

Poumai Naga Union declares Drug Free Zone, Submits declaration to Chief Minister

IT News
Imphal, May 7:

A huge delegate of the Poumai tribe, led by Karong AC MLA J Kumo Sha, Poumai Naga Union President D. Dailord Pao, Poumai Naga Women's Union president P. Delilah Pao and other CSO leaders submitted a resolution of the tribe declaring Poumai areas as Drug Free Zone to the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, today.

The decision to declare a Drug Free Zone and against poppy plantation was arrived at during the Poumai General Body Meeting held on April 28, 2022.

The resolution submitted to the Chief Minister today reads that the office of the Poumai Naga Union, PNU, Senapati District, Manipur in recognition of N. Biren Singh, the Chief Minister's initiative on War Against Drugs, the Poumai Naga Union, PNU, hereby adopt that after a threadbare discussion about the importance of preserving, conserving our forest land resources and in the larger interest of the people and its future, the House has resolved to curb and control the plantation of poppy or any other forms of drugs in the Poumai Naga Area and its jurisdiction. Henceforth, the House unanimously declared the Poumai Naga Union and its jurisdiction drug free zone on this day, the 28th April, 2022.

Speaking to media persons at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in this regard today, the Chief Minister appreciated the Poumai tribe for the resolution and declaration and further commended saying that it is



quite encouraging as well as supportive of the government's War against drugs.

It is indeed a historic moment, the Chief Minister said, highlighting that there have been instances of villages coming out in support of the War Against Drug, but it is the first time that such a large community or tribe has come out and declared such support to the War Against Drug.

He further expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the declaration. The government alone cannot do anything, without the support of the masses, he said. Stressing that there are also indications that other communities will join the fight soon, N. Biren Singh said that any success gained in the movement will be for the public and not the government. The government acts as only the driver, he added.

The Chief Minister also lauded and appreciated the role of the media in the movement.

Thanking and appreciating the Poumai community, the Chief Minister further

prayed for peace, well-being and future of the community.

The Chief Minister further appealed to all communities and tribes to join the movement and reiterated his earlier stand that there will be no compromise on the issue of illegal drugs.

N. Biren Singh said people involved in the drug business in the valley should understand that the drug menace is detrimental to the future of our society and put a stop to any illegal drug related businesses.

N. Biren Singh also observed that almost 70 percent of the people of hills have come out strongly supporting the movement to eradicate drugs and called upon those involved in illegal drug business, encouraging poppy plantation, drug peddling to young students, etc. in the valley to cease operation.

MLA J Kumo Sha appreciated the resolution of the Poumai community as the largest tribe of Senapati district to support the Chief Minister's initiative of War against Drug and termed the tribe's decision

as the 'wisest decision of the union and the people.'

The MLA appreciated the Chief Minister's War Against Drug and said there is no one who says drug is good, and further appreciated and congratulated leaders of the tribe on taking the resolution, as one of the largest tribe in Senapati District, to lead from the front in the War Against Drug and declare all its jurisdiction as Drug Free Zone. He further expressed hope that other tribes, communities from other districts will also follow the same.

Other leaders of the tribe also expressed hope that other communities and tribes will also follow and join the fight to eradicate drugs from the State.

Former president United Naga Council Paul Leo said we have a responsibility towards making the society drug free. The declaration alone is not enough, but we have to spread awareness among the villagers also. He further added that we will heed advice of the CM as well as seek support of the government.

District Administration starts inspecting encroachers at Loktak lake in Bishnupur district 'Surrender and say sorry'— CM to fake land patta holders occupying govt. land

IT News
Imphal, May 7:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today warns fake patta holders who are occupying government land to surrender their patta and say sorry within one month.

"Our govt. gives you one month to surrender your fake patta and say sorry or else we will take up stringent measures", Chief Minister N. Biren said in a video post shared by one MK Aatif Asker Ali.

"Our government will arrest all if fails to surrender", the Chief Minister sent strong message. He said that many people have occupied at forest areas of Waithou till the top of the hill with fake land patta. Even the Loktak lake has not been spare. The area of Loktak lake has been occupied by individuals

with fake patta.

Earlier, this week, Imphal Times have been informed that the district administration of Bishnupur district had started demarcation of the Loktak lake and have started verifying the patta holders of those occupying in the Loktak lake area at Khoijuman and Kwashiphai in Bishnupur district.

Loktak Lake is a pulsating lake, with a surface area varying from 287 sq. Km to 500 sq. Km during rainy season. Those villages near Loktak lake particularly Kwasiphai, Khoijuman etc in Bishnupur side use to cultivate vegetable when the water recedes as the soil were fertile, but no individual or authority claimed ownership of the land of the Loktak lake.

Authority of the club member of Kwashiphai had conducted survey to boost the cul-

tivation work some months back and found that most of the area under Loktak area but remain dried as water recedes and the adjoining Khash land of the lake have been found to have been occupied by individuals after they procured land patta from the government authority.

"We don't have any ideas on how they have procured land patta from the Loktak area and its adjoining area but we do believe that such occupation is shrinking the size of the Loktak Lake", the local club members of Kwashiphai said. A map procured from the government revenue department showed the actual area where water level reached before 10 to 15 years and in the same map it was also stated that many portions of the Loktak lake being registered as land owners by individuals.

Stop violating the rights of Ichum Kom Keirak Village authority – FoH to KNO

IT News
Imphal, May 7:

Federation of Haomee, (FoH) expressed strong concern to the repeated violation of rights of the Village Authority of Ichum Keirak Kom by some groups who claimed themselves as members of the KNO, presently ensuing suspension of operation (SoO) with the center and state government.

A statement of the FoH said that the KNO authority should immediately clarify on whether those people are cadres of the KNO. The FoH also appealed

to both the center and state government to investigate over the matter as KNO is a signatory to the SoO pact.

The FoH said that Kom community are indigenous people of the state and is among the 26 ethnic people which have their own clans. Protecting the rights of the ethnic community is the duty of the Federation of Haomee and said that the Haomee will stand for the small ethnic indigenous community of the state.

The statement said that some Kuki community were provided shelter at the Ichum Keirak Kom during the Naga-

Kuki Ethnic conflict (1992 – 1997). It added that there were incident of those Kuki who were given refuge harassing and assaulting the villagers of Ichum Kom Keirak including women and children. There were also incident of assaulting the villagers who claimed to be members of KRA but later clarified that the KRA was not related with the assault.

The FoH appealed to P.S. Haokip, the leader of KNO to immediately stop siding for the Kuki refugees at Ichum Keirak Kom while interfering to the matters of the Village authority.

Banned ULFA-I 'executes' 2 cadres in Assam on charges of spying for police

Courtesy: HT
Guwahati, May 7:

The banned United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) on Saturday claimed to have executed two of its newly recruited cadres from Assam for allegedly spying against the outfit at the behest of the state police—a move which could affect the expected peace talks with the outfit.

In a notice issued through social media, the outfit claimed that two youngsters, Dhanjit Das of Barpeta and Sanjib Sarma of Biahata Chairail, were given 'death sentence' after they were found guilty by the outfit's lower judicial council on May 4 and May 5 respectively.

"Since the crime committed by both cadres are unpardonable, as per decision of the lower judicial council they were given undesired death today on May 7," said the notice issued by self-styled brigadier A.Z. Shironam Asom.

The notice said that Dhanjit Das, who recently joined the



outfit, had fled from a camp on April 24 and was captured by ULFA-I a day later. It said that during interrogation, Das confessed to have prodded several newly recruited cadres to surrender.

"He accepted that during his attempts to join the outfit, he was secretly in touch with a few police officials with the intention of handing over our supporters/well wishers to Assam police," the notice said.

On May 4, the lower judicial council held him guilty of escaping from the outfit during a special operation, encour-

aging others to leave the outfit and involvement in anti-revolutionary activities and sentenced him to death, it added.

The outfit claimed that Sanjib Sarma had confessed about joining ULFA-I on directions of police officers and with the greed for money with the intention of passing the outfit's internal communications to police using modern technology so that ULFA-I commanders and cadres could be eliminated.

On Saturday, ULFA-I also released a video in which the two youngsters were seen

admitting to have acted on behalf of the police and against ULFA-I.

"While working for Assam police I used to believe ULFA-I is a terrorist outfit. Only after I joined it, I realised that it is a revolutionary organisation working to protect Assam's society and territory. Fuelled by greed for money and instigations by police, I committed anti-Assamese tasks. I urge youngsters not to fall for such traps and bring their own deaths," Sanjib said in the video.

contd. on page 4

Centre approves Sputnik booster shot, over six lakh to soon become eligible

Agency
New Delhi, May 7:

As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, more than six lakh individuals who had opted for the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine will soon have the option of taking a booster dose. While India had begun inoculating its adult population with a third dose of vaccine earlier this year, this has been limited to those who had opted for Covaxin and Covishield. At present there is no option for those vaccinated with the two-dose Sputnik V regime to obtain a third jab.

According to a report, Centre has now approved the use of Sputnik Light as a third 'precautionary' jab and it will soon become available at private vaccination centres. The development comes about a week after the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation recommended that the Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik Light which contains the same ingredients as the first dose of Sputnik V can be taken as a precaution dose.

There is however no clear timeframe available at this time. While reports quoting officials suggested that discussions were underway to iron out details, it could be a few weeks yet before the third dose became available.

Sputnik Light had also received the Emergency Use Authorization from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) in the month of February this

year. The two doses of Sputnik V are administered at a gap of 21-30 days and have different compositions. The booster 'light' jab however is the same as the first dose of the regular edition.

As the third dose remained elusive, the Union health ministry is learnt to have received several representations over Sputnik V.

Earlier this week, the Supreme Court had asked the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry to decide on the representation of a person seeking modification of COVID-19 policy to allow voluntary revaccination of persons who have received the Sputnik-V vaccine and wished to travel abroad.

A Non Aligned Europe

By: Sauro Dasgupta

Prime Minister Modi's Europe visit has been a spectacular success. It comes close on the heels of UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss meeting External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's visit to India.

This time, Germany has a new Chancellor. Olaf Schatz has been quite a pragmatic figure. Germany not only invited India to G7 but also affirmed the importance of Indo-German ties.

However Europe expresses discomfort at India not taking an anti-Russia stance now, Europe should understand our priorities- of having close ties with both the West and Russia in keeping with out historically and time tested policy of Non Alignment.

Dr Jaishankar has been rightly outspoken in his defence of India on multilateral fora, be it during his meeting with UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, the 2+2 meeting in Washington DC or at the Raisina Dialogue. He pointed out that when the Rules Based Order was regularly violated in South Asia India was advised to do more trade, an oblique reference to our clashes with Pakistan and China and the Western attitude to the same.

Dr Jaishankar also explained the Western hypocrisy by saying that the amount of oil that India purchased from Russia in a month would be less than what Europe did in an afternoon. When US Secretary of State Antony Blinken raised concerns about human rights issues in India, Dr Jaishankar asserted India's right to also be concerned about human rights abuses in the Western world, that have become absolutely normalized today, whether it is desecration of Oriental scriptures, assault on Asians, Hispanics and Blacks, loot and hatred directed against them everyday in the West.

PM Modimet with the Danish Queen and the Danish Prime Minister and the Indian diaspora. He also attended India-Nordic Summit and then visited French President Emmanuel Macron. EU President Ursula Von der Leyen had already PM Modi at the Raisina Dialogue, which they had jointly inaugurated.

Reeling under the mass protests in Europe against super expensive energy prices, Germany, Poland and Bulgaria are ready to pay in roubles to Russia for energy supplies. Despite being snubbed, anti-Russia leaders of Europe are silent out of fear of splitting Europe. Also, perhaps they were reminded of the EU-China Investment Treaty signed in 2020 to boost the COVID ravaged European economy. Hence, despite some objections, Germany went ahead with payment in Roubles to Russia, which not only circumvented EU sanctions, but also spoke volumes about Chancellor Olaf Schatz's maturity.

On its part, India is pleased to see a pro-Indian wave in Europe. India must utilize this sentiment and try to work with Europe on issues of mutual interest like energy, education, healthcare, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, etc. India must not let go off this opportunity to smoothen its ties with Europe.

(The author is a PG 1 Student, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University)

Tips For Summer Party Make up

son is by exfoliating.

A good oil-based exfoliator to rid the skin of dead cells is key. Make sure your arms and legs are properly prepared before showing them off in your party dress. The key to gleaming limbs is to ensure they are soft and smooth. Increase

the frequency of exfoliating your skin before Party Eve. Try a pH-neutral product for a gentle skin cleansing that will not agitate or irritate your skin type.

Alternatively, prepare some scrubs at home using all-natural ingredients. Honey mixed with coffee or sugar mixed with vegetable oil present some excellent options. Just heat a cup of medium ground coffee with an oil of your choice. Do not let it boil. Then, add sugar granules and a few drops of essential oil to the mixture. Mix well. Apply this scrub on damp skin before you hit the shower and exfoliate well. You need to scrub your skin at least once a week. Use some face masks. Be it a Homemade Honey and Cinnamon mask, or a revitalizing deep cleansing mask. Use products best suited for your skin type to keep your face looking fresh and glowing. But don't go overboard as that will make it rough

3. Let your eyes do the magic

Don't abandon your beloved smokey eye on summer evenings in an open area or closed air conditioner room. Smokey eyes are always trendy, and they work for parties. If you want something flirty. Apply



By: Shahnaz Husain

an eye shadow that's darker than your skin tone and sweep into your crease. Next, apply a complementary eye shadow lighter than your skin tone to your lid and blend towards your lash line. To finish, blend the two together to blur any harsh contrast. Try going with navy or

mix black and gray for a smoldering, mysterious look. Use neutral colors for a look that is soft and natural. Applying sparkly eye shadow around the eyes brings a whimsical touch to your look and takes no time at all to do.

4. Classic Lip

A little shine on your lips will complement your look. The easiest way to elevate your look in seconds is to wear a bold lipstick color. Staple colors such as red and pink, in their bolder versions, will do well on the occasion. Fuller lips will draw eyes. To get your lipstick to last until midnight: Make sure your lips are well-hydrated before using a bright color or highly pigmented lipstick so your pout stays soft and hydrated but never sticky. This red lip look is sophisticated and perfect for summer events. Find a pink or red lipstick that you feel really good in, and shape your lips with a matching lip liner to ensure the color stays put.

Dress elegantly

Pick the right type of dress according to your body type so that it highlights all your right features. Pick out a dress that not only makes you look good but in which you can actually breathe, and spend it with

people that make you happy, to have a truly fabulous Summer evening party. Whether it is a cocktail dress or a different kind of outfit, make sure that you feel confident in it. Comfort is imperative because you will be mingling and possibly dancing in summer events. Keep the jewelry minimal and straightforward if you are wearing a shiny dress to achieve the right balance.

5. The sculpted look

Not all parties / get-togethers call for a full face of make-up, you can create a light but lovely look with just a little blush. From bright pink and orange to berry and red-orange shades, a blush with a burst of color will amp up your complexion and create a radiant look that will turn heads.

Sculpted cheekbones with just the right amount of bronzer give you a straight off the runway style. Complete your party look with statement earrings and a high ponytail.

Jewel-toned eye shadow is always a good idea when you want to play with color on the eyes

Blotting Paper

Blotting paper will be your makeup saviour throughout the day - just carry around a few in your purse and keep dabbing away the oil at regular intervals. Make sure you dab the paper and not wipe!

Pick A Water-Resistant Formula

Even if you aren't going into the pool with makeup, you do tend to sweat a lot in the summer so picking water-resistant formulas is a safe option. You don't want to end up with panda eyes after having your mascara and eyeliner running down your face, do you?

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

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh: Bangladesh proves itself as a donor country from donation seeker by providing medical assistance to Sri Lanka

By: John Rozario

Bangladesh's medical and financial assistance to Sri Lanka increases its image and prestige. Once upon a time, Bangladesh was a 'bottomless pit' and a donation seeker in the international arena. Now it is a donor and lending country. It shows all-South Asian countries how to revive from ashes. Bangladesh establishes an example in South Asia how to ensure economic growth amidst various socio-political aspects. Debt-ridden Bangladesh a few years ago is now a country of unprecedented success in debt relief. The world today looks at Bangladesh in amazement.

Bangladesh proves itself as a donor country from donation seeker by providing medical assistance to Sri Lanka

As a friend and close neighbour, it is also Bangladesh's privilege to stand by Sri Lanka in whatever way it can, during times of crisis.

Bangladesh has donated emergency medicine worth TK 200 million to crisis-hit Sri Lanka.

This medical assistance by the government of Bangladesh to the friendly people of Sri Lanka is an expression of solidarity and friendship between the two nations when they are celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations this year.

In this regard, a programme was held on Thursday at the State Guest House Padma where Foreign Minister Dr A.K. Abdul Momen and Health Minister Zahid Maleque handed over a few boxes of medicine as a token to the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Professor Sudharshan D.S. Seneviratne.

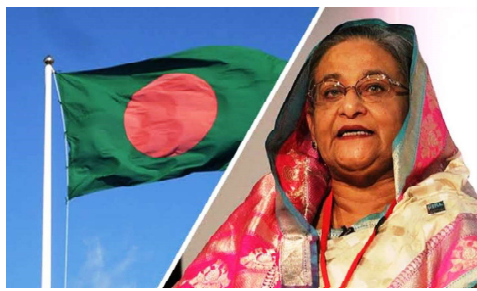
Foreign Secretary Ambassador Mr Masud Bin Momen, MD & CEO of EDCL and DG (Drugs), President of Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (BAPI) Nazmul Hassan, we're also present in the programme.

In his short remarks, Foreign Minister, D. Momen termed the offer of medicine, as an expression of solidarity and friendship between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, at a time when the two countries are celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations.

However, what happened that Bangladesh is creating one surprise after another? Economists say there are some reasons behind this: exports, social progress and economic foresight. There are three more reasons besides economic capability viz. sympathy, economic diplomacy and political will.

When this was the case, the sudden news came that Bangladesh had provided 200 million in financial assistance to Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan media has raised the question if Bangladesh can be self-sufficient, why can't we? In June, the finance ministry of Bangladesh gave more startling news. It has been said that Bangladesh stands by Sudan, the poorest country in Africa. 65 crores Bangladeshis Taka has been provided to reduce the debt burden of the IMF. The country borrowed Rs 510,000 crore, Taka, from the IMF. The economic crisis was so severe that the country could not repay the debt. Bangladesh has come forward after sending messages asking for help from country to country.

Bangladesh's finance ministry



says Sudan is heavily indebted and poor. The government hopes the funding will strengthen Sudan's fight against poverty. At one time Sudan was a British colony. The country gained independence on January 1, 1956, under a treaty. It may be recalled that last year, Bangladesh also provided more than Tk 80 million to Somalia, another African country. That was also in repaying the IMF loan. Sudan, a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, or OIC, has been crippled by debt and poverty, and financial assistance is expected to help overcome the crisis.

Last year, Bangladesh also handed Tk 80 million to help Somalia combat poverty as part of the IMF initiative. Everyone is fascinated by the development of Bangladesh.

The image of Bangladesh and the respect for the people of this country has increased due to the assistance to Sri Lanka and Sudan from foreign exchange reserves. Bangladesh is now a lending country! If Bangladesh can be self-sufficient, a lender and an economic miracle in South Asia, why can't others do that?

He added that under the able

leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh never hesitates to extend assistance to any nation in difficulties, in particular, to its neighbours for ensuring shared peace and prosperity in the South Asian region. He ensured that Bangladesh stands ready to support Sri Lanka in all possible ways.

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner, while making his remarks expressed his gratitude to the government of Sri Lanka Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the government of Bangladesh for this friendly gesture of supplying medicine to the people of Sri Lanka.

He noted that Sri Lanka values the friendly relationship with Bangladesh and is committed to further strengthening it in the coming days.

He termed the gifting of the medicines, which was another demonstration that the trajectory of the bilateral relations was moving in the right direction.

Both EDCL and BAPI have contributed medicine of BD taka 10 crores each, Taka 20 Crores in total as gifts to Sri Lanka.

The medicine is expected to reach Sri Lanka within a few days'

time.

The offer of medicine would certainly manifest the capability of the pharmaceuticals industries in terms of its ability in producing high-quality medicine, and financial capacity and it also demonstrates Bangladesh's foreign policy resolve of maintaining friendly and cooperative relations with her neighbours.

Earlier, Bangladesh supported Sri Lanka by providing \$ 200 million through a currency swapping arrangement.

The image of Bangladesh and the respect for the people of this country has increased due to the financial assistance to Sri Lanka and Sudan from its foreign exchange reserves. Bangladesh also agreed to provide medical aid to Afghanistan. Bangladesh in December, 2021, announced humanitarian support for the Afghan people while expressing deep concern over the economic and humanitarian crisis looming in Afghanistan. The country announced a humanitarian aid package in the form of food and medicinal assistance, the Foreign Ministry said following the 17th extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers on the Afghanistan situation held in Islamabad, Pakistan. Now, Bangladesh gave medical assistance to crisis hit Sri Lanka. It proves that it is a real humanitarian state in South Asia.

From a humanitarian perspective, the quick response of Bangladesh was lauded by many, nationally and globally.

Greatest humanitarian example?

Bangladesh has already portrayed its image firmly as a humanitarian nation, when she warmly welcomed about 1.1 million forcibly dis-

placed Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. Despite many diplomatic efforts, the repatriation of Rohingya people has been lingering for quite long. The exodus of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh embarked on numerous strategic, economic and humanitarian issues as Bangladesh is already an over populated nation. Nevertheless, Bangladesh continues to generously host the world's largest and growing refugee settlement despite huge burden on economy, food management, limited resources and other circumstances. Even Bangladesh planned to relocate some of the Rohingyas to Bhashanchar to ensure better living standard for them through Ashrayan 3 Project on its own financing. Besides, Bangladesh has been tracking an impressive record in development and growth since last decade which will make it more capable of offering help to other nations in crisis.

Thousands of more examples can be drawn where Bangladesh was among the fastest nations to stand beside others. In terms of amount, medical aid to be provided by Bangladesh to Sri Lanka might be small in scale of the required fund but its prompt response is surely praiseworthy.

Now the question is valid. Bangladesh is now a donor and lending country! If Bangladesh can be a self-sufficient, donor, lender, an economic miracle in South Asia, why can't others do that? Why does South Asia not take lessons from Bangladesh? Of course, South Asia can learn a lot from Bangladesh.

(The author is a researcher, strategic and foreign affairs, Bangladesh studies analyst, Karnataka, India)

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In fresh surge, India logs 3,805 new Covid cases

Agency
New Delhi, May 7:

India on Saturday recorded over 3,000 fresh Covid-19 cases for the fourth straight day. The country registered 3,805 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the overall tally to 4,30,98,743. The country also reported 22 fresh Covid-related deaths in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of fatalities registered so far to 5,24,024.

India's active caseload currently stands at 20,303 - accounting for 0.05 percent of the total cases, as per the union health ministry. A total of 3,168 recoveries were reported in the

last 24 hours - taking the recovery rate to 98.74 percent. The total number of recoveries currently stands at 4,25,54,416.

According to the health ministry, the daily positivity rate in the country stands at 0.78 percent, while the weekly positivity rate stands at 0.79 percent.

A total of 84.03 crore samples have been tested for coronavirus so far in the country, with 4,87,544 samples tested in the last 24 hours.

India's cumulative vaccine coverage has crossed the 190 crore-mark under the nationwide vaccination drive. While 5,86,78,007 first dose and 4,30,37,227 second doses have

been administered for the 15 to 18 years age group, 3,01,97,120 first doses and 93,23,185 second doses have been administered in the age group of 12 to 14 years, according to the health ministry data.

Meanwhile, 2,83,25,897 precaution doses (booster doses) have been administered for people over 60 years of age, healthcare workers, and front-line workers.

Delhi and Maharashtra have now started witnessing a slight surge after a massive dip in the daily cases. Maharashtra has been recording more than 200 cases for two straight days after weeks.

One Killed Over Loud Speaker Row in Gujarat

Five Persons Have Been Arrested in the Incident

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 7:

While the controversy over the use of loudspeakers in mosques is still raging in Maharashtra, one person was killed and another was badly injured in a dispute over playing bhajan over the loudspeaker in neighbouring Gujarat.

Jaswant Thakor (42) was killed and his brother Ajit was badly injured when the rival group members brutally assaulted them with sticks and rods on Wednesday evening.

The deceased and his brother were reportedly playing the bhajans loudly at Meldo Mata Mandir located near their residence at Mudarda village in Jotana Taluka of Mehsana district. However, their neighbour Sadaji Thakor reached the spot and chided them for playing the bhajan at high volume over the loudspeaker. The altercations ensued and Sadaji reportedly abused the brothers.

When Jaswant and Ajit objected to the foul language used by Sadaji, the initial arguments turned into a high decibel quarrel and Sadaji called in more people to retaliate.

Soon a group of people armed with sticks reached the scene and beat Jaswant and Ajit mercilessly. In the melee, Jaswant was badly injured. The villagers shifted him to the nearby hospital which referred him to the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. However, he succumbed to his injuries. Ajit suffered a fracture to his left hand.

In between Ajit's 10-year-old nephew intimidated his mother about the incident, who in turn informed the police and lodged a complaint against Sadaji Thakor, Vishnu Thakor, Badaji Thakor, Jayanti Thakor, Jawan Thakor, and Vinu Thakor.

The Langhaji police who reached the spot arrested the five accused on charges of murder, rioting, and assault. They were produced before the magistrate and were sent to jail custody on Thursday, a spokesman for the Langhaji police said. The arrested accused have been identified as Vishnu Ravaji Thakor, Badaji Chelaji Thakor, Jayanti Ravaji Thakor, Jawanji Chelaji Thakor, and Vinuji Chelaji Thakor.

On May 02, in a similar dispute over the use of loudspeakers, one Bharat Rathod (30) was brutally assaulted in Bawla

taluka of Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

However speaking to the **Imphal Times**, Mehsana Superintendent of Police Manish Singh said that the incident in Mudarda village arose out of personal enmity and it cannot be linked to the ongoing controversy over the use of loudspeakers in places of worship. There have been such clashes due to family disputes in that village earlier too, he added.

In another development, a division bench of the Allahabad High Court (Uttar Pradesh) dismissed a petition seeking permission for the use of loudspeakers at a mosque for azaan on Wednesday. The law has now been settled that the use of loudspeakers in the mosque is not a fundamental right, a bench of Justice Vivek Kumar Birla and Justice Vikas Budhwar observed in the order on Wednesday.

The order came on a petition filed by one Irfan of Badaun district, who had moved the high court after a sub-divisional magistrate rejected his application seeking permission for playing loudspeaker/mike in a village mosque at the time of azaan, in December last year

Mission ICU launches a state-of-the-art ICU bed facility in Tamenglong, the first in any Northeastern state



IT News
Tamenglong, May 7:

Mission ICU - a social initiative focused on improving the critical healthcare infrastructure in the country, launched a state of the art 10 bed ICU facility in the district hospital Tamenglong, Manipur, with the support of Kantar to address the pressing needs of district and sub district hospitals. This initiative is a step towards bolstering the critical care infrastructure across hospitals in dire need of assistance amidst the impending fourth wave. Mission ICU has already completed installation of 100 ICU beds across the country and will now be working with the district hospitals in Northeastern states of India, to improve the critical healthcare infrastructure, starting with Tamenglong.

Speaking about this initiative, Maanoj Shah, Co-founder of Mission ICU said, "Our aim is to create a sustainable impact that lasts beyond COVID, by equipping public hospitals with state-of-the-art ICU bed facilities. With implementation of robust infrastructure at the heart of our organization, Mission ICU has already been successful in installing 100 ICU beds across the country. We are also thankful for the support of our partner, Kantar who has helped us previously in setting up ICU bed facilities in Gadag (Karnataka) and

Nabarangpur (Odisha). From a commitment of one location, we have come a long way, with Tamenglong being the 3rd project as part of this partnership! We are further amplifying our operations this time with focus on the Northeastern states of India, starting with Tamenglong and thereafter a few other districts so that in future any other healthcare crises doesn't have to be brutal for hospitals already under pressure."

Preeti Reddy, Chairwoman- Insights Division, South Asia at Kantar said "Mission ICU has been at the forefront of improving the critical healthcare infrastructure in the remotest parts of India. I must congratulate the team on completing installation of the new 10-ICU Beds facility in Tamenglong, Manipur - the 11th facility they have installed. Mission ICU's efforts are aligned with Kantar's vision of improving the lives of those without access to life-saving healthcare. We are proud to be associated with Mission ICU's commendable work and wish the team success in their endeavors."

The location was shortlisted after a detailed study of the state of medical infrastructure in several districts of Manipur. A due diligence form was sent to the district surgeon/civil surgeon to comprehend the condition of all district and subdistrict hospitals following which Tamenglong was found to be most eligible to receive assistance as the current critical care infrastructure is inadequate in capacity. The new critical care facility installed by Mission ICU increased the

critical care capacity by 200%. Through this set up, Mission ICU would also extend support to the sub-district hospital in Tamenglong, and as sub-district hospitals are often unsuccessful in obtaining external assistance owing to their lower visibility and Mission ICU aims to bridge this gap with critical care support through this initiative.

Apart from bridging the gap of critical care infrastructure in under-resourced rural hospitals, Mission ICU is also working towards the 'ICU Mapping Project' that will focus on mapping the critical healthcare infrastructure facilities across the country, starting with North-eastern States. In line with Mission ICU's philosophy, the aim of this 'ICU mapping' initiative is to identify and document the on-ground reality of the current state of critical care healthcare facilities in under-resourced hospital, so as to create a robust long-term plan for sustainable impact, derived from data driven insights.

"We are excited at the prospect of extending our services with the support of Mission ICU, which will help us provide quality critical-care facilities to patients in remote areas like Tamenglong. The new ICU

beds would greatly boost the treatment facilities for critical patients and create more confidence in our staff. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we realized the dire needs of ICU Beds. We are grateful to team Mission ICU and everyone involved, for making our dream of establishing an ICU ward into reality", said Dr. G Majachunglu, CMO, Tamenglong District, Manipur.

Each set of 10 ICU Beds facilities costs around 45 lakhs. The operational expenditure of Mission ICU is supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) SAMRIDH Health initiative. The hospitals were shortlisted post verification of numerous factors such as ability to accommodate extra beds, case load during COVID, population ratio and existing medical infrastructure.

With a 137% increase in 2021-22 budget allocation for health and well-being, India is slowly moving towards its goal of developing a robust healthcare infrastructure. Mission ICU, with its ambitious vision of bridging the gap between rural and urban areas, is on a tireless journey towards identifying inadequacies and addressing pain points with its cutting edge ICU bed facilities.

Name Change

I, the undersigned, **Shyam Golmei** do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Shyam Gurung** as I have assumed my new name **Shyam Golmei**.

Sd/-
Shyam Golmei

Career Guidance

Insure your career



By: Vijay GarG

The advent of technology changed the nature of the insurance industry, and the pandemic has further converted the way it operates. Both businesses and individuals require protection against financial loss, theft or damage to life or property. Through an insurance policy for which the insured pays a premium, an insurance company guarantees a secure payment for an uncertain future event.

The uncertain nature of the pandemic has further increased this need for a sense of security and assurance. New-age technologies such as

Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, and Internet of Things (IoT) have changed how insurance companies operate, and have opened up several avenues in the sector.

Courses and skillsets

While one can build a rewarding career in Insurance after Class 12, a degree in Finance, Economics, Business, or Maths is beneficial. Courses such as BBA in Banking and Insurance, Insurance and Risk Management, and Insurance Management; B.Com in Banking and Insurance Management, MBA in Banking and Insurance, Insurance Management, Insurance and Risk Management, M.Com in Banking and Insurance Management, as well as diplomas and certificate courses, are available.

Essential skills include numeracy, problem-solving, attention to detail, customer service, and effective analytical and communication skills. Understanding new technologies such as AI and Machine

Learning (ML) has become a prerequisite.

Impact of technology

Emerging technology trends such as AI, ML and Blockchain are set to transform the nature of Insurance. For instance, in auto insurance, the risk will shift from drivers to AI and software behind self-driving cars. According to a report by McKinsey, insurers can have unprecedented visibility into the risk around facilities through satellites, drones, and real-time data sets, leading to greater accuracy. Those with an IT background can have a fulfilling career in Insurance Technology (InsurTech) firms or start-ups. Online courses in AI and ML are also available for aspirants from non-IT backgrounds.

Insurance professionals have access to jobs in government and private agencies as well as self-employment opportunities. The first category includes public sector banks and insurance agencies, finance institutes and departments, and

other relevant departments. Private banks, finance institutes, insurance firms, credit companies are also possible employers.

InsurTech start-ups are hiring fresh graduates who are up-to-date with technology, in roles such as actuaries, underwriters, and claim adjusters. Other roles include data scientists, sales agents, marketers, customer service representatives and risk managers.

According to IBEF report, India has around 57 insurance companies, of which 24 are in the life insurance business, while 34 are non-life insurers. The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is the sole public sector company among life insurers. There are six public sector insurers in the non-life insurance segment. Other stakeholders in the Indian Insurance market include agents (individual and corporate), brokers, surveyors and third-party administrators servicing health insurance claims.

CLARIFICATION

Date: 7th May 2022

One Mr Andy Mangsatabam who is my blood younger brother claimed in the media yesterday that I, Ms Annie Mangsatabam of Thangmeiband Yumnam Leikai refused to divide the properties of our parent equally amongst us for which I would like to clarify the following.

That the said Andy Mangsatabam has been allotted a huge share of our parental properties already at Sanakeithel, Rupmahal Tank, gold, cash, vehicles etc. to become the owner of the PUNYA MOTORS. The main parental house is also occupied by him. I was allotted this small piece of land which I am using not for my personal use but for a social cause for treatment of drug users and Childline 24x7 services since 30 years with their full knowledge and consent. The land is in my name for the last 17 years which they never complained. In fact he was a staff of the centre one time. After acquiring so much parental property, now it is his desire to take some portion of this piece of land also. He filed a case in the Revenue Tribunal which was rejected but he again filed a case in the High Court which is still sub judicious.

However regarding the FIR lodged as claimed by him has nothing to do with the land dispute case but for the unfortunate incident on 30th April 2022 where he (a) Brought 60-70 of his Punya Hyundai, Punya Honda, Punya Kia, Punya Toyota staffs and forcibly entering the premises which does not belong to him and is also sub judicious. (b) Physically assaulting the staffs especially the female staffs, including twisting of arms for snatching their mobiles phone. (c) Threatening the female project coordinator and warned her she will be summoned to the hill. (d) Threatening to close and vacate the Childline and Drug Treatment Centre. Everything is very evident and self explanatory as the whole actions are covered by CCTV cameras, besides video recording in mobiles phones. Moreover the Police also arrived in the centre to diffuse the situation.

Sd/-
Ms Annie Mangsatabam
Thangmeiband Yumnam Leikai

Sangh Parivar is bracing for next round of battle after Ayodhya

Communal polarisation has become a part of Election plank of BJP

By: Sushil Kuttu
New Delhi, May 7:

The whole idea and ideal of secularism came decades later, but the day India decided to be a pluralistic society, with Hindu-Muslim-Sikh-Isai, all living under the same sky, that day India ensured it would be a communal cauldron for all times to come. Dr. BR Ambedkar was practical. He wanted to make a clean slate of the Partition—transfer of every Muslim 'here' to swap for every Hindu 'there', but other sense prevailed and the repercussions are being felt to this day.

Talk of the mosaic of the colourful, cultural diversity, and about the richness of pluralism, is all right and good; also, great to hear and repeat at every Independence Day, but it cannot make up for the underlying tensions or the everyday humiliations, both at the individual and community levels, that has been dogging India and Indians all these years.

Today, there is every day a communal riot in some or the other part of the country, with turf and terrain divided into "Muslim areas" and "Hindu areas." Increasingly, sizable swathes of the country are becoming no-go zones for a big section of the citizenry, and nobody, not even the government of the day, at the state and central level, can do anything about it.

It is as if one Partition wasn't enough—a few more here and there wouldn't look so bad, after all. The other day, a "leader of the minority community" shouted, "Our grandfathers chose to stay back in 1947 because we also have a stake in the Red Fort, and in the Taj Mahal—

India is our country. Ye desh hamara hai" Who can argue with that?

Karauli, Khargone, Jahangirpuri, and Jodhpur were all in the making, and coming, after 1947, largely because one part of the population chooses to not behave and look like the other. Preservation of an exclusive identity looks beautiful only up to a point; beyond that, things turn ugly. Jinnah left for good, but he left behind the arguments.

Now, we are saddled with the quest for solutions. Perpetually. And the solutions are evading us, because it is impossible to argue with an argument that led to one Partition, which in turn was also supposed to be the solution! The Hindu-Muslim divide isn't going anywhere, anytime soon. Saturday, May 7, one of those whose grandfather chose to stay behind tweeted, "We're on the brink of Civil War", only to delete it a short while later.

But not before the Washington Post had read it. This Twitter handle writes a column for the WaPo and routinely tags @JoeBiden, and @KamalaHarris to her tweets. She herself must have got an inkling of the "brink" from Asaduddin Owaisi who had tweeted of a likely 'Khoon Ki Bath' if Gyanvapi is forced to go the Ayodhya way. And from all available indications, things at Gyanvapi are heading the Ayodhya way.

The court-ordered videography of the innards of Varanasi's Gyanvapi mosque is being resisted. "We won't take orders from the court" is the refrain. The itch to discover what all Gyanvapi is covering up be-

hind its impregnable iron gates is irresistible. The resistance to any intrusion is equally stubborn and unrelenting.

There is also the fear that if Modi can repeal the farm laws, he can easily do the same to the Places of Worship Act, 1991. The Places of Worship Act had sought to put an end to disputes over places of worship. They were to retain their characters as it existed on August 15, 1947.

A special exemption was made for the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. The fear is that the BJP/RSS equates Ayodhya, Kashi (Varanasi) and Mathura, as a matter of faith for Hindus. And the Hindutva-isation of Bharat depends on grand temples at these "holy sites" of the Hindus. Mohan Bhagwat's Bharat wouldn't be "akhand" without the Hindutva-isation of these three.

The Hindu religion, it seems from the behaviour of Sangh Parivar is built around Mathura, Ayodhya and Kashi-Varanasi. Ayodhya is accomplished, Gyanvapi is a work in progress, and then it will be the turn of Mathura. So in the days to come, tensions around the Gyanvapi Masjid-Kashi Vishwanath Temple Complex in Varanasi are only bound to rise.

These are all remains of the half-hearted Partition, which divided British India into two but failed to consolidate the India left into a single people. The subsequent Hindu-Muslim divide was a fait accompli considering that the first chance the Hindus, and the Muslims got to live together as a democratic nation continues to be squandered. The tragedy is, we were split, and yet failed to make a clean slate of it.

(IPA Service)

People of Assam will never accept CAA: Akhil Gogoi on Amit Shah's announcement

Agency
Guwahati, May 7:

Rajior Dal president and Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi has said that the people of Assam would never accept the "anti-people" Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). Akhil Gogoi's comments came a day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced in West Bengal that the government would implement the Act as soon as the Covid-19 pandemic ends. "The people of Assam would not accept the dictation of the Centre on CAA," Gogoi told the media. He said that the BJP should realise that all sections of people are against the CAA as it is "an anti-people law". Gogoi, who is also the President of the

Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, had spearheaded the massive protests against the contentious citizenship law in Assam since 2019. At least five people were killed in Assam in police firing and clashes during the violent agitation.

The CAA seeks to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslims minorities—Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, who have migrated from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014, after facing faith-based persecution.

He was arrested in connection with violent protests in the state in 2019 and was charged under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

He was in detention for over one and a half years before being elected to the state

Assembly as an independent MLA in the March-April assembly elections last year.

Amit Shah, while addressing a public rally at the Railway Institute Ground in Siliguri in north Bengal on Thursday, said that some people are saying that CAA would never be implemented in West Bengal.

"But I want to assure you that CAA will be implemented for sure once the Covid-19 situation is totally under control. CAA still has relevance and the Chief Minister (Mamata Banerjee) cannot do anything to stop it from getting implemented," he said.

All eight northeastern states and neighbouring West Bengal witnessed violent protests for many since 2019 and early 2020 against the CAA.

Contd. from Page 1

Banned ULFA-I 'executes' 2 cadres in Assam...

"I had joined ULFA-I for the greed of money and on instigations by Assam police officers. I had tried to escape from the outfit's camp and take along other newly recruited cadres with me. I have realised my mistake and urge youngsters not to take such steps and welcome their own deaths like me," Dhanjit said in the video.

Senior Assam police officials refused to comment on the ULFA-I accusations or veracity of the claims made by the outfit about executing two cadres for allegedly spying on

behalf of the police.

"He had left home on March 22 without informing anything to me. I hope this news isn't true and ULFA-I forgives him and lets him return home," Dhanjit's wife Suman told journalists. The Barpeta resident, who's in his early 30s, used to work as a salesman in a cloth store, and has a four-year-old son.

"I just came to know about the news. They (ULFA-I) shouldn't have killed such a young boy. Sanjib left home in March and would have turned 19 next month. His fa-

ther (who works as a daily wage labourer) left home early in the morning and has no clue about it. What will I tell him when he returns?" said Sanjib's mother Junu Devi.

On April 26, ULFA-I released a video in which Sanjib was seen mentioning that he was sent by senior police officials to infiltrate the outfit and pass on messages about its internal developments to the security agencies. A day later, the outfit released a list of nine persons who were allegedly being trained by police to spy on the outfit.

After the release of the video, joint commissioner of police (Guwahati) Partha Sarathi Mahanta (who was named by Sanjib as having instigated him to infiltrate ULFA) denied the accusations. "I don't know why he took my name," he said.

In recent months, there have been several reports of youngsters from across Assam leaving their homes and jobs in order to join ULFA-I. According to estimates, this year 234 persons have left their homes and families to join the outfit.

According to police and intelligence officers familiar

with the matter, with possibility of peace talks with ULFA-I taking place, many unemployed youngsters who have family problems are starting to join the outfit with a hope of gaining some benefit through rehabilitation packages if a peace deal is signed in the near future.

Police officials familiar with the matter said that while there used to be reports of executions of ULFA-I cadres in the 1990s for alleged violations of the outfit's constitution, such incidents had not been reported in recent years.

Sports

Mumbai Indians snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, Gujarat Titans lose by 5 runs



Agency
Pune, May 7:

Mumbai Indians defeated Gujarat Titans by 5 runs at the Brabourne Stadium on Friday. Chasing 178, Gujarat Titans were 106 for 1 at one stage but then they lost their way down the order as MI, five-time IPL champions, bounced back sensationally to seal the victory.

Mumbai Indians, the most successful IPL team in history, are almost out of the playoffs race but this win clearly meant a lot to them. The five-time champions have had a disastrous campaign and started the season with defeats in their first 8 matches.

On Friday, nothing seemed to be going right for Mumbai Indians despite an impressive opening partnership between Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan. Gujarat Titans restricted MI for 177 and then chased down the target with ease thanks to half-centuries from Wriddhiman Saha and Shubman Gill who were involved in a 106-run opening stand.

Hardik Pandya, who had played with Mumbai Indians until last season, hit a 14-ball 24 to make a significant contribution and David Miller, who has already starred in a few wins for the Titans this year, was looking dangerous. However, MI have Daniel Sams to thank after he gave away only 3 runs when 9 runs were required off the final over.

After GT captain Hardik Pandya won the toss and decided to bowl, MI openers Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan treated the crowd to some stunning stroke-play. Both men had been out of form but on Friday, they brought their A game to the park. Rohit Sharma was the enforcer in a 74-run opening wicket partnership before he fell to Rashid Khan for 43.

Ishan Kishan, who was under pressure to get back among the runs, smashed 45 but perished to Alzarri Joseph.

Mumbai Indians would be rocked further with the failures of Suryakumar Yadav and Kieron Pollard but some superb hitting down the order from Tim David (44 not out) and Tilak Varma (21) helped them reach 177 for 6 off their 20 overs.

Rashid Khan (2 for 24) was the pick of the bowlers for GT after he snared the dangerous-looking Rohit Sharma and Kieron Pollard in a miserly four-over spell.

Wriddhiman Saha led the charge for Gujarat Titans in their chase of 178. He made a late entry to the playing XI but after a poor start against Chennai Super Kings, Saha made 25, 68, 29 and 21 before Friday's clash against Mumbai Indians.

Saha was merciless against Jasprit Bumrah, hitting him for 2 fours and 1 six in his first over. That set the tone for GT's chase and Shubman Gill joined in the fun as the top-ranked team this season raced away to 54 for no loss in the powerplay.

Daniel Sams had given away only 1 run in the opening over of the GT innings but Shubman Gill hit him for three successive boundaries in his second over and the writing was already on the wall for MI.

Wriddhiman Saha continued to play the lead role in an explosive opening partnership but Gill caught up with some classy shots and GT had stormed to 95 for no loss in 10 overs.

It was a brilliant batting performance from the duo.

Saha and Gill brought up their half-centuries and added 106 for the opening wicket to put MI on the brink of elimination. But both batters were dismissed by Murugan Ashwin in his final over and as Rohit Sharma perhaps sniffed an improbable victory.

Sai Sudharsan got out in

bizarre fashion when he was hit wicket to Kieron Pollard but GT skipper and former MI star Hardik Pandya smashed a quick 24 off 14 balls to bring GT closer to the target. His run-out in the 18th over brought together David Miller and Rahul Tewatia with GT still needing 22 off 14 balls.

MI had to defend 20 runs off the last two overs against two of the best finishers this season but that wasn't to be. Miller hit the penultimate ball of the penultimate over from Bumrah for a six and the equation was down to 9 runs off the last over after Miller ran a single off the last ball of the 19th over.

It looked like it was all over for Mumbai Indians but Daniel Sams was in no mood to give up. He gave away only three runs despite bowling three balls to the dangerous David Miller.

Rohit Sharma has been in poor form this season. Before Friday, he had scored only 188 runs from 10 matches at an average of 20.89. He started well with a fluent 41 against Delhi Capitals and looked good against Lucknow Super Giants when he scored 39 but overall, it has been a horror campaign. What has made matters so complicated for MI is Rohit Sharma's own form. Ishan Kishan's torrid season after a good start and lack of wickets from Jasprit Bumrah.

Avinash Sable smashes 30-year-old 5000m national record in US



Agency
San Juan Capistrano, May 7:

India's Avinash Sable smashed a 30-year-old record of Bahadur Prasad in 5000m. The 27-year-old from Maharashtra set a new national record with a timing of 13:25.65 at the Sound Running Track meet in San Juan Capistrano, USA.

Sable, an army man from a humble family in the Beed district of Maharashtra broke Bahadur Prasad's long-standing record of 13:29.70 set in Birmingham in 1992.

Sable finished 12th in the meet and has been training in the USA for upcoming international events.

Sable, who also holds the national record in his pet event of 3000m steeplechase and competed in the Tokyo Olympics, clocked 13 minutes and 25.65 seconds while finishing 12th in the American Meet.

Norway's Tokyo Olympics 1500m gold winner Jakob Ingebrigtsen won the race with a timing of 13:02.03s.

The Sound Running

Track Meet is a World Athletics Continental Tour bronze level event.

Sable is known for breaking his own 3000m steeplechase national record multiple times. He did it for the seventh time during the Indian Grand Prix 2 in Thiruvananthapuram in March with a time of 8:16.21s.

He had also set a then-national record of 8:18.12s during the Tokyo Olympics. He has already qualified for the World Championships to be held in Eugene, USA from July 15 to 24.