

First project under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme the 'North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom' in Manipur inaugurated today

PIB
Imphal, Aug.14

Dr. Najma A. Heptulla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur inaugurated the project "Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom" implemented under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in the presence of Shri N Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri K.J. Alphons, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism, State Ministers of Manipur and Smt. Rashmi Verma, Union Tourism Secretary in Imphal today at a function held at the historic Kangla Fort. The above project is the first project under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme being inaugurated in the country.

Speaking on the occasion the Governor of Manipur drew the attention of Government of India on the huge potential of the tourism industry of the state which comes in the form of culture, sports, arts, eco, history, handloom and handicrafts.

A message from the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi was read out by the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism Shri K.J. Alphons stating that tourism will bring the people of the country together and it will serve in cultural growth and prosperity to the country. In his message the Prime Minister further said that tourism is an engine of growth through job creation which will ultimately eradicate poverty.

Union Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism Shri K.J. Alphons in his speech congratulated the Government of Manipur for their commendable work in tourism sector of the state and suggested to come up with even more brighter projects and express his willingness to be generous on the projects to be taken up in North East.

The Chief Minister of Manipur Shri N Biren Singh in his remarks has proposed for 3 more projects for development and strengthening of eco, ethnic and sports tourism at Loktak Lake, Maphithel Dam and



Shadu Chiru. He also expressed his happiness on the progress of Kangkhui cave tourism project.

It may be added that Swadesh Darshan scheme is one of the flagship scheme of Ministry of Tourism for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner. The scheme was launched in 2014-15 and as on date the Ministry has sanctioned 70 projects for Rs.5708.88 Crore to 29 States and UTs under the Scheme. 30 projects / major components of these projects are expected to be completed this year.

The project under inauguration was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in September 2015 for Rs.72.30 Crores. The project covers two sites i.e. Kangla Fort and Khongjom. Kangla Fort is one of the most important historic and archaeological site of Manipur located in the heart of the Imphal city. It served as the seat of Manipur's power till 1891. Kangla has a special place in the hearts and minds of the people of Manipur. The old Govindajee Temple, outer and inner moat and other relics are perfect reflections of the rich art and architectural heritage of Manipur. Under this project Ministry has carried out works like Restoration & Improvement of Outer & Inner Moat and Rejuvenation of Sacred Ponds; Reconstruction of Old Rampart; Sound and

Light Show, Construction of Rock Garden, Utility Block; Audio Guide, Eco Friendly Conveyance, Development of Crafts Houses and Parking on Naga Nullah; Polo Gallery; Reception and Ticket Counter. The above work has been carried out at a cost of Rs. 63.90 Crore.

Khongjom is the place where the last war of resistance of Anglo Manipur War of 1891 was fought. Under the project a Pedestrian bridge and rejuvenation of Kombirei Lake has been carried out for Rs.4.89 Crore.

Development of Tourism in North Eastern Region is prime area of focus for the Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry is carrying out an array of activities for development and promotion of tourism in the region. The Ministry is developing the tourism infrastructure in the region under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). Together under both the schemes Ministry has sanctioned 15 projects covering all North Eastern states for Rs.1301.47 Crores. The Ministry is carrying out an array of activities for development and promotion of tourism in the region. The efforts of Ministry have shown positive results and the Foreign tourist arrivals in the region has shown an upward trend over the years. The region received a total of 1.69

lakh foreign tourist visits during 2017 as against 1.45 lakh in 2016 registering a growth of 16.7% over 2016. The Domestic Tourist Visits reached to 95.47 lakhs in the year 2017 against 77.71 lakhs registering impressive double digit growth of 22.8% over 2016. The increased number of tourists in turn has created better employment opportunity for the local population in the region.

A number of facilities like Tourist Facilitation Centres, Interpretation Centres, better last mile connectivity, heliports, wayside amenities region, SEL Shows, Eco Log Huts, Rope Way, Golf Course, theme parks etc. are being developed up in the region under the above schemes to enhance the experience of tourists when they visit the region. Ministry is also dedicatedly promoting North Eastern Region by showcasing its varied attractions, uniqueness in terms of natural beauty and culture in international and domestic markets. The Ministry organises International Travel Mart every year in one of the North eastern state with objective of providing platform to these states to showcase its tourism potential to perspective international and domestic buyers and opportunity to interact with them. This year the 7th Edition of ITM is scheduled to be held in November 2018 in Agartala, Tripura.

International & National News

Modi taking 'shortcut of emails' for media interviews: Shiv Sena

Agency
New Delhi, Aug 14,

The Shiv Sena alleged PM Modi has not addressed any press conference after becoming the prime minister and this "does not behave" his personality.

Aug 13, MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena on Monday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chosen a "shortcut of e-mails" for media interviews and called the exercise a "propaganda" and "a kind of monologue" prevalent in some communist countries.

In an editorial in the party mouthpiece Saamana, the BJP's bickering ally said the Prime Minister should instead give answers to questions people have in their minds through "face-to-face" interviews.

Reacting to the Prime Minister's interviews published by some media organisations, the Sena alleged Modi has not

addressed any press conference after becoming the prime minister and this "does not behave" his personality as he was a "friend" of journalists till the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

"But after becoming prime minister, he has created a cage around himself," the Sena said.

"Journalists would soon lose their jobs in case the prime minister continued with giving interviews through e-mails and that he only would be tasked with making available employment for them," the Saamana editorial said.

The Sena said, "Prime Minister Modi has suddenly given interviews through e-mail. That means those were not face-to-face (interviews). Journalists sent questions to the Prime Minister's Office and they were given written answers." Claiming that many journalists gave it a nature of the prime minister's interview, the party said, "In other

words, it is called a campaign or propaganda". Calling this practice "a kind of monologue", the Sena said such interviews are carried out in countries like China or Russia where communism is prevalent. Asserting that journalists get a chance to ask questions in face-to-face interviews if an unfounded claim is made, it said, "Of course, the present prime minister has ended such a practice and given only suitable answers." People have questions in their minds on issues like unemployment and it was required of Modi "who considers himself as the pradhan sevak (prime servant)" to answer those, it added. "But instead the shortcut of e-mail interviews was chosen," the Sena said. The party also referred to the prime minister's monthly radio programme and said "he says (something) through Mann ki Baat and media carries it".

Anti-Bengal BJP Go Back' posters surface ahead of Amit Shah's rally in Kolkata

Agency
New Delhi, Aug 14,

KOLKATA: Ahead of BJP president Amit Shah's rally in Kolkata on Saturday, posters asking the BJP to 'Go Back' have surfaced on the streets. The posters put up in the central part of the city were seen around Mayo road near the rally's venue. The BJP unit in Kolkata has accused the Trinamool Congress (TMC) cadres of putting up the posters, which read 'Anti-Bengal BJP Go Back'. "This shows that the TMC is afraid of our rally. The days of TMC are numbered in Bengal. The people of the state are waiting for good governance of the BJP," West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said. On the other hand, TMC secretary-general and Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee said that his party had nothing to do

with the "anti-BJP posters". BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya said the TMC had put up similar posters during Shah's visit to Purulia in June and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally in West Midnapore last month. The Prime Minister had even mocked the TMC by saying that the ruling party in the state had put up the posters to welcome him, he said. "They have done this (display of TMC hoardings) in the past too. Maybe it is their way of welcoming people to the state," Vijayvargiya said.

Chatterjee, on his part, said there was nothing wrong in putting up posters and placards of their party supreme. "The TMC is the ruling party in the state and we have every right to put up posters and placards. We don't need to take permission for that," he

Posters reading 'Anti-Bengal BJP Go Back' were seen around the rally's venue.

said. Meanwhile, the BJP has also not received the permission from the city police to install a drone to monitor the security arrangements at the rally. BJP had requested for the drone after a tent collapsed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Midnapore rally in July. "The police have not yet given us the permission to install drone at the rally venue," BJP state general secretary Sayantan Basu said. BJP had also asked the police to allow the party workers to use walkie-talkies during the rally.

CRPF organises blood donation camp

IT News
Imphal, Aug 14,

Manipur & Nagaland Sector CRPF, Imphal organised a blood donation camp on dated 13th August, 2018 at Lions Service Centre, Sangaiprou, Imphal in co-ordination with Lions Club of Imphal.

Rajesh Kumar, IPS, Inspector General of Police, M&N Sector, CRPF addressed the august gathering and highlighted the benefits of blood donation. He appealed the young generation to come forward for such social and noble cause and said that blood donation actually not only help the needy patients to save their life but also give inner satisfaction to the donor. CRPF has been instrumental in keeping



open NH-2 and NH-37 which is life line of the state and CRPF also owes the social responsibilities. On the eve of Patriot day of Manipur and ensuing Independence day celebration, organising blood donation camp jointly with Lions Club of Imphal

is a reflection of our secular and rich democratic values. Chief guest also assured the such social and noble work will be continued for the people of Manipur in coming days also by the CRPF. On this occasion, Lion H. Mani Kumar Singh

attended as guest of honour. Total 50 volunteers including 23 personnel from CRPF donated the blood during the camp. Dr. H.C. Lingraj, DIG Medical of CRPF and Dr. Deepak Kumar CMO CRPF also attended the blood donation camp.

Sonia Gandhi files petition in National Herald Case: Next hearing on August 16

Agency
New Delhi, Aug 14,

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday after listening to petitions filed by Sonia Gandhi and Oscar Fernandes in reference to Rahul Gandhi's plea against reopening of income tax assessment proceedings in Young India case has now posted the matter to August 16 for the rest of the arguments. Here is a look at the past developments that have occurred so far: BJP leader Subramanian Swamy had filed a PIL alleging

fraud in the acquisition of Associated Journals Limited (AJL) by Young India Pvt Ltd — in which Sonia and Rahul Gandhi each owned a 38 per cent stake in November 2012. AJL is the publisher of the National Herald Newspaper. On January 20, 2018, the court of metropolitan magistrate Ambika Singh had ordered the documents, submitted by Swamy, to be kept in a sealed cover till next hearing. Swamy, in his plea, had alleged that the Congress party granted an interest-free loan of Rs. 90.25 crore to AJL, the owner of the National Herald newspaper. In

November last year, the two Congress leaders had filed their response to the application filed by Swamy. In their response, they had stated that the application filed by Swamy was not bona fide and was filed with the sole object of "delaying the proceedings in a lifeless case". Swamy had accused them of "conspiring to cheat" and "misappropriating funds" by paying "only" Rs 50 lakh, by which Young India Pvt Ltd obtained the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore which AJL owed to the Congress. Former Congress President Sonia