

Insurgency related incident drops in NE states

IT News Imphal, Jan 18: Insurgency related incidents in the North East states registered drastic drops this year. According to official source, there were no insurgency related incidents in Tripura in 2017. General Assembly election of Tripura is scheduled on February 18. Mizoram too registered no insurgency related incidents in 2017, the official source said. In 2000 altogether 1,963 insurgency related incidents were reported in North Eastern states, in 2017 the number of insurgency related incidents come down to 308, the home ministry official source said. It added that the number of abductions reported in all the North East States went down by 36 % last year compare to 2016. Number of security forces killed last year was 12 and the civilian killed also registered drastic drop.

Govt announces \$350 mn for Solar Projects

Source AIR New Delhi, Jan 18: Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh has announced a 350 million dollar Solar Development Fund by the government for Solar Projects Financing. Delivering the keynote address at a two-day International Solar Alliance (ISA) Forum in Abu Dhabi, Mr Singh said, India has one of the fastest growing Renewable Energy programmes in the world and would achieve 175 Gigawatt target of installed Renewable Energy capacity well before 2020.

The Minister said, over the years, Renewable Energy has become cheaper and is set to replace conventional energy, which is a healthy development. He expressed hope that ISA shall help mobilise sufficient funds for solar energy projects.

Manipur Paddler won Gold

IT News Imphal, Jan 18: India's international paddler Onam Jamesboy won gold medal in 28th National Canoe Sprint Championship 2018 in the event of men's canoe single 200mtr. The paddler represented Services team. He was a member of the Indian team which won bronze medal in 17th Asian Canoe Sprint Championships 2017, China.

Lack of proper infrastructures irk Jiribam locals Journalists, Civil Society leaders of Jiribam district urge authority for opening of dist. DIO office, DRDO and Transport office

IT News Jiribam, Jan 18: Journalists working at various media houses of the state from Jiribam have urged the government authority for opening of at least a District Information office (DIO) for the district while representatives of the Civil Society organization wanted the government to establish a DRDO and Transport office in the district at the earliest possible time. Speaking on the 2nd day of the 13th annual conference of the All Jiribam Working Journalists' Union (AJWJU) at PWD Guest House Jiribam recently, Dr. Ch. Kamal, Retd. Assistant Professor said that even though the Jiribam Sub Division has been upgraded to a full-fledged administrative district on the midnight of December 8, 2016, people still

face inconveniences as the state government is yet to establish various infrastructures for the district. "We understand the problems being faced by the government, but they should at least open a Transport Office and the DRDO office for the district", Dr. Kamal said while speaking on the occasion. He further added that Jiribam is 210 kilometer from Imphal the problem that were face by the public for transport department matters and also for development matter still continue as the district is yet to have a District Transport Office as well as the DRDO. There are many still yet to be opened but the urgent necessities should be open in the interest of the people. Ng. Bishwajit, President of the All Jiribam Working

Journalists Union (AJWJU) said that journalists working in the region faced many problems as there is no district information office for Jiribam. Every problems faced by the Journalists from the newly created district which is related with the media have to be depended at Imphal which is about a day journey as the condition of the 210 Kilometer stretch road is still yet to be improved. Government is working hard for improvement of the Jiribam-Imphal road stretch but many portions are still yet to be improved. At present where there is no rain, it still takes nearly 8 hours for passenger vehicles to reach Imphal from Jiribam. Sometimes it is even more as the vehicles have to be stranded due to repairing works of Barak Bailey Bridge

and others. "If the road construction works being underway at Makru area is not completed before rainy season nothing is going to be changed even though it has been upgraded to district status", M. Hemanta, Ex-President of Jiribam Development Organisation said. On the other hand N. Dhamendra, General Secretary of All Jiribam United Club Association said that the state government should wait for another agitation for demanding of the require infrastructure of a district. He said the concern govt. authority should establish all the require infrastructure that a district ought to have, else there is no use for upgradation of Jiribam to a full-fledged district.

Minor boy killed in road accident, mother critically injured

IT News Imphal, Jan 18: In freak accident, a four years old minor boy died today after a Tata Tipper truck roll on him at Langol Spring Villa under Lamphel Police station. The mother of the deceased minor boy who happened to be with him at the time of the accident sustained serious injury. She is admitted at RIMS hospital.

Report said that the tragic accident happened at around 8.30 am this morning. The tipper truck accidentally rolled on and falls on the 4 years old boy identified as Thangminlen Vaiphei, while he was standing with his mother Hoinu Vaiphei (38). When the minor boy died on the spot, Hoinu Vaiphei escaped death but injured critically.

The registration of the Tata Tipper truck is MN-07 C - 3399. Police has registered a case regarding the accident. On the other hand a biker sustained injury in a head on collision with a passenger diesel auto at Moirang Khnoum in Bishnupur district at around 10 am today. Details of the accident could not be get at the moment.

UVDAC inspects Ring band of Ikop Pat

IT News Thoubal, Jan. 18: United Village Development Apex Committee (UVDAC) - a conglomerate of 22 clubs from Khangabok in Thoubal district today inspected the condition of the ring band constructed inbetween Kharung Pat and Ikop Pat from Arong Bridge to Tentha today. Founder Chairman of the

committee Th. Dilip said that people of Khangabok area and its surroundings lives on agriculture. Every year during rainy season water breached from Kharungpat submerged around 1000 paris of Paddy field. If the ring band is constructed the agricultural land often destroyed by water from the Kharung pat can even be utilized for

double cropping. However as the present state of the ring band do not reached the satisfaction of the people, the ring band will remain as no use to them, said Dilip. He further added that, Social worker Jadumani under the supervision of the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had heighten the ring band so that it will serve its purpose.

Defence Expo to be held in Mahabalipuram

Source AIR New Delhi, Jan 18: Government is promoting indigenisation of defence equipment production under the Make in India initiative to improve self reliance in the area. This was stated by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitaraman at the first-ever Defence Industry Meet in Chennai today. Ms Sitharaman said, the newly introduced Make-2 initiative in Defence procurement will greatly help small industries to involve themselves in Defence equipment Manufacturing. She also announced that the globally acclaimed Defence Expo this year will be held in Mahabalipuram near Chennai from 11th to 14th of April with the participation of 80 countries.

Home ministry looks to form 29-battalion Indo-Myanmar border force

By: Shishir Gupta Courtesy: Hindustan Times New Delhi, Jan 18: The ministry of home affairs is considering the creation of a 29-battalion India-Myanmar Border Force from the corps of the Assam Rifles and the Indo-Tibetan Border Force to patrol India's 1,643-km long mountainous border with Myanmar to curtail drugs and arms smuggling and also curbing the activities of Manipuri and Naga insurgents who take advantage of the porous border. The new force will patrol right up to the border. Currently, the 46-battalion strong

Assam Rifles safeguards this border but patrols up to 500 meters from the so-called zero line, which leaves the border partly porous. According to the proposal, seen by the Hindustan Times, 25 battalions of Assam Rifles will be paired with 4 battalions from ITBP to form the new force. The ITBP will be in charge. This will ensure that ITBP not only patrols the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control with China but also the border with Myanmar. "The proposal will be put up before the Union Cabinet after due diligence and obtaining the views of the forces guarding the

Indian borders," said a senior Home Ministry official, who asked not to be identified. The plan could run afoul of inter-security forces bickering, though. The ITBP is keen to man the border with Myanmar, but the Indian Army isn't too keen on the plan, especially given its umbilical connection with Assam Rifles. The latter is a para-military force headed by a serving Indian Army officer of the rank of Lieutenant General, and a large number of its personnel, including officers, come from the military. The Indian Army is of the

opinion that ITBP should give up patrolling on the LAC and concentrate only on the Myanmar border. The other option that Army has offered is that the ITBP give up its patrolling in Eastern Ladakh sector in favour of military if it wants control of the Myanmar border. The government is unlikely to be happy with either plan. It is keen on a para-military force as the first line of defence on the LAC and there is no question of entire ITBP being moved to the Myanmar border as the force was trained for high altitude patrolling and warfare.

ECI announces poll schedule for Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura

IT News Imphal, Jan 18: Election Commission of India has announced poll scheduled for the three states - Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura today. Addressing a press conference at New Delhi Office, Chief Election Commissioner AK Joti announced the poll date for Nagaland and Meghalaya on February 27. Filing of nomination is February 7 and the last date withdrawal of the nomination is February 8. Scrutiny for candidates of both these states will be held on February 8. Polling for Tripura will be conducted on February 18, the CEC announced. He further added that counting

for all the three will be conducted on March 3, 2018 and the result will be declared on the same day. Total strength of the three Assemblies is 60 members each. The term for Nagaland Legislative Assembly ends on March 13. Meghalaya Assembly terms too end on March 6, while the term for Tripura Legislative Assembly ends on March 14. For the first, VVPATs and EVMs will be used for voting in these three states, AK Joti said. With the announcement of the polling scheduled the model code of conduct in the three states come into force from today. All the three states have 60 legislators.

18 children selected for National Bravery Awards, 2017

Source AIR New Delhi, Jan 18: Eighteen children have been selected for National Bravery Awards, 2017. The awardees include seven girls. Three of the awards will be given posthumously. The coveted Bharat Award will go to sixteen year old Kumari Nazia of Uttar Pradesh. She showed courage in collecting evidence against the illegal business of gambling and betting and passed on information to the Police which led to the arrest of all the people involved in the racket. The prestigious Geeta Chopra Award has gone to 14-year old late Ms. Netrawati M. Chavan for saving two young boys from

drowning. 16-year old Karanbeer Singh of Punjab has been selected for Sanjay Chopra Award for displaying outstanding bravery and saving lives of 15 school children. The brave children will receive their awards from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the 24th of this month. They will also participate in the Republic Day Parade. President Ram Nath Kovind will host a reception in their honour. The National Bravery Award Scheme was instituted by the Indian Council of Child Welfare to give due recognition to the children who distinguish themselves by performing outstanding deeds of bravery.

Solar energy holds potential to change irrigation access

Source AIR New Delhi, Jan 18: Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant addressed the National Dialogue on Solar For Irrigation in India in New Delhi today. Mr Kant said, solar energy holds the potential to change irrigation access, low-carbon agriculture, reduce burden of electricity subsidies on the

government, and improve resilience of farmers against a changing climate. He said, despite the existing 19 million electrical pumps and about 9 million diesel pumps, 53 per cent of India's net sown area remains unirrigated. The CEO said, solar for irrigation initiative will be quite instrumental in bringing effective solutions in Indian agriculture.

Four Nations Hockey: India lost to Belgium 0-2

Source AIR New Delhi, Jan 18: The Indian Men's Hockey team lost to Belgium, 0-2 in their second round-robin match of the double-leg Four Nations Invitational Tournament at Tauranga in New Zealand on Thursday morning. Arthur De Sloover and Victor Wegnez were the goal scorers. India had won their opening match of the tournament against Japan, 6-0

yesterday. They will play their final round-robin match of the first leg on Saturday against hosts New Zealand. India will have to win the match to make it to the Final scheduled to take place on Sunday. The second leg of the tournament, featuring the same four teams, will be held in Hamilton from the 24th of this month.