

1st DMUnifest 2022

Don't waste time, Chief Minister's advice to students

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

Our academic period is limited to just 6-7 years, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh asserted before students of Dhanamanjuri University today, and advice against wasting their time in unproductive things which can disturb the academic atmosphere and session.

The Chief Minister was speaking as the Chief Guest of the inaugural function of the 1st DMUnifest 2022, a youth festival of DM University and its constituent colleges of DM College of Science, DM College of Commerce, DM College of Arts, Ghanapriya Women's College and LMS Law College at the Central Hall, DM College of Science, Dhanamanjuri University, Manipur, today.

N. Biren Singh appealed to the young students against joining agitations and taking part in strikes and bandhs and said if they need anything or are facing issues, they can first approach their university authorities

or department concerned to discuss the issue.

He said the students can also meet him, stating that there are no issues that cannot be settled or solved.

Stating that we cannot succeed without showing respect to our elders, he asked the students to be respectful to their teachers and elders.

The Chief Minister said politics should be based on reality and be realistic, it should not be just words, but these words should be followed by actions. He further asserted that the BJP led government in its first term was focused mainly on bringing peace and building a peaceful co-existence among communities without bandhs, blockades, strikes, etc, to create an atmosphere where each one of us can perform our responsibilities and duties.

He stated that nepotism in promotion and employment at institutions and offices will not be tolerated and will be streamlined on merit/seniority basis according to



The Recruitment Rules.

N. Biren Singh further spoke on the issue of war on drug campaign and said the teachers should also spread awareness among the students on the ills of the drug menace. It is time to think of our future generation, he said.

Further stating that the State is fortunate to get a university of the stature of DM University, the Chief

Minister also expressed his happiness over witnessing the discipline and respect highlighted by the young students of the university during the march past parade.

He said it is quite pleasing and gratifying to witness the young and fit students dressed in traditional customs, promoting and preserving our tradition and culture.

Further expressing the need to promote and preserve our history and showcase our identity before the world, the Chief Minister said there are some few outsiders who are trying to manipulate and wrongly represent Manipur's history. He further stressed on the need to include Manipur's history in the educational syllabus.

The Chief Minister also recounted historical events

like the Seven Years' Devastation and reminded the students of the forefathers in surviving such events and in driving off enemies. He further elucidated contributions of kings like Maharaj Kullachandra, Maharaj Gambhir Singh in nation building and said we should inculcate their nationalism.

The Chief Minister further said that the Anglo Manipur was fought on several fronts, and that the government is trying to observe the Anglo-Manipur War memorial at Tengnoupal and Mayangkhang also, starting from next year.

Further highlighting some developmental works in connection with DM University, the Chief Minister said that as part of the 100-days programme of the government, new infrastructures to be inaugurated before June 30 include Academic Block for Arts, Science and Commerce, Main Library, library block for GP College. He said DPRs are being prepared for additional hostel, examination block, laboratories, he

said adding that bifurcation of Teaching and Non-teaching staff from Directorate of Higher Education is a major demand and will be decided upon at the earliest by the cabinet.

Assuring to develop infrastructure of the university at the earliest, the Chief Minister also expressed belief that the youth festival will encourage the idea of a united society and understanding among the different communities.

Education Minister Th. Basanta Singh attending the function as a Guest of Honour said today's festival has a strong implication for the future of our society because the youth is the foundation of our society and how we grow as a state and nation is dependent on the youth.

He further called on the students to participate in the events of the festival stating that it should not be only about winning. The idea should be about sharing ideas, interaction among the youths, he said.

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RS MP Leishemba Sanajaoba inaugurates Ibudhou Ningthempokpa Sanglen

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba today inaugurated the newly constructed temple of the indigenous deity 'Ibudhou Ningthempokpa Sanglen' at Sagoltonba in Imphal West today.

Speaking on the occasion MP Sanajaoba stressed on the importance of preserving our traditional cultures. He said that while preserving our culture and traditions we need to follow and understand the importance of following the Lai Haroaba rituals. Simply celebrating the Lai Haroaba rituals as festival without understanding the inner essence is



meaningless, Sanajaoba said.

The inauguration functions of the temple organized

by Ibudhou Ningthempokpa Development Committee of Sagoltonba, was also attended by Minister of Medi-

cal, Health and Family Welfare and DIPR, Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, Adhyaksha of Imphal East, P. Binola Devi.

Channel migration of Jiri river destroys vast area of Manipur land

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, May 16:

Jiri river wiped out vast areas of Manipur land in the recent flood water. Many houses were destroyed and wash away by the flood water in the different low lying areas of Jiribam District.

Recently, the Jiri river water receded as the rain stop, but the havoc which caused by the flood water is immense in Kamrang village which lies under Hilghat Gram Panchayat of Jiribam District.

It has witness, a vast areas of Manipur State land has been cut-off by the channel migration of Jiri river.

Nearly 4 to 5 hectare of



land at Khutchoi khup were now surrounded by the flood water of Jiri river.

Local expected the recent channel migration of Jiri river might sift the vast areas of Manipur State land to Assam State which is on the other side of Jiri river.

People who were affected by the flood water are still at relief camp.

The Jiribam District ad-

ministration continuously monitoring the situation of flood affected places and channel migration of Jiri river.

As of now, 60 houses were affected by the flood water. Around 340 people were out of their houses and 4 houses were wash away.

Relief materials were also provided by the district administration and local bodies at the relief camp.

Congress Chintan Shivir at Udaipur has laid no road map to take on BJP

By Kalyani Shankar
New Delhi, May 16:

Where does Congress go from Udaipur Chintan Shivir? Was the conclave an exercise in futility, or will it revive the party? It all depends on the implementation of the decisions taken at the conclave.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi said that the Shivir should not become a ritual. "I request your full cooperation in ensuring that the single overriding message that goes forth loud and clear from Udaipur is one of unity, cohesion, determination and commitment to our party's accelerated revival," she said. The much-needed conclave has come after nine years of such exercises.

The timing of the conference is amid serious issues

raised by the G 23 rebels after continuous defeat, including leadership crisis, organizational revamp, revival, and election strategy. Also, the party has lost contact with the common man. Perhaps to rectify that, the Shivir has announced a padayatra from Kashmir to Kanyakumari to reconnect.

In Udaipur, the party came up with recommendations in six broad areas, with six senior leaders heading each group. They are organization revamp, political issues, economy, social justice, welfare, education, and employment.

The Congress Working Committee on Sunday approved most of the recommendations for organizational reforms. These include one family, one ticket rule, 50 percent

representation for those below 50 years of age at all levels, including the CWC, and a five-year term limit for those holding positions at all levels. Needless to say that the Gandhis are exempt from all rules.

However, what is missing is more glaring. For instance, one of the most critical issues is the leadership crisis at the top. Rahul Gandhi resigned as party chief on August 6 after the party lost the 2019 polls, and Sonia became the interim party chief. Though the Gandhi loyalists demanded that Rahul should become the president again, the Udaipur declaration was mum about it.

The second is about one family-a one-ticket decision. One must recall how after the 2019 poll results, Rahul Gandhi

criticized senior leaders like Ashok Gehlot and P. Chidambaram for working for the success of their families. Congress should shed the dynast politics.

The third is about reviving the Parliamentary board, which is one of the demands of the rebel group G-23. After P V Narasimha Rao took over as Prime Minister, he wound up the Board in 1992. Though the sub-group recommended the revival of the Parliamentary Board, the CWC rejected it. Instead of activating the existing party constituents like the Mahila wing, NSUI, Seva Dal, and others, the conclave also decided to constitute new departments of public insight, election management, and cadre training to make the party battle-ready.

Fourthly, the political resolution left a door open for alliances. The declaration added, "The priority is first setting the house in order. Once we have done this, then we will move forward to explore alliances."

Congress could not form its own government since 1998, and after the emergence of regional powers, it is more dependent on coalitions with them to oppose the BJP. Congress had not been in power in U.P since 1989, Bihar since 1990, Tamil Nadu since 1967, West Bengal since 1977, Odisha since BJD came to power, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana since 2014. Sonia Gandhi brought the Congress-led UPA to power in 2004 and 2009 Lok Sabha elections.

The party has almost no presence in around 180 Lok

Sabha seats. Even as a junior partner, it needs to form alliances to be a formidable challenger. The contradiction is that Congress cannot come to power without gaining, and yet it cannot do so without coming into conflict with its allies.

Congress should have identified where the BJP is weak and formulated a poll strategy for 2024 with or without alliances. The BJP has not been able to be a dominant force the East and South despite constant efforts.

Last but not least, the Shivir has shown that the party cannot be without Gandhis. This year, the preliminary test will be in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, and then states like Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and

Madhya Pradesh will go to the polls in 2023. These are the principal states where the Congress has to perform better and win elections to pose a challenge to the BJP in the 2024 general elections

While Rahul said, "We will win", Sonia, in her wrap up statement, gave a clarion call to party workers and said, "We will overcome, we are going to overcome, and we are going to overcome, that is our will power, that is our Sankalp."

But for that, Congress should focus on a new narrative, clear ideology, tactical alliances, leadership and resources- all of which it lacks. Congress needs major surgery, not merely a makeover, to stay afloat and grow further. (IPAService)

There is a need to formulate a structural policy to protect against the heat



By: Vijay Garg

even further.

The harshness of summer led to a huge increase in the demand for electricity, the difference in production leading to power cuts in many states. The reason behind this is said to be the shortfall in coal supply to thermal power stations. While coolers, air conditioners fell short as per the demand in metros, there were reports of water scarcity in smaller towns and cities. It would not be right to consider the different type of heat seen this time as in previous years. Extreme temperatures are also fatal to human health, livestock, agriculture and business. There is a need to formulate a framework program policy to deal with this.

The first step should be to accept science as the existing and emerging scientific consensus. The Intergovernmental Panel on Environmental Change (IPCC) has been consistently warning about a longer summer and shorter winter, in addition to increasing the number and intensity of heat waves across the globe. In August 2021, the IPCC warned in its report that the intensity of extreme heat caused by a 2 °C increase in global temperature would often remain around the tolerable capacity of the human body and agriculture. Although the increase in the temperature of the coastal areas will not be so much, but due to the changes in the temperature of the ocean currents, humans and their marine livelihood will be affected. Changes in the ocean's thermal system will result in an increase in the acidity of sea water and a decrease in the oxygen level. The IPCC report, which is essentially a composite of the evidence available in different countries, warns that in urban areas that already have 'hot island'-like conditions, the temperature increase can be severe.

According to the Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment, all the above-mentioned effects would be felt in India if the annual average land-surface air temperature rises by 1.7 to 2 degrees. Its many forms, including the effect of weather differences and temperature extremes, are now clearly visible. To understand the environmental changes responsible for each heat wave, we need to further develop the method of 'causality', but in common practice, temperature intensity and increasing frequency are linked to man-made changes.

The second step is to identify the first population at risk of adverse effects of heat wave so that precautionary measures can be initiated. This type of assessment is part of a comprehensive risk assessment report on environmental changes. The problem of heat waves is now a reality and is presently present, so there is a need to conduct 'risk assessment studies' on the most affected states and districts.

Its basic format is similar to some of the ongoing projects. For example, a study conducted by the IIPC in Odisha found that slum dwellers are most at risk, depending on the structure of their homes, the heating of the roof (tin or asbestos), multiple people in the same room, electricity supply. And because of insufficient water. An earlier study by IIPCH-Gandhinagar on temperature emphasizes the need for a nationwide risk assessment study on the subject. According to the available data, it is concluded that out of the total 640 districts in the country, 10 fall in the very high-risk category, while the other 97 districts are in the high-risk category. Most of them are from Central India.

In the risk assessment survey in human settlements, the geographical location, greenery, wind speed etc. are counted in determining the external temperature, then the elements such as ventilation and the structure of the hives for the internal temperature. Even within cities, some areas may be more at risk than others. To reduce the risk, it is necessary to identify all such 'hot-points'. In different sections of the society also some sections are more at risk, but the poor belong to any section, they are more at risk. It is not only humans who have to bear the wrath of heat, crops and livestock are also badly affected. Some scientists are working to study the effect of changing temperatures on agricultural production. The rising heat is also having an adverse effect on milk production.

The policy response so far to deal with extreme thermal conditions has been fragmented and short-lived. The national and provincial action plans on climate change for the past 15 years or so, with a cursory mention of extremes as a challenge, have seen little implementation of such simple plans. Some municipal corporations have also started the work of preparing heat wave action plans, but their implementation is very slow. Last year, the Health Ministry came out with a National Action Plan on Thermal Illnesses. The State Governments are directed to keep records of heat-related diseases and forward the same to the Center for Integrated Disease Surveillance Program. However, there is a lack of flexibility or medium- and long-term national heat action plans linking the two separate plans on heat management. To reduce the effect of heat wave, we also need to make a guiding map with new technology and measures.

We need to forecast heat waves and send public warnings in easy language and format. Government agencies should provide a list of what to do or not to the common citizens and those working in certain industry-based sectors such as construction work, rural employment and education institutions to protect against scorching heat. Some simple measures, such as painting the roof or applying heat-insulating material, provision of windows for air through, etc. can reduce the temperature inside. Implementing these measures by involving local groups and civil society would be far-reaching. The solution to reduce the effect of heat wave is related to environmental protection measures such as efficient use of energy, urban development planning, energy efficiency of machinery, eco-friendly architecture and adapting agriculture to changing climate etc.

How HR's can build and create 'employer brands'?

By: Kaustov Kashyap

An employer branding strategy is as important as a consumer branding strategy. Here's what HR can learn from the marketing department.

In a fiercely competitive marketplace, what is it that draws a candidate to choose 'employer A' over 'employer B'? Often, that choice has to do with the capacity of an employer to create a memorable and recognizable brand campaign that not just communicates the benefits and culture of working in a company but also addresses the specific opportunity that is available for a targeted talent pool. The HR function has a critical role to play in not just crafting the employee value proposition but also articulating and communicating the employee brand. This requires HR to work much like a marketing department — right from connecting with your customer to engaging

with them on a regular basis. Here are a few useful tips:

Know your audience: In the same way businesses market products to directly address a customer need or want, businesses must use the information they have on their target audience to connect with the audience in question. In the context of HR, this entails knowing what the ideal recruit wants. Do they want a flexible work shift? Holiday allowance? Or, everyday benefits like (laundry services and child care)? HR teams must make the effort to identify what these needs are, either through focus group discussions with their current employees or through surveys.

Benchmark your brand: There are many ways through which companies can gain recognition. One method through which companies seek to high-

light their progressive practices and benchmark themselves against the industry is through awards. A crucial factor in the process is to be wary of the credibility of the awards.

Focus on recommendations: The most effective way to reach out to prospective candidates is through word-of-mouth recommendations. This means making a great first impression at every opportunity and doing everything to re-enforce that first impression on an on-going basis. Employers would do well to ask employees, business partners and suppliers if they would recommend them to a friend. If people wouldn't recommend a friend to apply for a job, find out why and if it's a credible issue, address it. There are no short cuts where word-of-mouth is concerned - you have to be a company people want to talk about.

Engage and communicate: Like marketers, HR should have a clear role in enabling social media reach, especially among younger employees. To ensure that the company's culture is being communicated not just to the internal employees but also to those outside, they need to create campaigns with the right kind of content in order to make the right impression.

Just as marketers obsess over "net promoter score", HR should focus on the credibility of their initiatives by assessing whether people who talk about the company (both inside and outside) actually end up recommending the company. But unlike product marketers who may apply a little creative license to their claims, HR should ensure that anything that is communicated has complete credibility - because no one likes to be mis-sold a job.

51 years of India-Bangladesh ties: deeper than ocean and higher than the Himalayas?

By: Fumiko Yamada

Bangladesh and India had a bond that was as high as the Himalayas and as deep as the ocean. On a regular basis, many new initiatives are introduced to their multidimensional cooperation. Bangladesh-India ties had undergone dramatic transformations, reaching new heights.

2021 was a fantastic year for the partnership between India-Bangladesh. In 2022, both are committed to expanding it even, India and Bangladesh have a special and long-standing bilateral relationship marked by mutual trust, friendliness, and understanding.

Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's Minister of External Affairs, visited Bangladesh and Bhutan from April 28 to 30, 2022. External Affairs Minister (EAM) met with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the trip.

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said that Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who visited Dhaka for a one-day visit recently, brought good news and a surprise. Bangladesh PM may visit India this year.

President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind conducted a State Visit to Bangladesh from December 15 to 17, 2021, at the request of President of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Abdul Hamid, to attend the 50th Vijay Diwas festivities in Bangladesh as the Guest of Honour. This was the President's first trip to Bangladesh and his first abroad trip since the Covid-19 pandemic broke out. The team that accompanied the President included Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education, and Shri Rajdeep Roy, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha). Given the 50th anniversary of the two countries' peoples' joint sacrifices during Bangladesh's struggle for independence in 1971, the visit is significant.

Bangladesh and India will celebrate their 51st year of friendship this year (2022). It is a partnership between two souls developed from the same philosophy, history, culture, and sacrifice. It's a bond forged through the terrible days of our fight for freedom and independence. It's a partnership built on mutual respect and trust. It's a friendship based on the blood of both countries' martyrs mixed together in the same stream. "The Indo-Bangladesh friendship would remain intact forever," Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's Father of the Nation, remarked in Kolkata in February 1972. No world power will be able to split.

During her visit to Bangladesh in March 1972, Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi expressed a similar attitude, saying, "Indian soldiers lost their blood on the soil of Bangladesh, and their blood was mingled with that of freedom fighters, and that has cemented two countries' friendship." "Bangladesh and India

shared many similar ideas on a number of national and international issues," she added, "but each country should chart its own course." Mutual respect should be the foundation of any friendship." In reality, such was the spirit that sparked the friendship between the two countries.

Though the Government of India officially recognized Bangladesh as a sovereign independent country on December 6, 1971, the unofficial recognition was extended to Bangladesh much earlier when India opened its border for Bangladeshis fleeing the Pakistani military's atrocities, which began in the middle of the night on March 25, 1971. It was India that gave the independence fighters arms training and pushed them into Bangladesh with arms to free their motherland from Pakistani tyranny. Wasn't it India's acknowledgment of Bangladesh as a nation that preceded their formal recognition? On that day, our connection was truly tangled.

Bangabandhu paid the most visits to any country, visiting India five times (including stopovers). Indian President V V Giri and Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi visited Bangladesh at the invitation of Bangabandhu. Their travels reflected the importance that the two countries placed on their friendship. Furthermore, ministerial and senior official visits from both sides had greatly aided in the broadening, deepening, and strengthening of the relationship.

A number of high-level visits has place between the two countries. In January 2010, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a visit to India. In September 2011, the Indian Prime Minister visited Bangladesh and signed a Framework Agreement on Development Cooperation and a Protocol to the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. In March 2013, Indian President Pranab Mukherjee visited Bangladesh. In December 2014, Bangladesh President Md. Abdul Hamid paid a visit to India.

Mr. Narendra Modi, the current Indian Prime Minister, visited Bangladesh in June 2015. Within a month of his visit, 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh became Bangladeshi territory, and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India became Indian territory, bringing the 68-year-old humanitarian situation to a peaceful conclusion. On August 19, 2015, Sheikh Hasina traveled to India to attend the funeral of Smt. Suvra Mukherjee, President Mr. Pranab Mukherjee's lady wife.

She also met her Indian colleague at the time.

On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September 2015, the two Prime Ministers conducted a bilateral meeting.

During the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in India in October 2016, Bangladesh Prime Minister Hasina met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in

a bilateral meeting.

In April 2017, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a state visit to India. Sheikh Hasina was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and stayed at the President's home. During the visit, a street in Delhi's centre was named after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Sheikh Hasina formally launched the Hindi translation of Bangabandhu's unfinished memoirs and paid tribute to the families of Indian troops who died in the liberation fight. The fourth railway connection between Radhikapur and Biral was also launched by the two Prime Ministers.

On March 19, 2018, President Md. Abdul Hamid traveled to New Delhi to attend the International Solar Alliance Founding Conference. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited West Bengal in May of that year to attend the launching of the Bangladesh Bhaban of Visva-Bharati University in Shantiniketan. Mr. Narendra Modi, the Indian Prime Minister, was also present.

Two Prime Ministers lay the foundation stone for the Bangladesh-India 'Friendship Pipeline' project and inaugurated two railway projects through video conference in September 2018. The Prime Ministers of the two countries held a video conference in March 2019 to launch four more projects. On May 29, 2019, President Md. Abdul Hamid traveled to India to witness Mr. Narendra Modi's second inauguration.

It's difficult to list the titles of all the documents signed between the two countries so far, including treaties, agreements, MoUs, and protocols. Hundreds of such documents exist, covering a wide range of topics including security, power, trade & commerce, investment promotion, boundary delineation, connectivity, cooperation, infrastructure development, environment, education, culture, blue economy, health, taxation, and defense. Furthermore, several bilateral institutional frameworks exist between the two countries, such as Joint Working Groups. These documents and methods make the partnership between the two countries more particular and fruitful.

Mr. Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, visited Dhaka on March 26, 2021, at the request of his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, to participate in celebrations of Bangladesh's golden jubilee and the birth centennial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation. On the 27th of March, the two Prime Ministers met bilaterally. Certain documents between the two countries were signed following the meeting.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Bangladesh on March 26-27 last year, both Prime Ministers agreed to jointly celebrate December 6, 2021 as 'Maitri Diwas' to demonstrate that the emotional bonds forged by India's invaluable contribu-

tion to Bangladesh's Liberation War remain a "dominant factor" in BOn the occasion of the 50th anniversary of friendly relations between Bangladesh and India, it was planned to mark Friendship Day jointly with 16 other nations on December 6, 2021. Bangladesh-India relations.

Despite the fact that the world is facing a deadly pandemic, the Indian Prime Minister's travel to Bangladesh at this time demonstrated the depth and strength of friendship that exists between the two countries. A valued buddy is always by his friends' sides, sharing their joys and sorrows. It is worth noting that Bangladesh regards India as a reliable ally, and that, despite its limitations, it gives India's concerns first priority. Bangladesh's year to see the India of 1971, which stood with Bangladesh and its people despite the country's countless troubles.

One of the primary cornerstones of India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East Policies' is its connection with Bangladesh. In areas such as trade and connectivity, energy and electricity, water resources, border control, defense and security, culture, and people-to-people linkages, India and Bangladesh have a strong and comprehensive bilateral relationship. The President of India's visit to Bangladesh on the momentous occasion of the 50th Vijay Diwas demonstrates both nations' great regard for one another and their determination to deepen their relationship based on shared values, mutual trust, and understanding.

We have seen the proof, and we hope that via free, just, and serious conversations, the two countries will find solutions to additional concerns, such as the pending Teesta River water sharing, for a brighter and more prosperous future for the two peoples. Based on the mutual trust and confidence that exists between the leaders and people of these two friendly countries, finding mutually advantageous pathways to bring peace, prosperity, and security to them, the region, and the entire globe should not be a problem. Because India is a larger country, it should listen to Bangladesh with an open and cooperative mind. There should be no unresolved conflicts between the two buddies who also happen to be neighbors.

With that spirit and ambition, Bangladesh and India will make significant progress toward becoming developed countries well before their relationship reaches 100 years; this is the two people's sincere desire. Bangladesh-India friendship lives alive!

(The author is a specializes in 'Bangladesh Affairs'. She is a research fellow in 'Bangladesh Studies' at the 'University of Melbourne', Australia. She is a graduate of South Asian Studies, University of Toronto, Canada. She can be contacted at fuyamada14@gmail.com)

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Delhi reports record 49 degrees, Residents asked to stay in

Agency
New Delhi, May 16:

The maximum temperature recorded in the national capital on Sunday reached 49 degree Celsius, said the India Meteorological Department.

While the national capital's Mungeshpur station recorded a temperature of 49.2 degrees, Najafgarh recorded 49.1 degree Celsius.

The weather agency advised people in northern India to avoid venturing outside their homes unless absolutely essential and to drink plenty of water even if not thirsty.

Weather station at Safdarjung observed a max temperature of 45.6 degrees Celsius while the west part of Delhi reported temperatures ranging between 46 to 48 degrees Celsius.

On May 29, 1944, Safdarjung recorded a max temperature of 47.2 degrees Celsius.

Maximum temperatures reached 47.5 degrees Celsius at Jafarpur, 47.3 degrees Celsius at Pitampura and 47.2 degrees Celsius at Ridge.

Other parts of Delhi observed maximum temperatures rise to 46.8 degrees Celsius at Ayanagar, 46.4 degrees Celsius at Palam and 45.8 degrees Celsius at Lodhi Road, the weather agency said.



Celsius at Lodhi Road, the weather agency said.

In Haryana, Gurgaon recorded the highest temperature today amongst other stations which are 48.1 degrees Celsius and Mukhsar in Punjab reported 47.4 degrees Celsius.

An 'orange' alert has been issued to caution people about a severe heatwave on Sunday.

The IMD uses four colour codes for weather warnings — green (no action needed), yellow (watch and stay updated), orange (be prepared) and red (take action).

However, cloudy skies and thunder may provide some relief from the intense heat next week.

The IMD, in its daily weather bulletin, said that on May 15, "Heat wave conditions in most parts with severe heat wave conditions in many parts very likely over West

Rajasthan; heat wave conditions in most parts with severe heat wave conditions in some parts over East Rajasthan; heat wave conditions in many parts with severe heat wave conditions in isolated pockets over Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana-Delhi; heat wave conditions in isolated pockets over Jammu Division, Jharkhand and Vidarbha."

Cloudy sky may provide some relief from the intense heat next week. "On May 16, thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and hail/gusty winds (speed 30-40 kmph) at isolated places is likely over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; with lightning and hail/gusty winds (speed 40-50 kmph) at isolated places Kerala and Mahe; with lightning/gusty winds (speed 30-40 kmph) at isolated places

over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal and Andaman-Nicobar Islands and with lightning at isolated places over East Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Lakshadweep and Tamilnadu-Puducherry-Karikal," read the bulletin.

The weather agency advised people with moderate health conditions residing in Northern India to avoid venturing outside their homes unless absolutely essential. "Heat wave could lead to moderate health concern for vulnerable people e.g. infants, elderly, people with chronic diseases. Increased likelihood of heat illness symptoms in people who are either exposed to sun for a prolonged period or doing heavy work," the bulletin said.

"Avoid heat exposure, keep cool. Avoid dehydration. Drink sufficient water—even if not thirsty. Avoid heat exposure, wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose, cotton clothes and cover the head by use of cloth, hat or umbrella etc. Use ORS, homemade drinks like lassi, torani (rice water), lemon water, buttermilk, etc to keep yourself hydrated," the central weather agency said.

Minister Health and IPR Dr. S. Ranjan felicitated



IT News
Imphal, May 16:

Medical, Health & FW and IPR, Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh was felicitated by Indian Medical Association, IMA, Manipur State Branch, at the IMA hall Lamphelpat, yesterday.

Speaking as Chief Guest, Dr. Ranjan said that health sector is one of the most important areas which need to be focused. He maintained that being the minister in-charge of health, he will work to bring the best health care system in the state. Concerned experts and officials will be discussed for

achieving the objective. There is also need to increase number of medical colleges and nursing institutes in the state in order to address the problem of shortage of medical staffs, he added.

Concerning the health care of the school going children and adolescents, Minister said that a policy will be framed soon for the school going children. This new step will help to ease out the health related problems of the school going children and adolescents, he maintained.

Replying to the memorandum submitted by IMA, Manipur State Branch, Minister said that the points in the memorandum will be discussed and appropriate steps will also be taken up on priority basis. A memento was also presented to the minister by IMA, Manipur Branch.

Dr. S. Jugindro, President, IMA, Manipur State Branch, Dr. Shyamkumar Laishram, IMA, CGP Chairperson, Dr. A. Vivekananda V.P, IMA Manipur, Dr. James Elangbam also shared the dais during the felicitation occasion.

Former office bearers and member doctors of IMA, Manipur State Branch were also present during the occasion.

Assam Rifles foils smuggling of narcotics and timber

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

In two separate operations, Keithelmanbi and Loktak Battalions under aegis of IGAR (S) foiled smuggling of timber and narcotics in Kamjong and Bishnupur district on May 14 respectively.

Based on specific input, joint team of Assam Rifles and

Manipur Police launched an operation and recovered 1 Kg of opium from two drug peddlers at Saiton Bazaar, Bishnupur district.

In another operation, based on inputs regarding stockpiling of illegally smuggled teakwood in Salampatong village, Kamjong district, troops of Assam Rifles launched a

search operation and recovered 134 logs of teakwood. The recovered teakwood is assessed to be worth Rs 47.86 lakhs.

The recovered narcotics along with drug peddlers and timber were handed over to Moirang Police and Forest Department, Kamjong District respectively for further legal action.

Assam Rifles inaugurates Ex-servicemen Centre at Kozhikode

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

As part of its initiative to reach out to the Ex-Servicemen of the Assam Rifles, a new Assam Rifles Ex-Servicemen Association Centre was established at Kozhikode, Kerala and was inaugurated by Lt Gen PC Nair, AVSM, YSM, DG Assam Rifles yesterday. Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris, other dependents and Officers of Headquarters Directorate General Assam Rifles attended the inauguration ceremony.

Assam Rifles has formed ARESA (Assam Rifles Ex-servicemen Association). It has 30 ARESA centres which are manned by Veterans of Assam Rifles and are spread all over the country. ARESA centre at Kozhikode is the latest edition which aims to extend the welfare related facilities to all veterans and families of the Assam Rifles.

During the course of the event the Ex-servicemen were made aware of the welfare related schemes and financial grants of the Force. Lt Gen PC Nair, AVSM, YSM, DG Assam Rifles gave a special address where he highlighted the contributions of the Ex-Servicemen to the Force and the commitment of Assam Rifles towards their welfare. DG asked all present to spread the message of

Pension enhancement and welfare related schemes of the Force.

As part of the event, a cultural function was organised by the enthusiastic Ex-Servicemen of the Assam Rifles. Gallantry Award Winners and Veer Naris were also felicitated during the event. Grievances were registered during the rally out of which some were resolved on the spot while others were noted for early resolution. During the Rally Veer Naris, Gallantry Awardees and other Veterans, were also felicitated.

Assam Rifles is forever indebted to the valour and sacrifices of its veterans and families and it forever strives towards welfare and aid of all its Bravehearts, veer naris and veterans. During the course of last six months Assam Rifles has granted an

amount of Rs 2.68 Crores as financial grants and benefits to veterans and veer naris from Aug 2021 to Apr 2022.

Assam Rifles is the oldest and the most decorated Para Military Force of the Nation. With a rich history of valour and sacrifice spanning more than 187 years, the Assam Rifles has carved a niche for itself in operations and has contributed for the overall development of the Nation. It has been the Force that has contributed Security of North Eastern states over the years of turmoil thereby rightly being known as the **Force that Binds the North East**. The rich legacy of the Force is primarily due to the spirit and enthusiasm of the men and women of Assam Rifles and the Force would forever be indebted for the selfless service of its Ex-Servicemen.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WANGKHEM PRIMARY SCHOOL (AIDED)
ZONE-II, IMPHAL EAST

WANTED

Dated, 16th May, 2022

No. WPS/5/22: Application are invited from the willing candidate with DELED/DIET for the post of one Primary Teacher. So as to reach the undersigned on or before 23rd May, 2022.

Sd/-

Ch. Dorendro Singh
Secretary

Wangkhem Primary School (Aided)

Killing Assamese youths: ULFA (I)'s way

By: Nava Thakuria
Guwahati, May 16:

For the banned separatist militants, it was an execution of their judicial council's order to punish two newly recruited cadres, but for the government and people of Assam in northeast India it was nothing but a cold-blooded murder of Sanjiv Sarma and Dhanjit Das in one of their hideouts somewhere in Myanmar-China border areas. The passionate observers do not find it unusual when the United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent), which has been waging a war against New Delhi for a separate homeland for the Assamese out of India, declare the capital punishments to their members for the inexcusable crimes.

In a media statement on 7 May 2022, the ULFA(I) claimed that their judicial organ found both the young cadres guilty of spying for Assam police and hence Sanjiv and Dhanjit were executed in the morning hours. The armed outfit also claimed that both Sanjiv (hailing from Baihata Chhairali near to Guwahati) and Dhanjit (from Barpeta in western Assam) confessed their crimes (of spying) and they were convicted in the first week of May itself. Speaking to some Guwahati-based satellite news channels live, the ULFA(I) military chief Paresh Barua stated that the crime of Sanjiv and Dhanjit was unparalleled under their constitution.

The outfit also released two video clippings where Sanjiv and Dhanjit confessed their crimes (that they were secretly working for the police) and stated that the ULFA(I) is a revolutionary organization (meaning not a terror group). It is understood that the victims read out the lines under gun points in the camp. Most of Assam news channels telecast the videos repeatedly which created real sensations among the audience. However, the militants remained silent

on handing over the bodies to respective families as the last respect to the victims. Moreover, the outfit did not issue any supporting photographs (or video clippings) of their execution.

Born on 7 April 1979 at Sibsagar in eastern Assam, the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) pledged for an independent homeland for its indigenous population through an armed struggle. For decades the militant outfit enjoyed public support with a unified command, but in 2011 there emerged divisions among the leaders on the ground of peace talks with the government. Many preferred to sit for negotiations, but Barua rejected the idea and formed a different group in 2012. Soon his faction emerged as ULFA-Independent to continue the struggle for an elusive Swadhin Asom.

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, also in charge of State home portfolio, strongly denied the presence of any spy from the State police department in the militant's hideouts. The saffron leader, who has been pursuing the peace talk initiatives with the ULFA(I) leaders for a year, which resulted in an unilateral ceasefire by the militants showing their sincerity to the negotiation process, argued that it was beyond the State government's jurisdiction to send spies outside the country. Repeatedly urging the militants to shun the path of violence, Sarma commented that it's time for peace & progress and no way for relentless bloodshed.

The State police chief Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta also denied the allegation that his department had sent any spy to the militant camps. Asserting that the State police had never sent a spy in the last few decades, Mahanta clarified that it's beyond their command to send anyone to a foreign country as the secret agent. In his belated official comment, the DGP termed the execution of two

youths, if it turns out to be true, as inhuman and terrorizing. Moreover, he asserted that the judicial organ of ULFA(I) cannot be recognized. Finally, Mahanta questioned why the State police would send spies to the rebels' camp at this moment, when the initiative for peace negotiations with the Union government is going on.

The latest killing of another cadre (Biju Gogoi) by the militant outfit really annoyed the peace-loving people of Assam. It was however revealed by an arrested rebel, who declared that he witnessed Biju's body with bullet injuries in a camp inside Myanmar. Biju was associated with All Assam Students' Union and joined the ULFA(I) in 2019 following the uproarious situation emerged due to rigorous protests against the citizenship amendment act in the State's Brahmaputra valley. The arrested rebel claimed that Biju was gunned down by the militants as he tried to escape the camp.

As the news spread, ULFA(I) militants came out with a clarification that Biju was not executed but he killed himself on 12 February last. Now the family members of Biju raise the pertinent question why the militant leaders did not disclose it earlier. Biju's mother demands a proof that her son committed suicide by shooting himself in the camp and not murdered by the militants. Facing the heat, Barua telephoned Biju's brother and asserted that the arrested rebel was not a recognized member of their organization and he spread the news on behalf of the government so that a wrong message goes to the people.

Earlier, a forum of nationalist citizens sharply reacted to the development commenting that the claimed execution of two cadres by ULFA(I) only reflects its desperation to get public attention. Patriotic People's Front Assam, in a media statement, affirmed that the armed outfit has been indulging in crimes (of as-

sassinating thousands of Assamese nationals) for the sake of revolution since its inception in 1979. When the ULFA(I) leaders made a declaration that a few secret agents (working for Assam police) were identified in their hideouts, everyone guessed some actions, but the mainstream society did not comprehend that the militants would kill more Assamese youths.

The patriotic forum also urged the local media outlets to be responsible while reporting the issue of militancy. Providing live coverage to the militant leaders as if they were doing some heroic work, the forum argued that the news channels were glorifying the ULFA(I) for their inhuman activities. The news anchors hardly questioned the authority of ULFA(I) to declare someone as traitors and subsequently execute him. Moreover, if the militants have the compassion to pay the final respect to the families, it was also not raised by the news presenters. So the question arises, how the media outlets (even after legally abided by the government guidelines), can use their precious space with so much insensitivity and irresponsibility.

Not to speak of news channels, a city media club also tried to accommodate live space to the hardcore militant leader with an arranged media interaction last year, which resulted in a police complaint against the Gauhati Press Club office-bearers. The complainant Biswajit Nath, a city based nationalist scribe, argued that many journalist-members of the same press club once stood against the separatist militants to hoist the national Tri-colour in the club premises on every Independence and Republic Day, but the present committee has spoiled the spirit of patriotism with an attempt to organize a press interaction with Barua, who has been challenging India's sovereignty and integrity for decades.

Assam Floods and Landslides: At least three people dead, several missing; very heavy rains to continue all week

Agency
Guwahati, May 16:

Assam faces the annual calamity of floods during the monsoon months, when incessant rains batter the northeastern state. But the yearly event seems to have arrived early this year, with Assam already having witnessed several instances of flooding and landslides in the last few days, resulting in the loss of life and property. And the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has decreed that more rainfall is imminent for the region.

While the Northeast has been witnessing rainfall activity since mid-April, the rains were more of a welcome respite from the punishing summer heat. But the conditions intensified considerably in the past week, influenced by the presence of Cyclone Asani in the Bay of Bengal.

At least three people, in-

cluding a woman, have been killed, and a few others have gone missing following heavy landslides triggered by continuous rains in the Dima Hasao district. Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said that the persons lost their lives in the Haflong revenue circle of Dima Hasao district during the weekend.

ASDMA estimates suggest that 57,000 individuals from 222 villages in Assam have been impacted by the heavy rains, with around 10321.44 hectares of cultivated land being submerged under floodwaters. About 200 houses have been destroyed in the state as well.

The transport in the state has taken a major hit as well. In more than nine spots, the mountainous territory has been wrecked by flash floods and significant landslides, cutting off essential train and road connections from other parts of

the state and region. Railway lines at Jatinga-Harangajao and Mahur-Phaiding were snapped due to the landslides as well.

Army and Air Force had to be called in to airlift 100 odd elderly rail passengers stranded in the hilly terrain in Assam's Dima Hasao district, where a landslide brought rail connectivity to a grinding halt.

"Between Dima Hasao and Cachar district, one train was stranded due to a landslide. Out of the 1,300 people on board, 1,200 could walk across the broken bridge to reach a special train. But 100 passengers who are old and aged have no other way but need to be airlifted," ASDMA CEO GD Tripathi told TOI. He said the process of airlifting started on Sunday morning. "The railway bridge has broken, though the rail track is still intact."

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) evacuated over

1,500 stranded passengers. At the same time, over 25 trains connecting Tripura, Mizoram, and southern Assam had to be cancelled, officials said on Sunday.

The majority of the stranded passengers were evacuated by rail from Ditokecherra on Sunday, while the remaining passengers were airlifted to Silchar by IAF choppers.

"The stranded passengers of these trains are safe. All kinds of essential items like food and drinking water are being arranged by the railway authorities for them," an NFR official said.

Services of 25 pairs of trains have been cancelled or partially cancelled between Jatinga Lumpur and New Harangajao and between Bandarkhal and Ditokecherra sections and other locations in the Lumding-Badarpur hill section of NFR's Lumding division.

India reports 2,202 fresh Covid-19 cases, 27 deaths; active cases at 17,317

Agency
New Delhi, May 16:

India reported 2,202 new Covid-19 infections and 27 fatalities in the last 24 hours ending 8 am on Monday, as per the Union Health Ministry. With this, the active cases in the country dipped to 17,317. Also, India's total tally of cases has reached 4,31,23,801, while the death toll was recorded at 5,24,241. On Sunday, 2,487 Coronavirus cases and 13 deaths were reported.

The active cases comprised 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.74 per cent, the ministry said. A decrease of 375 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.74 per cent and weekly positivity rate was recorded at 0.59 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,82,243, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.22 per cent. The cumulative doses ad-

ministered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 191.37 crore.

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.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

The 27 new fatalities include 22 from Kerala, three from Delhi and one each from Maharashtra and Jammu and Kashmir.

A total of 5,24,241 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,855 from Maharashtra, 69,385 from Kerala, 40,105 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,195 from Delhi, 23,513 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,203 from West Bengal.

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

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

The daily positivity rate and weekly positivity rate were recorded at 0.74 per cent and 0.59 per cent, respectively. Also, in the last 24 hours, 297,242 samples were tested for the viral illness; overall, more than 840 million tests have been conducted thus far.

Meanwhile, on the vaccination front, as many as 310,218 more doses of Covid-19 vaccines were administered; with this, a total of 1.91 billion doses have been administered since January 16 last year, when the nationwide inoculation drive commenced.

On Sunday, Delhi recorded 613 daily infections and three deaths, while the corresponding figures for Maharashtra were 255 and one. Mumbai, Maharashtra's capital and the country's financial giant, accounted for 151 of the state's new cases and the lone death.

Call for participation for Buffalo Mela 2022 at New Tusom Village

IT News
Imphal, May 16:

New Tusom is a village in the Chingai Tehsil of Manipur's Ukhrul District. It is 190 kilometres from Imphal and 86 kilometres from Ukhrul. New Tusom is close to the villages of Chingai (23 km), Wahong (18 km), Kongai (9 km), Challow (16 km), Razai Khullen (22 km), and Razai Khunou (32 km). Meluri Tehsil, Nagaland's Phek District to the north, and Myanmar to the east, surround New Tusom Village.

With a total population of 1801 and number of houses are 34, they speak Tangkhul language. The residents of New Tusom Village and neighbouring villages in Manipur's Ukhrul District rely heavily on water buffalo as a source of income. In nature, water buffaloes are typically semi-wild. Buffaloes are employed for natural farming operations such as ploughing fields and milk production. The highest number of buffaloes in Manipur is found in the village of New Tusom and its neighbouring villages. There are

about 1,800 buffaloes in New Tusom Village and as many as buffaloes in its surrounding villages. The buffaloes are mostly reared by the poor farmers and their production potentiality is low. Every year, the village suffers from an outbreak of mysterious sickness that kills about 90-120 water buffaloes. As a result, the inhabitants in the affected regions are in a state of terror and helplessness.

The Buffalo (Eroi/Seilui) Mela cum-Awareness Programme will be held in New Tusom Village on May 20, 2022.

Village Development Council, New Tusom, and Apunba Imagi Machasing (AIMS), Manipur will host the event, which is sponsored by the Government of Manipur's Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services. The major objective of the mela is to raise public awareness about the need of preserving traditional water buffaloes and traditional agricultural practices in Manipur, in order to achieve the Government of India's goal of doubling farmers' income. Also, invite everyone who is interested to attend the mela.

Contd. from Page 1

Don't waste time, Chief Minister's...

Vice Chancellor Prof. N. Rajmuhon said that it will indeed provide a platform for showing the multidimensional talents of the youths of the State in various extracurricular activities. This four day festival will provide opportunities to the students of the five colleges to compete in various events and a healthy competi-

tion among the students, he added.

The festival will showcase the idea of promoting art and culture, foster the idea of brotherhood and bring about emotional integration among the students from different communities through cultural events, he said.

The inaugural function

was also attended by Thangmeiband MLA Kh. Joykishan and Commissioner Higher & Technical Education M. Harekrishna, principals of constituent colleges, faculty members, students, among others.

A march past parade was also conducted as part of the inaugural function.

Welcome STATE

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