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'Black September' observance: Floral tributes paid to 53 martyrs



'Black September' observance_ Floral tributes paid to 53 Meitei martyrs

KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU

IMPHAL, 17 SEPT

Amid hosting black flags, several Meitei women attired in black

dresses paid floral tributes to the photos of the martyrs who lost their lives during the ongoing conflict. The womenfolk paid tributes to the photos of 53 Meitei

martyrs that were placed on a board atop.

The board also presented the token of appreciation to the families of 53 people, who were killed in the current crisis while defending the territorial integrity and identity of Manipur.

Hosting the black flags and paying tributes were held as a part of the "Black September" observance from September 3-21 on Sunday night.

The Black September is being observed by the Meitei FAMBBI as a mark of condemnation against Prime Minister Modi and the central and paramilitary forces for practicing "oppressive tactics" and governmental negligence owing to ethnic conflict. Meitei FAMBBI is an assembly represent-

ing the Meitei population in Manipur.

According to Ningthouja Lancha, Meitei FAMBBI's spokesperson, consultative meetings are being held in different locations in the valley districts until September 21, with the goal of uniting various communities under one platform. Notably, the armed conflict between the Meiteis and Kuis that started on May 3, has killed 175 individuals. It has displaced more than 60,000 residents. Both groups are armed with automatic weapons, rifles, pistols, extra rounds of ammunition, hand grenades, and mortars. However, the governments at the center and state are trying to find a political solution arising out of the bloody conflicts.

Former Tripura CM arrives in a chartered flight to Agartala from Haryana for a day visit



TRIPURA BUREAU AGARTALA 17 SEP

Former Chief Minister Biplap Kumar Deb and present Rajya Sabha MP from Tripura arrived in Agartala directly from Haryana in a chartered flight around 1.30 PM today. He landed at Agartala Airport directly from Haryana in a chartered flight to attend a program of Bhagwan Das, another former minister at Kumarghat.

Then he went to Kumarghat by a helicopter from the Agartala Maharaja Bir Bikram airport.

While the former CM of the state chartered a flight to reach his home state, the current Chief Minister of the state Dr. Manik Saha returned to the state from Delhi today via Kolkata in a scheduled flight of Air India.

Source from the airport informed that, MP Biplap Kumar Deb left the chartered plane brought from Haryana at MBB airport and went to Kumarghat by a helicopter. From there again he reached MBB airport by helicopter and left the state by the same chartered plane late afternoon. MBB Airport sources informed that a BJP leader from Haryana accompanied the former Chief Minister. A former state minister Bhagwan Das organized a special fair on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday at Kumarghat. Several BJP leaders close to former minister Bhagwan Das also went to Kumarghat from the capital Agartala to attend the event.

Peace begins with you', youth activist tells UN forum

UN News

UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Thursday reiterated his call to action for countries across the world to establish peace forged through sustainable development, human rights and a healthy environment.

Achieving peace is neither automatic nor a vision, Mr. Guterres said in a video message to a special event on youth for peace.

"Peace is the result of action. Let us commit to build, drive and sustain peace for all," he emphasized.

The event showcased the actions and commitments of young people – in their communities, schools and countries – in boosting progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

'Something special'

Florence Ifeoluwa Otedola, better known as DJ Cuppy, remarked that every young person has "something unique and special" that indicates they can make the world a better place.

"That is pretty epic," she said.

She highlighted the importance of young people for improving engagement with the wider world and as a way of helping lift each other up.

"I believe, as humans, we have to as much as we can for as long as we can [...] and so can you – it's about finding your gift and just getting started," DJ Cuppy told UN News.

"Peace begins with you," she added.

'Torch bearers'

Also speaking at the event, Jayathma Wickramanayake, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth recounted her own experience growing up in Sri Lanka during the civil war, wondering how the violence had become so brutal.

"I found that the root cause of the war was much deeper – it went down to discrimination, poverty and inequality," she said, underscoring the need for dignity and development for peace.

"Youth are the torch bearers for peace, human rights and sustainable development."

Ms. Wickramanayake also announced that Thursday marked the end of her tenure as Youth Envoy, ending six years of engagement with the UN.

PM Modi launches 'PM Vishwakarma' Scheme for traditional artisans and craftspeople



NEW DELHI, 17 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'PM Vishwakarma Scheme' for traditional artisans and craftspeople on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti, from New Delhi today. The Prime Minister also

launched the PM Vishwakarma logo, tagline and portal. He also released a customized stamp sheet, a tool kit e-booklet and video on the occasion. The Prime Minister distributed Vishwakarma Certificates to 18 beneficiaries. The event took place at ap-

proximately 70 venues across the nation, as part of the whole-of-government strategy to increase beneficiary awareness.

The Prime Minister underlined the contribution and importance of the Vishwakarmas in the everyday life of the country. He remarked that Vishwakarmas will always remain significant in society, no matter the advancements made in technology. He said that it is the need of the hour that Vishwakarmas are recognised and supported. He further said that the world over big companies sub-let their work to small enterprises. "This outsourced work should come to our Vishwakarma friends and they become a part of the global supply chain, we are working for this. That is why this scheme is an effort to take the Vishwakarma friends into the modern age", the Prime Minister said.

A substantial financial outlay of Rs 13,000 Crores has been allocated for the upliftment of artisans and crafts persons across the country, encompassing 18 traditional trades in its inaugural phase. Credit Support up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche), with concession interest rate of 5%, will empower traditional artisans and craftspeople financially.

Dima Hasao: CEM Distributes School Bus to four schools



ANUP BISWAS HAILONG 17 SEP

Chief Executive Member, Dima Hasao Autonomous Council Debolal Gorlosa distributed school buses to four schools in Dima Hasao on Sunday.

In this connection a well attended meeting was held at CEM's residence premises where members of managing committees were present.

CEM in his speech highlighted the achievements of council and students in the field of education throughout the district and also encouraged the students community in their pursuit of higher studies. He assured the managing committees that the council will leave no stone unturned in the matter of educa-

tion. He wished every success to all the schools. The schools received the school buses are DHAC CEM Distributes School Bus to four schools. Chief Executive Member, Dima Hasao Autonomous Council Debolal Gorlosa distributed school buses to four schools in Dima Hasao on Sunday.

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The schools receiving the school buses are Ever Green HS School, Maibang, Sainja Valley High School, Maibang, K.S.Thaosan Saraswati Vidya Mandir High School, Langting and Veerangona Jaya Thaosan Memorial Dimasa Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Hajadisa.

Mention may be made here that all the buses were Donated by Debolal Gorlosa CEM, DHAC Under the CEM's Pilot Project, Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, Hailong.

WHO SAID WHAT



How did most of the legacy media go from superheroes of free speech to supervillains of speech suppression?

~ Elon Musk, Owner X

KRC TIMES

STAY-ENRICHED

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 70

REBUILD MANIPUR | EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE NEEDS TO FUNCTION WITHOUT ANY HINDRANCE

Educational institutes in Manipur need to function without any hindrance as the state is going through a difficult time due to the conflict from May 3. The education sector is badly hurt by the mobile internet ban being imposed from the May of this year till date and there is no roadmap to open the service is visible in the near future

Now that students have already suffered it is imperative that physical classes should continue in order to cover the curriculum and students should be able to attend classes.

Recently we have seen that some central government institutes were given diktak to close down by local populace in protest against the killing of civilians by Assam Rifles. These protests and reactions are very much a natural reaction by the common man and could be also democratic in nature as non-cooperation movement is part of a democratic protest but here what we need to also understand is that it is our own children who are going to suffer.

The student unions of Manipur have also requested the general public and pressure groups not to involve educational institutes in such closures.

Even though the educational institutes have reopened after a day or two days of lockdown, it has set a bad precedent and created a speed breaker in the flow of operations.

At the end of the academic session our children have to compete with others across the country and it would be very detrimental if we the youths are left behind because of this conflict. They are no way connected to the conflict and they should not be dragged into it. This is not why we send our children to academics, they need to pursue their studies and do their work with peace of mind and focus. The staff and teachers also need to attend institutions without any hindrance.

I always believed that this conflict needs political and military resolution. The dialogue and maintenance of security measures are the job of politicians and administration and that common people should not get involved into the conflict. Yes we should protest and make our political leaders responsible, equally true is that we have to maintain our sanity, our economy and let our daily life carry on without any hindrance.

Quote of the day

"EVERY WORD HAS CONSEQUENCES.
EVERY SILENCE, TOO."
~ JEAN-PAUL SARTRE, FRENCH
PHILOSOPHER

G-20 & Environment Justice AMBITIOUS TARGETS, BIG CHALLENGE

DHURJATI MUKHERJEE

Just a day before the G-20 summit, the UN climate body stated that limiting the warming to 1.50 C above pre-industrial levels was virtually impossible as progress has still been inadequate. This is quite evident from the fact that the Earth had its hottest three months (June-August) on record, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service, with August estimated to have been around 1.50C warmer than the pre-industrial average for 1850-1900.

Scientists are unanimous that these soaring temperatures are caused by atmospheric carbon dioxide linked to emissions from fossil fuels at 419.2 parts per million (ppm), which is very much on the higher side. An important aspect of the warming may be attributed to the destruction of tropical forests in many countries, and India is no exception and forests are now found to release stored carbon with part of the Amazon rainforests emitting more than they absorb. All this leads one to the conclusion that the year 2023 breaching the 1.50C temperature threshold is in sync with the World Meteorological Organisation's prediction.

In its first global stock take, the UNFCCC reiterated what is well known that global emissions are not in line with desired goals and countries urgently need to set more ambitious targets to reduce GHG emissions further by 60 per cent by 2035 compared to 2019 levels. Though this is considered a prerequisite to save the world from the disastrous consequences of climate change such as extreme weather events, desertification, food crises, biodiversity loss etc, the chances of this becoming a reality is indeed remote.

In such a distressing scenario it is believed that the G-20 summit under India's presidency aptly highlighted the notion of environmental justice from the viewpoint of the Global South and achieved a lot through skilful negotiations and consensus. Developed countries are of the opinion that ecological problems have accentuated due to population growth in Asia, Africa and Latin America. However, the Third World countries have been advocating that in the Western world imperialism coupled with rampant industrialisation has been at the root of the looming environmental crisis. Thus,

to put a brake on accentuating global warming, the present summit has rightly focussed on the need for sharing technology and finance.

The G-20 Delhi Declaration has taken note of this and come out with some unique solutions apart from the usual resolve to fight together for a safe and liveable planet. It underscored the need to mobilise \$5.8 trillion from all sources by 2030 for developing countries to implement their nationally determined contributions (NDCs). It goes without saying that the global ecological agenda needs to reflect on shared concerns but how much the West is willing to share with the developing world needs to be seen in the coming years.

However, apart from technology transfer and credit requirements, there is a need for every country to be more aggressive in reducing its carbon footprint. Not that countries, specially the emerging economies, are not taking action but more stringent plans need to be evolved and this has been clearly outlined by the UNFCCC. The question arises how much can be done, keeping in view the needs of industrialisation for growth and development of such a huge population. And this is especially true of India.

According to a recent interview of Lord Nicholas Stern of the London School of Economics, the investments needed at this juncture are around 2 to 3 percent of GDP and more in the emerging economies. "A great deal can be financed internally through the government's resource mobilisation, private capital markets etc. — those numbers are around one trillion dollars a year by 2030 outside China". The estimated trillion dollars needed is indeed impossible for developing countries to garner unless external help comes. As regards India, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) of 2015 has been a huge success and so is Modi's LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative which shows how people can make changes in everyday life to prioritise both efficiency and ecosystems. In the very preamble to the New Delhi Declaration, LiFE has been recognised as an important tool to address development and climate challenges and conserve biodiversity, forests and oceans.

And now a very significant achieve-

ment of the G-20 Declaration has been the formation of the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA). This would be a second India-led platform after the ISA. Not just the US, but also Italy, Kenya, UAE and Brazil — the world's second largest biofuel producer — underlined the need for sharing best practices across policy, technology and implementation. As is well known, biofuels are derived from a variety of biomass and considered a low carbon, affordable and sustainable source of energy. In India, the government is pushing biofuels such as ethanol blending of petrol and compressed biogas (CBG) to reduce the economy's carbon footprint, dependence on imported oil and raise incomes of farmers.

No less crucial is the 'Green Development Pact for a Sustainable Future' where the G-20 leaders promised to pursue efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally through existing targets and policies. As these countries are responsible for 80 percent of GFG emissions and though global warming may exceed the targeted 1.50C, there is a need to mobilise resources for controlling emissions to the extent possible.

Though conferences such as the G-20 spell out ambitious programmes, these may sometimes be difficult for governments to carry out. After the two years of the pandemic, the global economy has taken a beating and most countries have huge debts. In such a scenario, huge investments are needed. There are indications that a \$100 billion contribution to the Green Climate Fund from developed countries — a goal they had committed to be met by 2020 — may be in the offing. This is definitely a great achievement that the G-20 leaders accomplished. That the looming environment crisis is a great challenge before the world cannot be doubted and the G-20 has taken a step forward in resolving some of these issues. With the determination to triple renewable energy globally by 2030, the Delhi Declaration resolved to reduce emissions by 43 per cent (relative to the 2019 levels) by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050. Though some of the targets may be too ambitious, the positive outlook and the enthusiasm generated needs to be hailed. — (INFA)

ANANTNAG TERRORIST STRIKE PEACE FRAGILE IN J&K!

INSAF

The temporary lull in terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir has been broken, putting a big question mark on the Centre's claim that normalcy has more or less returned. On Wednesday last, an Army Colonel Manpreet Singh, commanding officer of 19 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Ashish Dhonack, and Deputy Superintendent Humayun Bhat were killed in a gunfight with terrorists in Garol area of Anantnag district. And though the Home Ministry data says there has been a 32% reduction in acts of terror between 2019 and 2022, recently there have been other renewed attacks on security targets south of the Pri Panjal range in Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch.

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said, 'such incidents will continue if there is no dialogue. . . India and Pakistan

will have to come to the dialogue table if they want to end bloodshed and find lasting peace in J&K'. Indeed, peace is fragile in the Union Territory and the Centre will need to ensure that it can't let down the guard, even as it boasted of a successful meeting of the G-20 in Kashmir. There is a need for continuing vigilance and a better vigilance network. At the same time, the Opposition should be more responsible. Unfortunately, in today's charged political atmosphere, the INDIA bloc has sought to score brownie points and hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing him of 'silence' over the incident and instead being felicitated at the BJP headquarters over the G20 Summit success and was campaigning in Madhya Pradesh. No healing touch for the families.

The Congress said, 'Modi can't postpone receiving accolades no

matter what happens'; the AAP said Modi was "celebrating the G20" while the families of the four soldiers who died in J&K were in "shock". It also recalled that Modi was busy shooting a show with a television host Bear Grylls at the time of the Pulwama attack. Sharing the video of the rousing welcome accorded to Modi at party headquarters, Shiv Sena-Uddhav Thackeray faction said 'this could have been postponed, expected more sensitivity, especially on a day when our security forces have fought a fierce fight with militants in Kashmir'; RJD leader Manoj Jha slammed the BJP saying the ruling party held 'celebrations at its headquarters even as three soldiers and a police officer were killed in a gunbattle with terrorists.'

Playing politics over the tragic killings in Anantnag should have been a no-go.

Manipur joins nationwide launch of PM Vishwakarma Scheme

BISWADEEP GUPTA
IMPHAL, SEPT 17

Manipur joined the nationwide launch of PM Vishwakarma scheme by organizing a solemn function at the Sangai Hall of the Hotel Imphal. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai were present in the programme held today.

The Chief Minister stated that the focus of the scheme is driven by the desire to not only support the artisans and craftspeople financially, but also to keep the age-old traditions, culture and diverse heritage alive and flourishing through local products, art and crafts.

N. Biren appreciated the Prime Minister for introducing such an important scheme which will help improve the livelihood of many talented artisans and craftsmen and also develop its scale of operation. He also extended his best wishes to the Prime Minister on his birthday.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai stated that it is an important day for all artisans and craftsmen of the country as an important scheme is being introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which will create a new developmental path ahead. The Minister continued that the Prime Minister has always been giving priority to North-



eastern states, when it comes to development. As such, the Minister representing all the people of northeast states conveyed his best wishes to the Prime Minister on his birthday.

Nityanand Rai was hopeful that the talented artisans and craftsmen of Manipur will be much benefited by the scheme, in scaling up their operations.

Under the PM Vishwakarma scheme, artisans and craftsmen will be

provided recognition and support through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, Skill upgradation involving basic and advanced training, Toolkit incentive of ₹15,000, Collateral-free credit support up to ₹1 lakh (first tranche) and ₹2 lakh (second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5% and Incentives for digital transactions and marketing support among others.

The gathering at the function venue

led by the Chief Minister and the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs also witnessed the live stream of the national level launching programme of the scheme held at YashoBhoomi, Dwarka with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the Chief Guest where PM Modi also dedicated the first phase of the India International Convention Centre (IICC), named YashoBhoomi in Dwarka to the nation.

Tripura: Two sentenced to 20 years imprisonment convicted for rape of minor girl

DHARMANAGAR, SEPT 17

A Special Court in Dharmanagar sentenced two persons Kandarua Orang aged 29 and Pinti Orang aged 25 to twenty years of rigorous imprisonment for rapping a minor girl at Sundhibasa area of Rahumcherra ADC Village under Damcharra Police Station in North Tripura District. Judge Angshuman Debbarma delivering his judgment on Saturday also imposed a Rs 10,000 fine or imprisonment for another six months.

The crime was committed on August 17, 2017 evening. Two convicts had abducted a minor girl from their neighbour when she had gone to fetch water from a well. They took her to a nearby jungle and raped. Another person Basia Orang also was accused but got released due to lack of evidence.

It was the second incident of conviction for a rapping minor girl in Dharmanagar in the last fortnight. The same judge convicted another two persons on August 30 in a similar allegation. Sudarshan Sharma, a government advocate expressed happiness over the verdict and said such convictions will send a strong message in the society.

Police confront mob

IMPHAL, Sep 17: Police and RAF personnel resorted to firing tear gas shells and mock bombs to disperse people who converged at Porompat police station of Imphal East district on Saturday night.

It is alleged that five volunteers were picked up by a combined team of police and Central security force with arms and ammunition. However, from where they were picked up could not be ascertained.

Demanding immediate and unconditional release of the village volunteers, a large number of people thronged the Porompat police station on Saturday night, around 10 pm.

As the people refused to disperse themselves despite repeated warning, police personnel at Porompat police station fired several rounds of tear gas shells and mock bombs to scare away them.

A team of RAF also rushed to the spot and joined the police in the efforts to disperse the people.

The firing of tear gas shells and mock bombs continued till around 1 am and several people sustained minor injuries in the melee, reports said.

DEATH IN ISOLATION

SUSHANTA ROY

DIPHU: A youth was found dead inside a rubber estate located near Rongnong-eh village within the general area of Matipung, Diphu on Friday in extreme isolation.

Later police identified the dead as Eliyas Engti aged around twenty six years, and resident of Diphu town. Family members of the deceased told the media that he was a consistent drinker and preferred to stay in that rubber farm in a temporary shelter. After the official investigation by an executive magistrate the dead body was sent to the Diphu Medical College and Hospital for autopsy.

QUEST!

Studies have suggested that gifted people often have bad handwriting because their brains are working faster than their hands.

Indian Army on leave killed by gunmen in Manipur

KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU
IMPHAL, 17 SEP

An Indian Army Soldier on leave was abducted and shot dead by unknown armed men at an area at Khumethek village under the Sagolmang police station in Imphal East district of Manipur on Sunday, the police said. Sepoy Serto Thangthang Kom, 39, was on leave and was abducted from his home in Tarung, Neikanlong, Happy Valley, Imphal West district on Saturday at around 10 a.m.

The statement of his 10-year-old son, who is the only eyewitness to the crime, said that three miscre-



ants entered the home while the father and son were working on the porch, placed a pistol on his

father's head, and forced him into a white-colored car, and drove away with him.

His body was found at Khuningthek Village, East of Mongjam under Sogolmang Police Station, Imphal East on Sunday at around 9 am. His identity was confirmed by his Brother and Brother-in-law, who stated that the soldier had been murdered by a single bullet in his head. His body was deposited at the mortuary of the JNIMS hospital, Imphal East district on Sunday for legal proceedings.

A defense wing press statement said that the Brave Soldier who was deployed at Leimakhong Military

Station, Manipur, and breathed his last at the hand of miscreants is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. The last rites shall be conducted as per the wishes of the family. The army has rushed a team to assist the bereaved family in all manners possible.

Army strongly condemns the killing of Sep Serto Thangthang Kom and stands by his family in these difficult times. The Kom tribe is one of the indigenous people of Manipur and one of the smallest among the minorities in the state. The Kom tribe has always maintained neutrality in all matters in the state.

Developed nations' outlook towards India has changed: Kiren Rijiju



ITANAGAR, 17 SEP

Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday asserted that developed nations' outlook towards India has changed significantly under the leadership of Minister Narendra Modi who is considered as a great leader globally while addressing a function on the occasion of the launch of the PM

Vishwakarma scheme, which envisages providing support to traditional artisans and craftspeople here on DK Convention Hall, Itanagar.

Talking about the PM Vishwakarma scheme launched by Modi, Rijiju said that the cabinet committee on economic affairs has recently allotted Rs 13,000

crore for the scheme, which would be available for traditional artisans and craftspeople for five financial years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

Rijiju said that artisans can register themselves on the PM Vishwakarma portal using biometrics. "They will get recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, their skills will be upgraded through basic and advanced training, they will get toolkit incentive of Rs 15,000, collateral-free credit support up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) at a

concessional interest rate of 5 per cent, besides incentives for digital transactions and marketing support," he said.

"The importance of traditional artisans in Arunachal Pradesh has reduced with the passage of time and now they can upgrade their skills through the scheme," Rijiju said, while calling upon the youth of the state to take advantage of the scheme for self-employment.

Urging youth not to look down upon any work, he said the dignity of labour must be upheld at any cost. The Minister further said the focus of development in the state will be on income generation. "Arunachal Pradesh will be at the top in the country in terms of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP). If we can tap even 30 percent of our hydro-power resources, we will become a financially self-sufficient state within the next few years," Rijiju added. Earlier, speaking on the occasion, state Labour Minister, Tumke Bagra mentioned that there are 9,600 enlisted artisans in the state, besides 9,200 weavers, who would get immense benefits from the 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme.

DoNER Minister Calls for Timely Finish of Lengpui Airport Upgradation by October 2023

AIZAWL, SEPT 17

The Minister of State for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), B L Verma, has urged state government officials in Mizoram to expedite the ongoing work for the improvement and upgradation of Lengpui Airport, with a target completion date of October 2023. The Minister's call for timely completion came during his visit to inaugurate the Prime Minister Vishwakarma Scheme, an initiative under the Ministry of Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises, which aims to boost the region's industrial growth.

As B L Verma landed at Lengpui Airport, he took stock of the 'Improvement/Upgradation of Operational/Non-Operational facilities of Lengpui Airport' project under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS).

A brief but significant meeting took place at the Lengpui Airport VIP Lounge, where the Minister, along with officials from the Ministry of DoNER, engaged with representatives from the Public Works Department (PWD) and the General Administration Department (Aviation Wing). The discussions centred around the progress of the



ongoing project, with a strong emphasis on its timely completion.

Although the initial completion date was set for December 4, 2023, the Union Minister reminded officials that during his visit to the airport on April 11, 2023, he had expressed the desire for it to be completed by October 2023. He encouraged all stakeholders to work diligently

to meet this revised deadline. During his visit, the Minister inspected various ongoing works at the airport, including the Elevated Road, Departure Lounge, Baggage Make-Up Area, and other crucial facilities.

PWD and GAD officials explained that due to the nature of electrical work, which is funded through the SASCI (Special Accelerated Road Construction Programme in the

North East), expediting progress was found to be challenging. Accompanying the Minister were GAD Secretary K. Lalthawmmawia; Planning & Programme Implementation Secretary Lalmalsawma Pachuau, Principal Consultant of Aviation Wing Cdr. (Rtd) J. Lalthmingliana and senior officials from PWD, GAD, and the Planning Department.

Online betting App: ED seizes assets worth Rs 417 crore

NEW DELHI

Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has seized assets worth Rs 417 crore after conducting searches against the money laundering networks linked with alleged Mahadev Online Betting App in various cities.

According to the ED statement, it has conducted searches at 39 locations across Raipur, Bhopal, Mumbai and Kolkata and has seized illegal assets worth Rs 417 Crore. ED has also earnestly taken up investigation abroad. "The investigation into the matter has revealed that two persons who hail from Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, are the main promoters of Mahadev Online Book and are running their operations from Dubai," read the statement. ED had earlier conducted searches in Chhattisgarh and arrested four accused including the Chief liaisoner of this betting syndicate which was organizing payment of the bribes to senior government functionaries as 'protection money', claimed ED statement.

Swachh Sagar Surkashit Sagar: Mega beach clean-up drives at 79 locations on International Coastal Cleanup Day

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) conducted mega citizen-led beach clean-up drives at 79 locations in 8 coastal states and 4 UTs of the country on Saturday that continued on Sunday to mark International Coastal Clean-up Day. The event was aimed to encourage citizens to clean up the coastal line and create awareness about preserving and protecting the oceans and waterways.

It witnessed mass participation from government institutions, NGOs, students and youth, local dwellers, and the public. Over five thousand volunteers helped clean about 18 tons of waste. At 12 select locations, Fisherfolk Awareness Programs to educate coastal communities about the services of the MoES were organised along with the beach clean-up drive.



The 2023 Swachh Sagar Surkashit Sagar beach clean-up drives by five MoES institutes—Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Na-

tional Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), National Centre for Ocean and Polar Research (NCPOR), Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), and National Centre for Earth System Sciences

(NCESS)—got associated many volunteers and NGOs making it a one-of-its-kind successful event.

"Our oceans are vital to our survival, for regulating the climate and weather, which impact livelihood and economy, are home to valuable resources, and nurture a large share of biodiversity of this planet. The International Coastal Clean-up Day serves as a reminder for all of us to keep our coasts clean and our oceans safe", said Dr M Ravichandran, Secretary, MoES. He also mentioned Ozone Day on the occasion coinciding with International Coastal Clean-up Day on September 16, 2023.

The International Coastal Clean-up Day is observed annually worldwide on the third Saturday of September every year. In 2022, the Ministry of Earth Sciences coordinated

the inter-ministerial Swachh Sagar Surkashit Sagar (clean coast, safe sea) campaign as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav of the Government of India. The Swachh Sagar Surkashit Sagar 2022 was a 75-day long campaign covering 75 beaches with 75 volunteers every kilometre of the coastline, making the event a hugely successful mass public participatory and awareness initiative.

MoES services (by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, i.e., INCOIS) for fisherfolk and coastal communities include potential fishing zone advisories, Tuna advisories, ocean state forecasts and alerts, such as for tsunamis, storm surges, swell surges, etc. Ocean-related information is made available to more than 4 lakh beneficiaries every day through the latest modes of digital communication, such as mobile apps, SMS, and websites.



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Celebrating North East India Festival at Milan by NEIFT



The night of 9th September, 2023 at Milan City transformed into an amalgamation of a Mini North East India at the historical venue of Villa Necchi Campiglio in the heart of the city. The occasion was the 17th Edition of the prestigious Celebrating North East India Festival organized by North East Institute of Fashion Technology (NEIFT) and Consulate General of India, Milan.

Vikram Rai Medhi, The Festival Director along with Ajungla Jamir, Consul General of Milan welcomed the packed house and felicitated few of the Dignitaries which included Luca Bernardo, Councilor of the

Municipality of Milan and Vice President of the Anti-Mafia Commission of Italy, Sabrina Pane, Deputy Prefect of Milan, Denise Mutton, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Kang Hyung-Shik, Consul General of the Republic of South Korea, Kobayashi Toshiaki, Consul General of Japan, Dr Stjepan Ribic, Consul General of Croatia, Hadil Da Rocha-Vianna, Consul General Brazil, Michelangela Vismara, Consul General Bahamas, U.P. Singh, Former Secretary Textiles & Jal Shakti, Govt. of India, Federick Roy Kharkongar, Commissioner Secretary Art & Culture, Govt. of Meghalaya, Dr. Ritu Ranjan, representing Lok

Ranjan, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India, etc.

Representatives from the Diplomatic Incorp. Of United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, Brazil, Austria, Poland and a large Contingent of the Who's Who of Fashion Houses such as Gucci, Prada, Christian Dior, Louis Vuitton, Burberry, Valentino, Versace, Giorgio Armani etc. attended the Festival in large numbers. Design Faculties and Academicians from various prestigious Universities of Lombardy were seen in the Event.

Vikram Rai Medhi, CEO NEIFT spoke passionately about the 16 years journey of this festival and expressed his gratitude to all for coming and showing the support to make the 17 Edition at Milan, The Fashion Capital of the World such a huge success.

Eight talented Designers from North East India, Robert Naorem, Daniel Syiem, Priyanka D Patwari, Barsha Phukan, Escape Engmoia, Pella, Kashmiri and Huangpi Gogoi presented a colorful, vibrant and handcrafted Fashion Show with a lineup of Top International Models from Milan Fashion Industry along with North East India Models.

ICCR, Govt. of India presented various forms of Folk Dances from NER. Upcoming Artists from Assam Aaryaman enthralled the audience with Songs composed and sung by him. Nagaland Tourism and Meghalaya Tourism mesmerized the International Audience with their captivating Tourism Videos which the organizers believe will excite the European Community to visit these two beautiful States of NER.

The Poolside of Villa Necchi Campiglio looked majestic and beautiful with the Get Together of such an International Gathering of various Nations, Fashion Fraternity, Civil Society, Academicians, Media Fraternity etc. coming together to celebrate the spirit and vibrancy of our exotic North East Region. The Associates of the Festival was Ministry of DoNER, North Eastern Council, Ministry of Textiles, Meghalaya Tourism, Nagaland Tourism, Office of DC Handicrafts, KVIC, Oil India Ltd., NeDFi, NEHDC, Silk Mark, Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR), ICCI. Rai Medhi announced at the finale that this festival is travelling to various countries to highlight our North East India.

Govt holds meeting with the Floor Leaders of Political Parties in the Parliament


NEW DELHI: A meeting of the Government with Floor Leaders of all Political Parties was held under the Chairmanship of Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence here today, a day before the start of the 13th Session of 17th Lok Sabha and 261st Session of Rajya Sabha commencing from Monday, the 18th September, 2023 and subject to exigencies of Government Business, which may conclude on Friday, the 22nd September, 2023.

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs initiating the meeting, after welcoming all floor leaders, stated that the Session will provide 5 sittings spread over a period of 5 days, besides informing that tentatively 8 legislative items are likely to be taken up during this session.

He also informed that a discussion will be held on the subject "Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha-Achievements, Experiences,

Memories and Learnings" on Monday, the 18th of September, 2023. He shared with leaders that there would be a photo session from 10.00 am to 10.45 am on 19th September, 2023 followed by a function in the Central Hall starting at 11.00 a.m. which will be graced by the Vice-President/Chairman, Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Leader of Largest Opposition Party in Lok Sabha and the Members of both the Houses of Parliament. After conclusion of function in the Central Hall, both the Houses will meet in their respective Chambers in the New Parliament House.

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi requested all party leaders for active cooperation and support for the smooth functioning of the two Houses of Parliament.



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