

Horticulture & Soil Conservation officials inspect Peh Village for alternative livelihood arrangements



IT News
Imphal, May 17:

As part of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's War on Drugs campaign, several government agencies and departments have been cohesively working together to control the drug menace and fully destroy poppy plantations from the State.

The Horticulture & Soil Conservation Department, Government of Manipur along with the Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) has been majorly involved in the campaign by providing alternative means of livelihood against poppy cultivation to villages from where poppy plantation has been destroyed.

Peh Village in Ukhrul District is one village where the department has initiated implementation of the alternative means of livelihood against poppy plantation. A team of

officials from the Horticulture & Soil Conservation department and MOMA visited the village to inspect the village and for implementation of alternative livelihood in the village.

Peh Village Chairman Moon Shimray said considering the ills of poppy plantation on the society, future generations, and youth, the Peh Village Council had destroyed poppy plantations taken up by some local youths in their area some years back.

Contented with the action of the village, Chief Minister of the State, N. Biren Singh had awarded the village with an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs, he said adding that a market shed was also constructed under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.

Further lauding the present government under N. Biren Singh, Shimray said that under the guidance of the Chief Minister, apple saplings are also provided to the village and

plantation will begin if possible before June. He also thanked MOMA for identifying and providing funds to around 100 beneficiaries (10 groups). These beneficiaries will begin Kiwi plantations at the earliest, he added.

With these actions, the Chief Minister has shown that the brotherhood between the hills and the valley is not just in words but also in action, he said commending the Chief Minister.

Further stating that the village is fortunate to receive all the attention, he said the villagers are working very hard to ensure success with the alternative means of livelihood provided by the government and further sought further cooperation from the department. The village chairman also thanked the department for their support.

District Officer, Horticulture & Soil Conservation Ukhrul and Kamjong, Yeite Khupsorel

Koireng said today officials of the department are in the village to inspect the village for implementation of the alternative means of livelihood against poppy cultivation in the village.

He said that around February last year, leaders and villagers of Peh Village highlighted to the Chief Minister the presence of poppy plantations in their village and the subsequent destruction of the cultivation. Following this, the Chief Minister expressed the desire to take up some alternative plantations as means of livelihood in the area, he added.

He explained that the villagers have already started planting vegetables like maize instead of poppy plantations in their area and that they are producing ginger abundantly. He further assured to provide a means to market the ginger at the earliest.

He continued that during an inspection with the village leaders, the official team has found that preparation for long-term plantation of fruit-bearing trees like apple and kiwi has been made by the villagers.

The District Officer also said that the department will launch a scheme in the village with a cost of Rs. 50 lakh and further sought support and cooperation from the village for the successful implementation of the scheme. He further appealed to the village against poppy plantations in the future also and further assured all the other assistance including the provision of seasonal seeds and fruit saplings.

Incessant rain triggers massive floods, landslide all over Manipur



IT News
Imphal, May 17:

Manipur has been witnessing flood at various places due to the incessant rains in the last few days. Water levels of major rivers in the state are running above danger level. The incessant rain triggered landslide and mudslide at different parts of the state particularly along the National High Ways.

Water level of almost all rivers in the state including

Imphal River, Nambul etc. are running above danger level. Many schools which were near the Rivers have been closed.

Landslides occurred at various places along National Highway- 37 have disrupted the traffic completely. Tamenglong- Nagaland, Tamenglong- Noney, Tamenglong- Taoshem and Tamenglong-Tamei has been cut off due to landslides and mudslides.

In Imphal East District, Imphal-Sykul road, Hararou, Tangkham, Chimgkhau, Sambrei and Yumnamkhunao and various places of Khundrakpam Assembly constituency including paddy field and residential area have been inundated by the rain water.

In Imphal West District, roads and residential areas at Uripok, Sagolband and Lanthabal Assembly Constituencies have been inundated by the rain water.

Literary programme mark the day 2 of DMUnifest 2022

IT News
Imphal, May 17:

Day 2 of DMUnifest 2022 witnessed various literary programme at DM College of Arts Complex today. The DMUnifest 2022 was inaugurated by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh yesterday.

The literary events at DM College of Arts include Poetry writing competition on the theme "Climate Change" and "women and society" was the theme for competition on Short Story writing respectively.

Students from the Con-



stituent Colleges of Dhanamajuri University took part in the competitions.

The constituent colleges include DM College of Science, Arts and Commerce, GP Women's College and LMS

Law college. "Youth and social participation" has been the main theme of the Four Day DMUnifest 2022.

The DMUnifest 2022 is slated to be concluded on 19th May 2022.

State Handloom Expo 2022-2023 inaugurated



IT News
Imphal, May 17:

The State Handloom Expo 2022-2023 was inaugurated today at Urban Haat, Nilakuthi in Imphal East.

The State Handloom Expo 2022-2023 is being organized by Manipur Apex Handloom Weaver and Handicrafts Artisan C.S. Ltd., Paona Bazar under the sponsorship of Devel-

opment Commissioner for Handloom Ministry of Textile Govt of India, New Delhi. The 14 day Expo will conclude on May 30.

M. Radhamani Devi, National Awardee on Embroidered 2004 and A. Ronika Devi, President Manipur Apex Handloom Weaver and Handicrafts Artisan C.S. Ltd. attended the inauguration function as Chief Guest and presi-

dent respectively while, H.K. Baro, Deputy Director, Ho Weaver Service Centre, Porompat Imphal East and Ch. Tombi Devi, Project Manager (Handloom) District Handloom and Textile Imphal East and Y. Shantikumar Singh, Office -in-charge, National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd, Porompat, Imphal East attended as Guest of Honour.

Media workshop

IT News
Imphal, May 17:

Press Information Bureau, Government of India Imphal is organizing one day media workshop "Vartalap" on 18th May 2022 at 9.30am at Classic Grande, Chingmeirong, Imphal.

The main objective of the workshop is to sensitize media, particularly rural media persons the social welfare schemes/projects being taken up by the government.

Union minister of state for Education and External Affairs, Rajkumar Ranjan will inaugurate the media workshop while Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba, MP will grace the occasion as the functional president.

The workshop will have four technical sessions, the topics are: (1) Imphal Smart City (2) National Education Policy 2020 & its impacts in Manipur (3) Health and Wellness and (4) Plastics: waste to wealth. The technical session will be followed by interaction session with resource persons. More than 40 media persons of the state are expected to participate in the workshop.

KSO-GHQ and ANSAM condemn May 9 incident at New Checkon Tribal colony

IT News
Imphal, May 17:

The KSO-GHQ and ANSAM, the apex students' bodies of Kukis and Nagas expressed serious concern in connection with the incident that took place on 9th May, 2022 at Tribal Colony wherein four people were seriously injured.

"We condemned the incident in the strongest term for the violation of rights of the tribal people. The residents of Tribal Colony have always conveyed to the government that they are not averse to the idea of development and welcome the government's plan to construct new multistoried buildings to accommodate more tribal employees of the state government. However, they have asked for an alternative arrangement to house the 187 occupants/employees/residents during the interim period before the new construction and completion of the same", the joint statement said.

The statement added that following a show cause notice

for eviction served on 24-12-2020, the residents of the colony had filed a PIL vide Writ Appeal No. 11 of 1993 in the High Court and the High Court consequently issued an Interim Order WP(C) No.345 of 2021, dated 29-10-2021 which maintained that the petitioners (residents) should not be disturbed without an alternative arrangement by the government. However, no such alternative arrangement has been made available by the state government till date and instead the state government attempts to bulldoze the residents.

"Such action of the government towards the Tribals is a stark violation of the stated interim order of the High Court. In addition the government has severed the drinking water supply pipelines and electricity connection besides threatening the local population by indiscriminately firing teargases and rubber bullets inside the occupied quarters. The Tribal Colony situated at New Checkon has a deep rooted legacy in the lives of many tribal people of the state

as it has served the welfare of the tribal employees for the last over 60 years", the statement said.

The colony was established exclusively for residential quarters of Grade IV tribal government servants and employees of Manipur Vide Manipur Gazette No: 94 dated 14-12-1960 with Secretariat Revenue No: 141/13/60-M dated 08-12-1960 and since then, the occupants of the aforesaid Quarters have been Tribal Govt. Servants till date. Presently it accommodates about 187 families and 9 churches.

The KSO, GHQ and ANSAM demanded the government to uphold the Interim Order of the High Court WP(C) No.345 of 2021 dated 29-10-2021 and refrain from disturbing the residents unless an alternative arrangement is made for them to relocate. The students' bodies also urged to uphold the Supreme Court Order dated 29-09-2009 and 16-02-2010 by regularization or relocation of the nine religious structures as the case may be.

Growing heat, vanishing wheat, shrinking size

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



When I bought a packet of sandwich bread in the morning, the vendor said that the 'price has increased'. Then I saw news in my newspaper that wheat is in short supply in

many countries of the world. India has already banned the export of wheat. Russia and Ukraine have been two leading exporters of wheat in the past, who are locking horns for the time being affecting global affairs. In such a situation, there has been a shortage of wheat everywhere. This shortfall will go on in the coming days. People are criticizing Russia's stubborn leader Putin for aggravating troubles. After Corona, the absurd and protracted war between Russia and Ukraine has increased problems in the world. Prices of packaged 'namkeens', bread, chips and biscuits are increasing due to shortage of wheat and edible oils, but clever brands are playing a trick. Instead of increasing the printed price, they are reducing the size of the packets. The customer does not doubt due to the same price, although there is some confusion after getting the smaller packets. It is also happening that some products are being sold expensive in the cities, but the weight has been reduced in rural markets instead of increasing price.

Summer is in full swing. Banda - a small town in UP, is melting. The temperature there reached 49 degrees the other day, highest in the world. If not for anything else, it flashed on the international weather map at least for scorching heat. Who grabs the headlines and for what, nobody knows exactly. So one should always be ready for every situation. As actor Anupam Kher says in one of his shows - 'Kuchh Bhi Ho Sakta Hai'. Monsoon is expected to reach Kerala on May 27, slightly ahead of its scheduled time. Although the state is getting rains daily, even though it's not monsoon rain. When the temperature goes up, people travel to higher places. If the element of religion is added to the mountains, things get better. Perhaps that's why there is a rush to go for Chardham Yatra. Over 34 pilgrims died on the way. From May 3 to May 16, more than 1.3 million pilgrims have registered for the Yatra. Most of those who died on the way had got Covid infection affecting their lungs. There is a lack of Oxygen at high altitudes and weak lungs do not support, hence death occurs.

Those whose lungs have weakened due to Covid should avoid going to high places like Chardham or Ladakh, or they should go only after getting a medical consultation. The mantras of worship are often in Sanskrit and there is good news for Sanskrit lovers. Google has included Sanskrit in the list of 133 languages in its translation app. Apart from Sanskrit, 23 other languages of India including Bhojpuri, Dogri are part of Google Translate. Translation is of great importance in the exchange of knowledge and culture in the world. It is only after translation that the literature of one language is read among those who know the other language. If there is no translation, then the literature of different languages of India and languages of other countries of the world could not see the light.

Cow : Deserve to be a National Animal



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

A bench of Allahabad High Court has passed an order on 1st September 2021, in which it has said that the cow is an integral part of Indian culture and the Central Government should bring a bill in the Parliament to declare the cow as the national animal of India. Earlier on 31st May 1917, Rajasthan High Court has also recommended the Centre to declare the cow as national animal. Strict law should be enforced against those who harm the cow. The right to life is above the right to kill and the right to eat beef can never be considered a fundamental right.

The judgement narrates that according to Rigveda, "Panchgavya" prepared using cow's milk, curd, ghee, urine, and dung helps in treating several incurable diseases and building immunity. "Gavyam Pavitram Cha Rasayanam Cha, Pathyam Cha Hridayam Balbuddhim. Aayuh Pradam Raktvikarhari, Tridosh Hridrogvishapaham Syat" (i.e.

Panchgavya is a pure chemical. It is beneficial as diet and for heart. It increases lifespan, strength and intellectual capacity and destroys all the impurities of the blood. It is the destroyer of three Doshas, namely Vata, Pitta and Kapha. It can cure cardiovascular disorders).

From a religious & cultural point of view, the cow has been the centre of attention and worthy of worship in Indian society since time immemorial. People of Sanatan Dharma have been worshipping the cow for centuries. According to Sanatan Vedic culture belief, 33 Koti (categories) of Gods & Goddesses reside in a cow. Lord Krishna got all his knowledge under the cow's feet. He said "Dhanunamsama Kamdhuk" (i.e. I am whatever Kamdeni is).

All four Vedas have highlighted the significance of the cow and termed her as the symbol of creation. The Rigveda states that the cow, who is the mother of Rudra, the daughter of Vasus, the sister of Adityas (Agni), the store house of nectar (milk) is Aghanya and should never be killed. One can attain Moksha (salvation) by worshipping and serving her. According to Yajurveda, "Go SamanaNa Vidyate", i.e. the cow is the only one among the living creatures in the world to be useful from beginning to end. As per Samveda, all thing obtained from the cow are sacred. As per Atharvaveda, "Dhenussadanam Rayeenam", i.e.

the cow is the adobe of prosperity. The Cow was originally born during the *Samudra Mantan* (churning of the ocean) and is one of the Navaratnas. She is the repository of eight kinds of wealth. The peasants become wealthy with Golakshmi.

Cow is the national animal of the nearby country Nepal. In Indonesia, Muslims still maintain not slaughtering cows in respect of their ancestors, who were Hindus. Jesus Christ had said that killing a cow is tantamount to killing a man. Lord Buddha described the cow as the friend of man. The Jains have called the cow as heaven. Bal Gangadhar Tilak said that you can kill me but do not hurt the cow. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya had advocated for total prohibition of cow slaughter. Gandhiji called the cow "a poem of pity" and regarded her a symbol of Indian culture. He said that he does not want Swarajya in Bharat where the cows are being killed.

Although slaughter of cattle and consumption of beef plays a role in several Muslim festivals and culture, majority of the Muslim leadership of the country have always been in favour of a nationwide ban on cow slaughter. Khwaja Hasan Nizami in his book "Tark-e-Gao Kushi" has written about not killing the cow. Even Akbar, Humayun, and Babar had appealed not to kill the cow in their Raj. Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore, had made cow slaughter a punishable offence. During framing

of the Constitution of India, several members of the Constitution Assembly had spoken about the inclusion of cow protection as a fundamental right.

Scientists believe that the cow is the only living being who inhales and exhales oxygen. It absorbs cosmic energy through its horns. Cow's urine has the miraculous property of destroying any kind of germs. It provides strength to the heart & mind and stops ageing. Russian scientist said that house plastered with cow dung are safe for radio waves. Oxygen is generated by using ghee in the Yagya. Spraying cow's dung on urban waste removes all the foul smell and converts the waste into fertilizer.

Cow has been treated as auspicious and also a symbol of compassion & piety. It is also the backbone of our socio-economic life. Cow protection and promotion are not concerned with any particular religion or faith. Cow is an integral part of Indian culture and the task of saving the culture rests with every citizen living in the country, irrespective of religion or worship.

The Uttarakhand High Court has passed an order for the legal status of the person to the Holy Ganga and Yamuna rivers; similarly, the cow should also be granted the status of a legal entity. Considering the enormous benefits it provides to mankind and nature, the Cow deserves to be a national animal.

Sedition Law has a long history since 1857 Sepoy Revolt till present

Charges Under Section 124A have been framed against 13,000 in last 12 years

By: Major General S.G Vombatkere

Following the 1857 so-called Great Indian Rebellion during the rule of the East India Company, British monarch Queen Victoria, issued a proclamation in 1858 that India would be governed by and in the name of "the Crown". Thus, the British territory of India (the State) and the British Government of India, were embodied in the British Monarchy.

An Indian subject who expressed disaffection by conduct or speech, was threatening the Crown by inciting people to rebellion. That was the reason for enacting Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code [IPC] in 1870. The law defined sedition and prescribed punishment for sedition against British rule. The British jailed many freedom fighters, notably Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, for sedition.

We, the People of India, promulgated the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, creating the sovereign, democratic Republic of India as a Union of States. The Indian State is the sum of India's people with their social, cultural, natural and economic resources, living and working in accordance with the values and tenets of the Constitution, which is our primary "rule book".

The People elect their representatives to central and state legislatures. These people's representatives form the central and state governments from among themselves, with some of them becoming ministers to run the government and rule the country in the name of the People.

Thus, in our Republic, the State, the government and the executive elected persons - who are servants of the People, not monarchs - are distinct entities. However, it may appear that many politicians, bureaucrats and police personnel in state and central governments are not aware that the State, the government and elected individuals are discrete entities. Criticism of an individual or a government cannot be



interpreted as a threat to the sovereignty, integrity or security of the State.

In 1958, the Allahabad High Court and the Punjab High Court declared Section 124A void and struck it down. However, in Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar (1962), the Supreme Court upheld Section 124A, but read it down, to make sedition applicable only if there is violence or incitement to violence.

Today, Section 124A remains in force. Successive parliaments and central governments have failed to repeal the law, and elected governments retain the powers of the erstwhile British Crown. Over the decades, central and state governments have (mis)used Section 124A to suppress and punish dissent and freedom of speech and expression, not unlike the British.

FIRs based on Section 124A, have been filed, accusing people of demonstrating peacefully, or dissenting with government policies, etc., or making "derogatory" comments about ministers by words or cartoons, and even against persons who were yet to make a statement/joke or make a report. None of these can reasonably be interpreted as incitement to violence, but governments view these as seditious threats to governments or the State.

Reportedly, sedition charges were filed against 13,000 people between 2010 and 2021, and most of them languish in jail, for nothing more than exercising their freedom of speech and expression. Accord-

ing to MHA data, in 2019 alone 93 sedition cases were registered, and analysis of NCRB data shows that from 2016 to 2019, sedition cases increased by 160% while the rate of conviction fell from 33.3% to 3.3%.

During the peaceful demonstrations at the Koodankulam (Tamil Nadu) nuclear power plant, on September 10, 2012, movement leaders and others were charged with sedition and "waging war against the country" - 8,956 people were charged in 21 cases of sedition. Of 380 FIRs lodged, 240 were withdrawn in October 2014 following a Supreme Court order. Such large-scale charges of sedition were politically motivated, to crush the protests.

There is more similar data, but little difficulty in understanding that these indicate selective, ill-motivated, deliberate misuse of Section 124A, for political or personal purposes.

There are nine petitions challenging the Sedition Law, clubbed together for the consideration of the Supreme Court, with the Union of India (UoI) as Respondent. Until May 7, 2022, during hearings, UoI was arguing in defence of the law. However, on May 9, UoI altered its stance.

UoI's affidavit filed in Court, stated that although "there are [sic] divergence of views expressed in the public domain", the need for the law was "generally accepted by everyone in legitimate state interest" [of] "dealing with serious offences ...

affecting the [country's] very sovereignty and integrity".

UoI's affidavit also stated that "Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has ... expressed his clear and unequivocal views in favour of protecting civil liberties" ... and "we need to ... shed colonial baggage [the Sedition Law]". Accordingly, the government "has decided to re-examine and reconsider" the law "before the Competent Forum", and the "Court may not invest time in examining the validity of Sec.124A once again ... and await the exercise of reconsideration ... before an appropriate forum".

However, on May 9, UoI altered its stance.

In its interim order, the Court observed that UoI agreed that "the rigors [sic] of Sec.124A ... is not in tune with the current social milieu, and was intended for a time when this country was under the colonial regime". Further, the bench expected that "till the re-examination of the provision is complete, it will be appropriate not to continue usage of the aforesaid provision of law by the Governments".

The Court's interim order of May 11, 2022, concludes that the interim stay granted on May 31 last year in two petitions will continue; the bench hopes and expects that State and Central Governments would refrain from registering fresh FIRs, continuing investigations or taking coercive measures under Section 124A; Courts will take the present order into account while examining reliefs sought by affected parties in fresh cases; all pending trials, appeals and proceedings concerning Section 124A be "kept in abeyance"; and UoI may issue directives to State Governments/Union Territories to prevent misuse of Section 124A. All these apply until further orders are passed.

The Court ordered listing the petitions in the third week of July 2022. (IPA Service)
Courtesy: The Leaflet

June-like temperature in May (Heat Havoc)



By: Vijay Garg

As it is getting hot, it has not happened in the last many years. In May itself the temperature remains like June. This is the situation in most of the states of the country. On Sunday, the temperature crossed forty-nine degrees Celsius at some places in Delhi. It is not that mercury broke this record in Delhi itself. Even in Banda, Uttar Pradesh, the mercury was at forty nine degrees. However, in states ranging from Rajasthan to Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh etc., the previous records of temperature have been broken in many cities.

For the last few years, it is also being seen that the hill states like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are also coming under the grip of heat. When the plains are scorching, people turn to these hilly states. Therefore, if the mountainous areas of the Himalayas also start heating, then one-time surprise is bound to happen. It is being told that this time cities like Shimla, Kangra, Dharamshala are very hot. Shimla broke the record of the last eight years. The temperature in Dharamshala went up to thirty seven degrees.

It has been said that the seasons move according to its time. There should be heat in summer and severe cold in winter. But the seasons have changed in the last few decades. The effect of this has been that the cycle and duration of winter, summer and rain are all changing. Earlier, where it used to be very cold for three or four months, now it does not last even a month. Same is the case with summer. In April and May, all summer records were broken. However, the duration of the heat wave is getting shorter than before.

It is also not that this weather is being hit only in India, most of the countries of the world are in its JD. In the last few years, many European countries have also become victims of severe heat. Heat and heat have wreaked havoc in America too. In fact, no human force can work on the weather. But a big truth that cannot be turned away is that most of the major factors affecting the weather have been created by man himself. Therefore, now we have to find ways to avoid it.

The heat wave for India is a matter of more concern because twelve of the fifteen hottest cities in the world are from India. All these four states belong to Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Not only this, six of the fifteen cities with the highest rainfall in the world are also from India. That is, the situation of India in terms of weather is becoming more sensitive than other countries.

Obviously, our meteorological challenges are also increasing. India's condition is already very bad in terms of air pollution. Excessive use of air conditioners and vehicles is a major reason for the rise in temperature. Most of the cities of the country including Delhi start facing water crisis as soon as summer comes. Greenery is necessary to reduce the effect of heat. But the condition of Delhi has become such that there is no space to plant trees here. The mountains of garbage start blazing every day. Obviously, the heat will increase and we will have to come forward to protect it.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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6 Dead, 2 missing as heavy rains trigger landslides; 35 stranded in Haflong Railway Station

Agency
Guwahati, May 17:

Six people have died due to floods and five were killed in a landslide triggered by heavy rains in Assam, according to the latest bulletin by the state government. Of the total deaths caused due to landslides, four were from Dima Hasao and one death was reported in Lakhimpur. Two people are also reported missing, officials said.

The evacuation of about 2,800 passengers of two trains, which were stranded in the Lumding-Badarpur hill section in Assam for two days due to massive landslides and water-logging on the tracks caused by incessant rains, was completed on Monday with help by the Air Force and other agencies, a Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) spokesperson said. Many passengers were airlifted by the Air Force as incessant rain impeded rescue operations which were on since Saturday, when the two trains were stranded in Lumding section of NFR in Dima Hasao district, he said.

An official bulletin had earlier said three persons have been killed in the mudslide in Haflong revenue circle and 57,119 people have been hit by



the floods. According to the latest bulletin, Assam received 545.66 mm of rainfall since May 6. Incessant rains have triggered floods in 14 districts: Biswanath, Bongaigaon, Cachar, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Hoihai, Karbi Aanglong, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Nalbari, Jorhat and Kamrup Metro. Districts affected by landslides include Dima Hasao, Hailakandi and Karimganj.

The bulletin said 4,330 of the affected people have been lodged in 22 relief camps set up by the government. Fifteen relief distribution centres are operating in different affected districts.

A total 12,145 hectares of

crop land have been inundated in the current spate of floods, it said. The NFR spokesman said in Guwahati that about 18 trains in the section have been cancelled in the affected area since Saturday and more than 10 others have been short terminated as work for restoration of the damaged railway tracks are on in full swing despite the incessant rain, he said.

A report from Haflong, headquarter of Dima Hasao district, said most part of the New Haflong Railway Station is under water and an empty train stranded there has derailed as the track loosened with the soil underneath was washed off by rain waters.

Road links to the district have also snapped due to the incessant rains and the landslides in multiple locations. While an IAF helicopter have successfully evacuated many, more than 35 passengers are still stranded in the station.

National Highways and five state highways are affected and cut off from the rest of the state due to heavy rainfall. The region is also suffering from no electricity and mobile connectivity.

In Karimganj district, a BSF outpost was seen submerged in floodwaters while the Jawans are seen negotiating the situation both inside and outside the camp.

With 1,569 new cases, India's daily Covid tally below 2,000 after nearly a month

Agency
New Delhi, May 17:

India witnessed a significant dip in its new Covid-19 cases, as the country logged 1,569 fresh infections in the last 24 hours, pushing the overall caseload to 43,125,370, the Union health ministry's dashboard showed on Tuesday. In the previous 24-hour period, as many as 2,202 people tested positive, 29 per cent higher than the latest numbers.

There were 19 new fatalities as well, taking the related death toll to 524,260, the data showed. The nation also added 2,467 recoveries, with which the total number of such cases rose to 42,584,710.

The number of active patients, on the other hand, declined further to 16,400—a reduction of 917 from the previous bulletin.

Recoveries, deaths and active cases account for 98.75 per cent, 1.22 per cent and 0.04 per cent, respectively, in the cumulative tally.

Also, with 357,484 samples tested for Covid-19, the daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.44 per cent, while the number of samples tested tested till now was at more than 844 million. The weekly positivity rate, meanwhile, came at 0.59 per cent.

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China engaged in massive infrastructure building across border in Arunachal, says Army's Eastern Command chief

Agency
Guwahati, May 17:

Eastern Army Commander Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita has said that China is engaged in infrastructure capacity enhancement across the international border in Arunachal Pradesh.

Lieutenant General Kalita on Monday told reporters in Guwahati that infrastructure building is being carried out, roads are constructed and old advanced landing grounds are revived in the Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh.

He said that India is also constantly upgrading its infrastructure and capabilities to deal with any situation which may arise along the border.

"Across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tibet region, a lot of infrastructure upgradation is going on.

The other side is continuously developing their road, rail and air connectivity as well as 5G mobile network to improve their position to respond to a situation or mobilise forces," Kalita said.

He said the Chinese authorities have built border villages close to the LAC and there are possibilities these can be used for dual purposes.

"The border villages can

be used for civilians as well as to mobilise troops to the forward areas," said the Eastern Command GoC-in-C.

He said that the border in the eastern frontier has varied challenges.

"The Indian Army has displayed exemplary professionalism and bravery. It was extremely eventful during the past one year and we have dealt with all the challenges," Kalita added.

Biological E slashes price for vaccine from Rs 990 to Rs 400 per dose

Agency
New Delhi, May 17:

After Covaxin and Covishield, the Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Biological E dropped the prices of its Covid-19 vaccine to Rs 250 per dose (including GST). After accounting for Rs 150 to be charged by the health centres for their services, the end users will pay Rs 400 per dose of Corbevax, the company said. The market price (including GST and hospital charges) stood at 990 pper dose.

"BE has lowered the price of its vaccine with the aim of making it more affordable and help increase the reach to protect maximum number of children against the virus. The decision comes within weeks of Biological E. Limited received



Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for children between 5 and 12 years of age," the company said in a statement.

This is the cost to people when administered at private centres. The vaccine is still available free of cost at government

centres through the Centre's vaccination programme. It is currently being used for children between the ages of 12 and 14 years.

So far, 43.9 million doses of Corbevax have been administered to children across the country, with the company al-

ready having supplied 100 million doses to the Centre.

In April, both Covishield, manufactured by Serum Institute of India, and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin were made available for Rs 225 per dose, down from Rs 600 and Rs 1,200 respectively, with private vaccination centres allowed to charge up to Rs 150 per dose as service charge over and above the cost of the vaccine.

Biological E will also offer single dose vials, which are more convenient for smaller centres offering only a small number of shots daily. It reduces vaccine wastage.

The vaccine was available in a 20-dose vial; once opened the vaccine could be used only within a few hours. Covishield is available in 10 dose vials and Covaxin in 20 dose vials.

5G testbed launch: PM Modi says self-made 5G testbed an important step toward self-reliance

Agency
New Delhi, May 17:

As India awaits the rollout of the 5G network, PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched the country's first 5G testbed to empower startups along with industry players to test and validate their products domestically. This would help them reduce their dependence on foreign facilities.

Developed at a cost of around Rs 220 crore, the 5G testbed has been set up as a multi-institute collaborative project by 8 institutes led by IIT Madras. The facility will be functional at 5 different lo-

cations.

While launching the testbed at the silver jubilee celebrations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), PM Modi said the 5G testbed is an important step for self-reliance in the direction of critical and modern technologies.

"I invite youth friends, researchers and companies to utilise the testing facility for making 5G technology. 5G technology is going to bring positive changes in the governance of the country, ease of living and ease of doing business," he added.

"Our task force has started working towards

launching the 6G service by the end of this decade," the PM shared.

With a 5G testbed, industry players had to go abroad to test and validate their products to set up a 5G network.

Stating that connectivity will determine the pace of progress in 21st century India, PM Modi added that 5G technology is also going to bring positive changes in the governance of the country, ease of living and ease of doing business. This will boost growth in every sector like agriculture, health, education, infrastructure and logistics.

Today, India is connecting

every village in the country with optical fibre. Before 2014, not even 100 village panchayats in India were provided with optical fibre connectivity. PM noted that in the last 8 years, new energy has been infused into the telecom sector with the 'Panchamrita' of Reach, Reform, Regulate, Respond and Revolutionise.

Meanwhile, other institutes that participated in the project are IIT Delhi, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, IISc Bangalore, Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER) and Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWiT).

Declaration

I, the undersigned, K. Nanao Kabui, do hereby declare that my name recorded in my Aadhaar card Nanao Kamei (date of birth 1981) has been rectified as K. Nanao Kabui (date of Birth 1987) in my Aadhaar card. I, do hereby declare that Nanao Kamei and K. Nanao Kabui is one and the same person. And that I have renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of Nanao Kamei as I have assumed K. Nanao Kabui as my real name.

Sd/-

K. Nanao Kabui

S/o Paouchalung Kamei
Moirangkhom Kabui Khul,
Imphal-West, Manipur

IN THE FAMILY COURT; MANIPUR AT LAMPHEL PAT, IMPHAL

MAT (Declaration) Suit No 22 of 2022

Km. Laishram Babina @Prabina Devi, aged about 30 years, D/o Late Laishram Meino Singh and Late Ahongsangbam Ningol Laishram Ongbi Ibemnungshi Devi of Sagolband Moirang Leirak, PO.PS. Imphal, District Imphal West, Manipur

.....Plaintiff

Versus

Smt. Laishram Ningol Kongbrailatpam Ongbi Babita Singha, aged about 44 years, D/o Late Laishram Meino Singh and Late Ahongsangbam Ningol Laishram Ongbi Ibemnungshi Devi and W/o K. Lalitkumar Sharma of Sagolband Tera Amudon Leirak near Kebol High School, PO.PS. Imphal, District, Imphal West, Manipur.

.....Defendant

To,

All the interested persons

Whereas, the above named plaintiff has filed a suit against you U/S 34 of the Specific Relief Act, 1963 read with Section 7 of the Family Courts Act, 1984 praying for declaring that the plaintiff is the unmarried daughter of the Late Laishram Meino Singh and Late Laishram Ongbi Ibemnungshi Devi; all the interested persons are hereby summoned to appear before this Court on 31.05.2022 at 10:30 A.M either in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all the material questions relating to the case and to file written objection, if any.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the mentioned date and time, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Sealed and signed by the order of this Court, this 13th May, 2022.

Seal:-

Sd/-

Sr. Sheristadar,
Family Court, Manipur

By:-
Advocate

Vice President calls for developing capabilities in new and emerging areas of warfare such as information & cyber war



PIB
New Delhi, May 17:

The Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu today said that the hybrid nature of conflicts coupled with increasing use of drones and cyber warfare has brought a paradigm shift to the battlefield and asked our armed forces to develop capabilities in these new and emerging areas. It should be our vision to develop the Indian military into a 'future force', he said.

Addressing the officers and staff of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington today, the Vice President said that India is facing multiple security challenges in a highly complex and unpredictable geopolitical environment. Noting that we are facing both symmetric and asymmetric threats from outside and within, he wanted our armed forces to be fully prepared to handle any challenge and repel any security threat firmly. Observing that India's approach has always been of peaceful coexistence and never an expansionist one, he expressed confidence that any attempt to challenge India's sovereignty by inimical forces would be dealt with strongly by

our security forces.

Naidu also said that in its long history, India has never invaded other countries and we have always had peaceful coexistence with other nations. We believe in the value of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', he added.

On this occasion, Naidu said that geostrategic and geopolitical compulsions, terrorism and climate change, have added to the complexity of the security matrix and called for having a deeper understanding of such issues. Recognising that a change in the security paradigm with time is today's reality, he stressed the need to constantly strengthen our preparedness and draw up a robust strategy.

Emphasising the need to attain self-reliance in defence and aerospace technology, Naidu appreciated the government for taking several initiatives towards atmanirbharta in this crucial field. "As we step into the future, you will have to graduate from single service competencies to multi domain challenges which require a thorough understanding of joint and multi domain operations," he told the officers and wanted the trainers

and faculty of DSSC to inculcate a sense of jointness and synergy amongst all students.

Recognizing that the armed forces are amongst the most respected entities of our country, the Vice President said that they have earned the regard of their fellow citizens through their untiring efforts and great sacrifices. "Be it fighting external aggression or insurgencies or aiding civil administration during the times of natural calamities, the men and women in uniform have always done the nation proud," he further said.

The Vice President also commended the members of the armed forces in dealing with the situation on our borders as well as the recent COVID-19 pandemic. "I feel elated when I interact with members of the armed forces. I always find their high morale and dedication to duty extremely inspiring," he said.

Stressing the need to make people more aware of the dedication and sacrifices of our brave soldiers, Naidu called for creating monuments for such heroes in our educational institutions to infuse a sense of patriotism and respect for armed forces in our younger generation.

Pointing out that India has

had a glorious tradition of women warriors, Naidu cited many examples of outstanding women military generals in our history such as Rani Durgavati of Gondwana, Rani Abbakka, the Tuluva queen, Rudrama Devi, Kittur Chennamma, Rani Velu Nachiyar, Laxmibai and Begum Hazrat Mahal. He expressed happiness over the government's efforts towards empowering women in the uniformed services such as implementation of Permanent Commission for women officers and opening of National Defence Academy and all Sainik Schools for girls. "I am happy to see women officers being posted in the fighter stream of the Air Force, onboard naval ships, in the Corps of Military Police and also in Missions abroad," he said and called these signs of a welcome trend. It is my firm conviction that all steps should be taken to give women equal opportunities in every sphere of life," Naidu further said.

Praising DSSC for its sterling contribution to training and educating the future leaders of armed forces of India, the Vice President complimented the faculty members and trainers of DSSC as seasoned Gurus nurturing 21st century military professionals and thought leaders.

He also praised the officers and soldiers of the Madras Regiment for their glorious history of service with distinction.

Thiru K. Ramachandran, Minister for Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Lt. Gen S Mohan, AVSM, SM, VSM, Commandant of the Defence Services Staff College, distinguished members of the defence services, veterans and other dignitaries were present.

President Kovind inaugurates street named after Ambedkar in Jamaica



Agency
Kingston, May 17:

President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated a street named in the honour of Dr B R Ambedkar here in the Jamaican capital and a monument highlighting the work of the architect of India's Constitution.

The newly-inaugurated avenue is the part of Tower Street in downtown Kingston, according to the Jamaica Information Service, a government agency responsible for disseminating information about government programmes, projects and services.

A monument highlighting the work of Dr Ambedkar was also unveiled by Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Desmond McKenzie and President Kovind, it said. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Dr

Ambedkar Avenue in downtown Kingston in honour of Babasaheb Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the President's office said on Twitter.

On the occasion, President Kovind said: it fills me with great pride that one of the ablest sons of India has been recognised so far away from his home.

Dr B R Ambedkar is formally known as the architect of the Indian Constitution. He introduced progressive ideas for the social and economic empowerment of the depressed classes into the Indian Constitution. Dr Ambedkar educated and inspired the people towards the goal of removing inequality, he said.

He noted that some people may wonder about the relevance of Dr Ambedkar to Jamaica.

Let us always remember that icons like Dr Ambedkar

and Marcus Garvey cannot be limited to just one nation or community. Their message of equality for all and their appeal to end all forms of discrimination has universal resonance.

Therefore, Dr Ambedkar's message is as relevant to Indians as it is to Jamaicans and to people in every part of the world, Kovind said.

President Kovind, accompanied by his wife Savita Kovind, arrived here on Sunday on a state visit, the first by any Indian President to the Caribbean country.

The Presidential visit is happening in the 60th anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Jamaica and India have friendly relations. Jamaica is also one of the Giritmya countries with a 70,000 strong Indian diaspora, which acts as a living bridge with India.

Sports

Nikhat, Manisha and Parveen cruise into semis as India assured of three medals at 12th IBA Women's World Boxing Championships

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, May 17:

Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen, Manisha and Parveen continued their brilliant run to confirm three medals for the country at the 12th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships by entering the semi-finals in Istanbul on Monday.

Nikhat handed India first medal by clinching a dominating 5-0 win against England's Charley-Sian Taylor Davidson while Manisha got the better of Mongolia's Namuun Monkhor in the hard-fought 57kg quarter-final by a 4-1 margin.

The 25-year-old boxer from Telangana once again showed her technical supremacy to hand the country its first medal at this year's tournament with an impressive victory in the 52kg quarter-final. Nikhat's aggressive intent and clean attack left no chance for Davidson as the Indian looked in complete control throughout the bout.

Nikhat will now take on Caroline De Almeida of Brazil in the semi-finals. De Almeida thrashed the 2018 Common-



India's Manisha celebrates her 57kg quarter-final win against Mongolia's Namuun Monkhor at the 12th IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul.

wealth Games silver Ireland's Carly McNaul of Ireland by unanimous decision.

While Manisha will take on Italy's Irma Testa, who defeated Uzbekistan's Sitora Turdibekova in another quarter-final.

Later Parveen also made her way into the 63kg semi-finals by thrashing Shoir Zulkaynarova of Tajikistan 5-0 and added third medal to

India's tally. Parveen will be up against Ireland's Amy Broadhurst in the semi-final.

However, it was heartbreak for the country's four pugilists—Nitu (48kg), Pooja Rani (81kg), Anamika (50kg) and Jaismine (60kg), who suffered defeats in their respective Last-8 bouts.

Two-time Asian champion Pooja suffered a close 2-3 defeat against Australia's Jessica

Bagley while Nitu and Anamika too fell short of securing medals on her debut appearance at the World Championships after enduring 2-3 and 0-5 losses respectively against the reigning Asian Champion Alua Balkibekova of Kazakhstan and Rio Olympic bronze medallist Ingrid Valencia Of Colombia.

Jaismine too went down fighting against the former World Championships bronze medallist Rashida Ellis of USA 1-4.

Later tonight, another Indian boxer Nandini will look to secure a medal at the prestigious event, which has been witnessing exciting action in the presence of 310 boxers from 73 countries from across the world.

Semi-final matches will take place on Wednesday while the finals will be played on Thursday and Friday.

In the last edition of the tournament, held in Russia in 2019, Indian boxers clinched one silver and three bronze medals. India have won 36 medals, including nine gold, eight silver and 19 bronze, in the 11 editions of the tournament so far—third highest after Russia (60) and China (50).

YAI Multi-Class Sailing Championship 2022 held in Mumbai



By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 17:

The YAI Multi-class Sailing Championship 2022 (IN-MDL Cup) was conducted by the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Mumbai under the aegis of the Yachting Association of India (YAI) and the Indian Navy Sailing Association (INSA), for senior Olympic classes of boats from May 08 to May 15, of Mumbai harbor.

A total of 97 sailors from 10 sailing clubs across the country participated and contested keenly in the event. The competitors battled out in 121 races including five medal races to achieve their national ranking points over a span of five days in winds ranging from 8-15 Kts and choppy sea.

It was the first time in the history of Indian sailing when

medal races for five classes—International Laser (ILCA) 7, ILCA 6, 49er (the 49er is a two-handed skiff-type high-performance sailing dinghy), 470 (mixed), and RS:X - were conducted. The concept of a medal race with double points is now used worldwide in all major sailing events to keep the level of competition up till the last day of the series.

A team of event officials, including world sailing qualified international race officers, international judges, and international measurers, worked flawlessly to provide fair and level-playing grounds to all competitors.

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of Staff, Head Quarters, Western Naval Command (WNC) who was the Chief Guest for the closing ceremony on Sunday, at INWTC, Mumbai presented medals to the winners.

The participants from the Indian Navy's Sailing and Windsurfing teams exhibited a stellar performance by winning two Gold (Nacra 17 and 470 mix classes), one Silver (470 mix class), and two Bronze medals (49er and iQFoil classes).

The event was sponsored by M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and was a YAI ranking event as well as selection trials for the Asian Games. A team of event officials including World Sailing Qualified International Race officers, International Judges, and International Measurer worked flawlessly to ensure a fair and level playing ground for all the competitors.

The INWTC, Mumbai is a premier naval training center for all sailing activities and has made innumerable contributions to the international medal tally of India in the sport of yachting.