt. is thankful to the Hon'ble Members across all party lines for passing this comprehensive law on empowerment of Divyangjan in line with the spirit of United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Unlike the old act, the new law is right based and strengthens the mechanism of monitoring its implementation. It provides reservation in Govt jobs and seats in Govt./Govt added higher educational institutions of Divyangjan. It also promotes their health, education, sports, rehabilitation, recreation, culture etc.

The Govt. is aware of the fact that certificate of Disability is the primary requirement for any divyangjan to avail the benefits of Govt schemes and programmes to make the progress of certification simple and uniform across the country. The Govt. notified the uniform guidelines for assessment of disability certification and make it mandatory for on-line certification through Unique Disability ID Card portal – www.swayambhargav.gov.in with effect from 01.06.2021. So far more than 73 lakhs UDID cards have been generated. The Govt. is continuously working to further simplify the process and make the certification process robust, unique and transparent, so that the database can be linked to the benefit delivery system. This would further translate into ease of living of Divyangjan as well as optimize utilization of scarce Govt. resources amongst the targeted beneficiary only.

"I am a divyang person and I have a UDID card based on which I can travel free of cost in Uttar Pradesh Road Transport Corporation buses"

- Lavlesh Pratap Singh (Uttar Pradesh)

Provision of strengthening of institutional mechanism catering to the entire gamut of disabilities has been the priority of the Govt. Accordingly, the Govt set-up the National Institute for Mental Health Rehabilitation at Sehore, Indian Sign Language Training and Research Centre at Delhi and Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior to fill-up the gap in addressing causes of Mental Health Rehabilitation issue, standardization of Indian Sign Language and promoting Disability sports in the country.

The existing National Institutes are being continuously strengthened by providing support for their infrastructure development as well

as strengthening their human-resource support system for better rehabilitation services. These Institutions now have Cross-Disability Early Intervention Centres which are equipped with facilities for early screening, provision of rehabilitation/counseling/therapeutic services and preparatory school facilities. The National Institutes and their composite Regional Centers will have facilities for addressing causes of all categories of PwDs at one place in a continuous manner.

Creating a barrier free environment across built-up environment transportation system, ICT-ecosystem and other facility, services always remain a challenge for the Govt. However, the Govt is having left no stone unturned to create an accessible environment for Divyangjan in-liaison with State/UTs. Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the Accessible India Campaign in December 2015 since then significant progress has been made in this regard but it is a long way to achieve the desired objective of saturation in accessibility in every sector be it public building, transport, communication, IT and others. The Govt feels that participation of corporate sector & private entities is equally important in creating barrier free environment.

"Sugamya Bharat App" - a Crowd sourcing Mobile Application launched by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is a means for sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e. built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India. The app provides five main features, 4 of which are directly related to enhancing accessibility, while the fifth is a special feature meant only for Divyangjan for COVID related issues. This crowd sourcing will serve two-fold purpose of generating

sensitisation and awareness about the need for accessibility and also bring in a perceptible change in accessible features being provided in built-up spaces, the transportation sector and other services. Implementation of accessibility related activities across the country would help towards the vision of creating an universally accessible and inclusive India under the Accessible India Campaign.

The Govt implements various schemes and programmes for empowerment of Divyangjan. The Govt has taken steps to simplify the process for availing the benefits under the Schemes so as to minimize the hardships of Divyangjan as well as to provide a transparent mechanism for implementation in on-line mode i.e. DDPS & ADIP through e-Anudaan portal, Scholarship Scheme through National Scholarship Portal. We are also working on developing on-line system for National Action Plan for Skill Development.

The Department implements scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fittings of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) for distribution of modern & contemporary aids & assistive devices to Divyangjan to improve their mobility as well as to make them independent. Over the years, the assessment procedure and distribution of methodology has been changed. The Department is following camp approach for distribution of aids & assistive devices to divyangjans even at the remotest part of the country. In order to enhance the outreach of the scheme, the registration of the beneficiaries is being extended through Common Service Centres (CSCs) and mobile app. Since 2014-15 aids & assistive devices have been provided to 22.32 lakhs divyangjans worth Rs.1385.40 crore.

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India, Malaysia to Enhance Defence Cooperation

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, June 28:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a Video Conference with Senior Defence Minister of Malaysia, YB Dato 'Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, and had discussions on defence cooperation and framework on Monday.

A wide range of issues concerning bilateral, regional, and defence industrial cooperation were discussed during the meeting. **India highlighted the areas in which the country's defence industries could assist Malaysia and further enhance the defence co-operation between the two countries.**

Singh congratulated Dato 'Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein for assuming the office of the Senior Defence Minister in August 2021. Both Ministers expressed the intent to further boost the already strong India-Malaysia Defence cooperation, an official statement said.

The two Ministers discussed the existing defence cooperation activities and framework, and ways to further enhance them under the existing Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Meeting (MIDCOM) framework. The



(Left): Senior Defence Minister of Malaysia, YB Dato 'Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, (Right): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

next MIDCOM is scheduled to be held in July 2022, and it was decided to use this platform for a deeper engagement in defence.

MIDCOM was set up when India and Malaysia signed an MoU in 1993 to enable several exchanges and meetings between high-level military personnel on both sides. Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation meetings at the level of Defence Secretary are held regularly.

Singh highlighted the areas in which Indian Defence industries could assist Malaysia.

He suggested a visit of senior officers from Malaysia to India to get a first-hand experience of the facilities and products of the Indian Defence industry.

The Malaysian Senior Defence Minister expressed the need for inducting women personnel into peacekeeping missions. Both sides agreed to engage each other on this issue. It was also agreed to upgrade the capability for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

Singh also invited the Senior Defence Minister of Malaysia to visit India at an early convenient date to discuss closer and strategic defence ties.

"Had a wonderful interaction with Malaysia's Senior Defence Minister, Hishammuddin bin Hussein, via video conference. We reaffirmed the strong defence relations between India and Malaysia and discussed opportunities for both countries to further deepen our defence cooperation," Singh tweeted.

India's Dedication to Climate Commitments is Evident from Its Performance: PM Modi at G7 Summit

Agency
New Delhi, June 28:

Asserting that India's dedication to climate commitments is evident from its performance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hoped that rich countries of G-7 will support India's efforts in combating climate change and invited them to tap the huge market for clean energy technologies emerging in the country. In his remarks at the session on Investing in a better Future: Climate, Energy, Health at G7 Summit, Modi highlighted India's track record and said it has achieved the target of 40 per cent energy-capacity from non-fossil sources nine years before time.

"The target of 10 per cent ethanol-blending in petrol has been achieved 5 months before time. India has the world's first fully solar power operated airport. India's huge railway system will become net zero in this decade," he said. "When a large country like India shows such ambition, other developing countries also get inspiration. We hope that the rich countries of G-7 will support India's efforts. Today, a huge market for clean energy technologies is emerging in India," the prime minister said.

G-7 countries can invest in research, innovation, and manufacturing in this field, he said. The scale that India can provide for every new technology can make that technology affordable for the whole world, he asserted. The core theories of the circular economy have been an integral part of Indian culture and lifestyle, Modi said. "I called for a movement called LIFE - Lifestyle for Environment - in Glasgow last year. This year on World Environment Day, we launched the Global Initiative for LIFE campaign. The goal of this campaign is to encourage an eco-friendly lifestyle," he said. "We can call the followers



of this movement Triple-P i.e. 'pro planet people', and we should all take the responsibility of increasing the number of Triple-P people in our own countries. This will be our greatest contribution to the coming generations," he said. Modi, who is in Germany on a two-day visit from Sunday for the summit of the G7, was received by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz upon his arrival at Schloss Elmau, the picturesque venue of the summit in southern Germany.

"Becoming pro-planet people. Investing in a better future. In the @G7 session on climate, energy & health, PM @narendramodi highlighted India's efforts for green growth, clean energy, sustainable lifestyles & global wellbeing," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted. Before the start of the summit, Prime Minister Modi shook

hands with US President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as the leaders assembled for a group photo.

This was the first meeting between Modi and Biden after they met in Japan for the Quad summit in May. The two leaders are also scheduled to meet in July for the IZU2 virtual summit of the quadrilateral economic forum comprising India, Israel, the UAE and the US. The Group of Seven (G7) is an inter-governmental political grouping consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US.

The German Presidency has invited Argentina, India, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 Summit in Elmau, Bavaria. Modi is attending the G7 summit held in the Alpine castle of Schloss Elmau in southern Germany following an invitation by German Chancellor Scholz.

India records 11,793 new Covid cases, 27 deaths active cases near 100,000-mark

Agency
New Delhi, June 28:

India recorded 11,793 new coronavirus infections, pushing the country's tally to 4,34,18,839, while the active cases rose to 96,700, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

The death toll climbed to 5,25,047 with 27 new fatalities, data updated at 8 am by the ministry stated.

The active Covid cases comprise 0.22 per cent of the total infections.

The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.57 per cent, the health

ministry said.

An increase of 2,280 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 case count in a span of 24 hours, it said.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.49 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 3.36 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,27,97,092, while the case fatality rate was 1.21 per cent.

According to the ministry, 197.31 crore doses of vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 inoculation drive.

India's COVID-19 tally

had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19, 2020. The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore cases on May 4, 2021, three crore cases on June 23 and four crore cases on January 25, 2022.

Meanwhile, as per today's data, there were 9,486 recoveries from the viral illness and 27 deaths due to it in the last 24 hours, taking the cumulative tally of recoveries and related fatalities to 42,797,092

and 525,047, respectively. In the same period, the total number of active cases rose to 96,700, an addition of 2,280 to Monday's figures.

The 27 new fatalities included 13 from Kerala, five from Maharashtra, three each from Delhi and Punjab and one each from Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Uttarakhand.

Recoveries, deaths and active patients constitute 98.57%, 1.21% and 0.22% of the overall caseload.

Kerala (3,206), Maharashtra (2,369) and Tamil Nadu (1,461) together accounted for 7,036 or 60 per cent of the new cases. Delhi (628) and Karnataka (617), too, were among the major contributors.

Contd. from Page 2

Sushashan se Sashaktikaran – Easing the....

"Earlier I used to have a lot of trouble walking, had to think 100 times to go anywhere, but now under the ADIP scheme of the Government of India, I have been provided these devices at free of cost, after which I feel very independent and able to go anywhere."

-Razia Baano (Tikamgarh - Madhya Pradesh)

Under the ADIP scheme, Cochlear Implant Programme was introduced for the first time in December, 2014 for children with hearing impairment in the age group of 0-5 years with a cost ceiling of Rs. 7.00 lakh per unit for pre-lingual cases and Rs. 6.00 lakh per unit for post-lingual hearing loss cases up to the age of 18 years. Through this programme, children having hearing and speech impairment are successfully able to regain hearing and speech functions.

The Department is implementing flagship Central Sector Scheme Deendayal Dis-

abled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) to provide grant-in-aid to NGOs for projects relating to rehabilitation of PwDs through e-Anudaan online system. The Scheme was revised from 1st April, 2018 and the cost norms of the scheme were enhanced by 2.5 times to cover the cost of rehabilitation services, education and boarding and lodging in the special schools. Currently, there are 456 Projects supported by DDRS running in 27 States/UTs and 348 districts. In the last eight years, a total of Rs.508.34 Crore Grant-in-Aid has been released for 3954 projects under DDRS which benefitted 2.73 lakh beneficiaries.

The Govt. has also launched National Action Plan for Skill Development in March, 2015 with key objectives to enhance skills of PwDs to enable them to become self-reliant and productive member of the society. It

also provide training through organizations under the Department and Empanelled Training Partners (ETPs) comprising Govt. (GOs) and Non-Govt. Organizations (NGOs). So far Rs. 129.69 Crore spent for skill training of 1.30 Lakh PwDs. Recently Govt has done MoU with Flipkart and in near future MoU with other e-Commerce Companies are going to be held to provide skill training and employment opportunities in e-commerce sector which in turn will generate lots of employment

The Department takes care of the rights of PwDs in transparent manner so CCPD has been formed for the safeguard of the rights of PwDs and the procedure has been simplified in an accessible website platform through which cases of PwDs have been easily disposed off. Recently the Court of Chief Commissioner has issued notice to Indigo for bar-

ring a child with disabilities on boarding. Since its inception in Sept, 1998, total 39337 cases have been registered in the office of CCPD and 39079 had been disposed off by the end of March, 2022. The online Grievance Management Portal for facilitating online filing of complaints and processing the same for redressal is being developed. This will facilitate the complainants with real time status of their complaints. The process is likely to be completed shortly. New website of the O/o CCPD is functional and fully accessible for persons with disabilities (divyangyan);

With a view to show case the inner talents of Divyangyan Government has decided to organize Divya Kala Shakti in all six zones of India which will cover districts to States to Zones and the whole nation in a nut-shell

As of now the Department has organized 5 Divya Kala

Shakti while 2 such National events have been organized in Delhi (Rashtrapati Bhawan - April 2019, Parliament Library - July 2019), one regional event each has been organized in Tamil Nadu (Chennai - March, 2020), Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar - March, 2021) and Maharashtra (Mumbai - April, 2022).

Government is aware of the challenges ahead and is making all out efforts so that the last man in the queue can get all the benefits and the Government is making the efforts day in and day out so that the marginalized and vulnerable group of society such as Divyangyan could be brought into the mainstream society group of society.

The Government is ready to work with all stakeholders in ensuring the dream of Inclusive India, Empowered India.

(The writer is a Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India)

Union Health Secretary to chair high-level meeting with States on COVID-19 situation and vaccination

Agency
New Delhi, June 28:

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan will chair a high-level meeting with states on the COVID-19 situation and vaccination, through video conference today.

Last week, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had chaired a meeting with the key experts and officials in view of an upsurge of COVID-19 cases in some states.

The Union Health Minister stressed the need to focus on districts reporting high case positivity and called for adequate testing with a higher proportion of RTPCR and effective COVID-19 surveillance to assess and control the spread of infection in a timely manner.

He also directed the offi-

cials to continue to focus on surveillance and on Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) to scan for any possible mutation.

Calling for increasing the pace of vaccination including booster doses in districts reporting high cases, the Health Minister said that the focus should be on accelerating vaccination among the eligible and vulnerable groups.

India recorded 11,793 new coronavirus infections, pushing the country's tally to 4,34,18,839, while the active cases rose to 96,700, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

The death toll climbed to 5,25,047 with 27 new fatalities, data updated at 8 am by the ministry stated.

The active cases comprise 0.22 per cent of the total infections.

NAME CHANGE

I, the undersigned, Takhellambam Priyolata Devi, do hereby declare that I have renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of my old name Elangbam Ongbi Priyolata Devi as I have assumed my new name Takhellambam Priyolata Devi.

Sd/-

TAKHELLAMBAM PRIYOLATADEVI.
W/O Elangbam Erabanta Singh,
Nagamapal Lamabam Leikai,
Imphal West District, Manipur

Himanta Biswa Sarma visits flood-hit districts of Assam, says 'will extend all assistance to affected people'



Agency
Guwahati, June 28:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday visited the flood-affected areas of Charalpara Nayapara at Bhabanipur and Kuwara at Patacharkuchi, Bajali to understand the current flood situation and damage caused by the overflowing of Kaldia River. The CM also interacted

with the affected people and assured them of all possible assistance.

"We shall extend all necessary assistance to the affected people. We will also prepare a list of such people and take further actions accordingly," he tweeted.

While visiting flood relief camps at No 425 Medhikuchi Model Primary School and PHC at Bhabanipur, Bajali, the CM

said adding that he will provide assistance for the reconstruction of damaged houses.

Rs 9 crore has been sanctioned for strengthening the embankment of the Pahumara river and construction of a road on it, he added.

The overall flood situation in Assam showed signs of improvement on Tuesday with most of the rivers showing a receding trend even though 21

lakh people remained affected by the deluge and most localities of Silchar town in Cachar district still underwater for more than a week.

The death toll due to floods this year jumped to 134 with five more deaths recorded in the last 24 hours, while one person was missing.

Most of the rivers were showing a receding trend, except for Kopili and Barak, which were flowing above the danger level in Nagaon and Barak Valley respectively.

Silchar remained under water for more than a week, with efforts underway to air-drop essential items to people who are yet to be reached.

A total of 2,254 villages in 61 revenue circles remain affected by floods, while 1,91,194 people have taken shelter in 538 relief camps.

Floodwaters have damaged 79 roads and five bridges while six embankments have been breached.

A total of 349 houses have been fully damaged while 573 have been partially damaged due to the floods. Farmlands over 74,656 hectares are under water, while 2,774 animals have been washed away.

India's First Field Marshal Remembered on His Death Anniversary

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, June 28:

A homage was paid and the wreaths were laid on the occasion of 14th death anniversary of India's First Field Marshal SHFJ Sam Manekshaw, across the country by serving and retired servicemen on Monday.

In Mumbai, the wreaths were laid at an event organized at Colaba Military Station in South Mumbai. The wreaths were laid by Lt Gen HS Kahlon, General Officer Commanding, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa area, and veterans of the three services. Jehan Manekshaw, the grandson of the field marshal was a guest at the event. Prominent members of the Parsi community were also present.

In Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) the "Akhil Bhartiya Purva Sainik Parishad", a body of ex-servicemen observed the death anniversary by offering floral tributes to the portrait of Manekshaw at Baridh.

Sergeant Naval Kishore Pathak while narrating the tales of valour of Sam Manekshaw recalled that he was the first Indian army officer to be promoted to the rank of Field Marshal and took over as Chief of Army Staff on January 8, 1969. They said that he was a man with unflinching moral courage

and exemplary leadership qualities and his life would always remain a source of inspiration to the armed forces and the Nation.

Manekshaw's death anniversary was also observed at Wellington Military Station, Coonoor (Tamil Nadu). The wreaths were laid at the final resting place of the revered soldier at Parsi Zoroastrian Cemetery in Udhagamandalam on behalf of the three Services Chiefs, Southern Army Commander and General Officer Commanding, Southern area. The senior-most General Officer of the Wellington Station Lieutenant General S Mohan, Commandant, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and Station Commander, Wellington laid wreaths and paid their respects.

Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw (April 03, 1914 - June 27, 2008), was born to a Parsi family in Amritsar, Punjab. His father Hormusji Manekshaw was a doctor in the British Indian Army during First World War. His younger brother Jemi Hormusji Framji Manekshaw served in the armed forces as well.

Sam Manekshaw (Sam Bahadur ("Sam the Brave"), was the Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army, during the

Indo-Pakistan War of 1971, and the first Indian Army officer to be promoted to the rank of field marshal. His active military career spanned four decades and five wars, beginning with service in the British Indian Army in World War II.

Manekshaw joined the first intake of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) in 1932. He was commissioned into the 4th Battalion, 12th Frontier Force Regiment. In World War II, he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. Following the partition of India in 1947, he was re-assigned to the 8th Gorkha Rifles. He was seconded to a planning role during the 1947 Indo-Pakistan War and the Hyderabad crisis (the Indian Armed Forces invaded the erstwhile Nizam-ruled princely state, annexing it into the Indian Union).

He became commander of the 167th Infantry Brigade in 1952 and served in this position until 1954 when he took over as the Director of Military Training at Army Headquarters. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan, India's second and third highest civilian awards. He breathed his last on June 27, 2008, in Wellington Tamil Nadu at the age of 94.

Assam Rifles conducts Medical Camp and Tree Plantation drive

IT News
Imphal, June 28:

Khoupum Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) conducted a medical camp and tree plantation drive at Zouyangtek village, Noney district today.

In continuation with the efforts of Assam Rifles to reach out a helping hand for the local population and assist them in humanitarian aid, the medical camp was organised to provide medical checkup and treatment to those who have no access to basic healthcare services. Medical



team from Assam Rifles carried out health checkup of 109 villagers. The programme culminated with distribution and

plantation of 218 saplings to villagers and children to promote afforestation and plantation drive.

AR provides humanitarian aid

IT News
Imphal, June 28:

Modi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) extended a helping hand to one of the local residents of Anthi Village, Chandel District today.

The individual's TATA truck which was stuck on a track junction near Anthi Village. The owner of the vehicle after exhausting all his means of recovery approached Assam Rifles for recovery of his vehicle.

A Recovery Vehicle was sent to recover the truck successfully. The individual was appreciated the assistance and prompt action of the Battalion.

Contd. from Page 1 Altnews Co-founder's arrest by Delhi police ...

Muhammad Zubair could be paying in spades for "fact-checking" BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma; and sentenced without an FIR for landing the Modi Government in dire straits in and around the Persian Gulf with his tweets centred on the BJP spokesperson.

Most of all, in what cannot be a coincidence, Muhammad Zubair's "arrest" comes on the heels of the "arrest" of human rights advocate Teesta Setalvad; and two days after the Supreme Court upheld the "clean chit"

given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the Gujarat high court in the Zakia Jafri "larger conspiracy" case. Both Teesta Setalvad and former Gujarat DGP RB Sreekumar are in the custody of the Gujarat ATS for "keeping the pot boiling". Seems like settling scores has the apex court's sanction; and people are being jailed when justices are enjoying well-deserved holidays. Muhammad Zubair has been charged with promoting enmity on religious grounds, and hurting religious sentiments, which is a non-bailable offence.

His crime is that he tweeted once too many times, and he fact-checked once too far for the Modi Government's comfort. Teesta Setalvad and Muhammad Zubair are paying for not indulging in the simple task of monkey-balanancing; or could it be multi-tasking isn't a talent they were born with? Zubair made the mistake of deleting scores of tweets that he allegedly "targeted Hindus" with. The Delhi Police have most of them salvaged and lined up. Fact-checkers live dangerously. (IPAService)

Sports

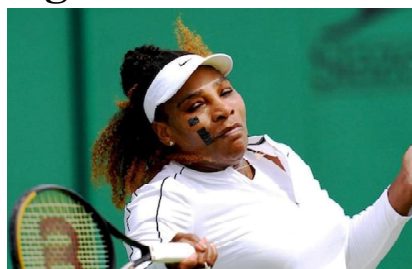
Wimbledon 2022: Serena Williams Returns; Rafael Nadal, Iga Swiatek Among Other Stars in Focus

Agency
London, June 28:

Seven-time Wimbledon winner Serena Williams makes her return to grand slam tournaments on Day 2 of the All England Championships.

The American will take on Harmony Tan of France at the Centre Court in the third match of the day. The 40-year-old, who has 23 Grand Slam titles under her belt, hasn't played a singles game since she suffered an injury in the first round a year ago at the All England Club.

The privilege of opening play in the main court on the competition's second day usually goes to the reigning women's champion. But, since holder Ash Barty, the 2021 edition champion, retired in March, the honour will go to world number 1 Iga Swiatek who will start the proceedings



at the Centre Court against Jana Fett of Croatia.

Other recognisable names in action on Day 2 of the grass-court tournament include Coco Gauff of the USA, who finished as runner-up to Swiatek in Paris.

The American teenager will begin her campaign against Elena Gabriela Ruse of Romania.

Swiatek, who clinched the

French Open title earlier in the month, is on a 35-match winning streak and will hope to continue her pristine run in England.

22-time grand slam winner, Rafael Nadal, will also be seen in action on Tuesday as he is slated to take on Francisco Cerundolo of Argentina. The Spaniard will eye yet another title at SW 19 as he comes into the tournament having won

both the previous grand slam events of the year in Australia and France.

Two-time major winner Simona Halep will face off against Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic. The Romanian beat Serena Williams in straight sets in the finals of the 2019 edition of the grass-court contest to clinch the coveted Venus Rosewater Dish.

2021 men's finalist Matteo Berrettini will face Christian Garrin of Chile in his opening fixture. Danish teenager Holger Rune is pitted against Marcos Giron of the USA.

Australian maverick Nick Kyrgios will square off against British hope Paul Jubb while veteran Richard Gasquet will also be playing his first round of the tournament on Tuesday as the 36-year-old Frenchman is slated to go toe to toe against the Portuguese Joao Sousa.

AFC Extends Deadline for 2023 Asian Cup Bids

Agency
New Delhi, June 28:

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has extended its deadline to receive bids for staging the 2023 Asian Cup following China's decision to relinquish its hosting rights, the governing body said on Tuesday.

China was set to host the 24-team tournament in June and July next year but the country's strict COVID-19 policy resulted in the event being moved.

Interested parties must confirm their bid by July 15, the AFC said in a statement, having previously set a June 30 deadline after inviting bids for

the championship last month.

South Korea's football association confirmed last week that it will launch a bid to host the event while Japan said in May it had been informally approached about the possibility of replacing China as hosts.

Football Australia has said it was also weighing up a possible bid.

Olympic Medallist Varinder Singh Passes Away

Agency
New Delhi, June 28:

Hockey Olympian Varinder Singh passed away at Jalandhar in the early hours on Tuesday morning.

Born on May 16, 1947, he won a bronze medal at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich. He also competed at the 1976 Summer Olympics.

Hockey India mourned the



demise of the 75-year-old Varinder, saying the two-time Olympian was a part of Indian hockey's glorious past.

Recipient of the prestigious Dhyan Chand Award, Varinder was an integral part of India's various memorable victories in the 1970s. Some of his major achievements include a gold medal at the 1975 Men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This remains India's only gold medal at the prestigious World Cup where India had beaten arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1.