

Hot Spot

Last 3 years hottest on record

United Nations weather agency has said that the last three years were the hottest on record, underscoring the dramatic warming of the planet. World Meteorological Organization said, consolidated data from five leading international weather agencies shows that 2015, 2016 and 2017 have been confirmed as the three warmest years on record. It said 2016 remains the hottest year ever measured due to the warming effect of El Nino, while 2017 was the warmest non-El Nino year.

India rise three places in latest FIFA rankings

India jumped three rungs to be placed 102nd in the first FIFA rankings of the year released yesterday. India, who are just above 103rd placed Qatar, are ranked 14th among Asian countries.

India garnered 13 points in the last one month for a total of 333 points. The Indians remained unbeaten in 2017, having won seven of their nine matches while two ended in draws. India had also qualified for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup. The top 14 spots remained unchanged with reigning World Champions Germany at the top followed by Brazil, Portugal, Argentina and Belgium. Iran is the top-ranked Asian team at the 34th position.

Over 14,000 doping tests conducted ahead of Pyeongchang Winter Olympics

In an effort to protect clean athletes and safeguard the Games, over 14,000 doping tests have been conducted ahead of next month's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

According to International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Pre-Games Anti-Doping Taskforce along with National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) and International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (IFs) tested over 6,000 athletes from 61 countries. The IOC said there is a 70 percent increase in the number of tests conducted between April and December 2017 as compared to the same period in 2016.

The task force, which was set up to monitor and optimise the testing, has placed extra scrutiny on Russian athletes. Twice the number of Russian athletes were tested in November and December, as compared to those from any other country.

Misunderstanding settled: India and Myanmar join hands in cleaning no man's land

IT News

Imphal, Jan 19: In a significant move, misunderstanding between authority of two neighbouring countries - India and Myanmar finally seems to be sorted out as authorities of both the countries today joined hands in cleaning the no man's land situated inbetween Moreh and Tamu. Myanmar authority under the supervision of the Tamu DC (Myanmar) had tried to conduct cleanliness drive at the no man's land located in between Namphalong market at Moreh Prem Nagar on December 30 last year. Indian

authorities including DC Tengnoupal district along with state police and the Assam Rifles intervene as the Myanmarese authority did not take prior permission from the Indian side.

Interestingly the joint venture comes a day after report about Indian Home Ministry considering 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 crimp the activities of

Manipuri and Naga insurgents who take advantage of the porous border.

Earlier, on January 6, this year, a chinese hand grenade was found in this portion of no man's land.

The Indian team was led by Dr. S. Ibomcha, SP Tengnoupal District Police and Col. RS Rawat, CO 11 Assam Rifles. The Myanmar team was led by DC Tamu, around 200 people belonging to different communities of Moreh and Tamu took part in the cleanliness drive. The district authority of Tengnoupal also join the service.

NFSA rice for Chandel swindled by agents, contractors and transporters - NCAC

IT News

Imphal, Jan 19: The Naga Chiefs Association Chandel (NCAC) today alleged rice meant for Chandel district which were supposed to be distributed under National Food Security Act (NFSA) for the month of October and December of 2017 had been swindled by contractors, transporters and agents. The association while condemning such act demanded strict punitive action against those persons involved in the stealing of rice meant for the poor people of Chandel district. In a press statement, the Naga Chiefs Association

Chandel (NCAC) said that the district have not received rice under NFSA for the month of October and December, 2017. It said that the association had lodged a written complaint to the Deputy Commissioner, Chandel regarding the discrepancy in the distribution of rice under NFSA for the whole of Chandel district.

The association also expressed involvement of influential politicians from Chandel district to the swindling of rice meant for the poor people.

"The Naga Chiefs Association have not ruled

out the involvement of politicians of Chandel district", the statement said. When selection of transporters/contractors and agents are meant to be free from political interference as per guidelines of the NFSA, 99% of the agents are appointed through political appointment, the statement added.

The NCAC while urging the district administration to punish those involve in the looting of the rice said that the Association will not leave any stone unturned till those persons involved in the crime are punished in accordance with the law of the land.

Election Commission recommends disqualification of 20 AAP MLAs for holding office of profit

Agency

New Delhi, Jan 19: The Election Commission has recommended that 20 Aam Aadmi Party MLAs embroiled in the office of profit case be disqualified. Sources said the EC has forwarded its recommendation to the President. If the President accepts the recommendation, Delhi will see a mini-assembly election with 20 seats up for grabs in the 70-member House.

Initially, 21 MLAs were named in the case. The number came down to 20 after Rajouri Garden MLA Jarnail Singh resigned to contest against Parkash Singh Badal in the Punjab Assembly elections.

In 2015, AAP had suspended Cabinet Minister Asim Ahmed Khan and the following year, it sacked another minister Sandeep Kumar who was embroiled in a sex scandal. In the AAP cabinet reshuffle, Kapil Mishra rebelled against the party after he was sacked. AAP MLA from Rajouri Garden quit his post to contest the Punjab Assembly elections but the AAP failed to win the bypoll. After this, the number dropped from 67 MLAs to 63. After the disqualification of 20 MLAs, the AAP's strength will reduce to 42.

The EC decision comes days before Achaal Kumar Joti retires as the Chief Election Commissioner. Interestingly, the OP Rawat, the next Chief Election Commissioner, had decided to recuse himself from hearing all AAP related

EC may recommend disqualification for MLAs in other states under the similar circumstances : Source

IT News

Imphal, Jan 19: Following the recommendation for disqualification of the 20 Aam Aadmi Party Legislators by the Election Commission of India for holding the office of profit, MLAs of other states facing similar crisis may also face the same music, a source said. Earlier Supreme Court ruling had directed the state government over the appointment of Parliamentary Secretary on the ground that that such appointment is illegal as it amount to the holding of office of profit. Mizoram was the first state to dissolve appointment of Parliamentary secretary after the SC order. Manipur still have Parliamentary Secy.

issues. This came after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal questioned his impartiality in a media interview in April, 2017.

The option before AAP is to challenge the Election Commission ruling in the higher court. In August 2017, the Delhi High Court had refused to entertain AAP MLAs' plea for staying the Commission's order upholding maintainability of the petition.

The ground on which the High Court had quashed was that since EC's proceedings on hearing the central issue of whether the MLAs had indeed held 'office of profit' were yet to begin, there was no scope for a stay.

The issue in front of the Election Commission was whether the office of Parliamentary Secretary in the GNCTD, 1991 constitutes an 'office of profit'. Article 191 of the Constitution has not defined what is an 'office of

profit' which has paved the way to the Courts to lay down the law.

The entire issue came into existence when on March 13, 2015, the Arvind Kejriwal government passed an order appointing 21 MLAs as Parliamentary Secretaries. This was challenged by Advocate Prashant Patel who petitioned President Pranab Mukherjee on June 19, 2015, that these MLAs were now holding 'office of profit' and should be disqualified.

The Delhi Legislative Assembly, then passed the Delhi Member of Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualification) (Amendment Bill), 2015 excluding Parliamentary Secretaries from "office of profit" with retrospective effect.

However, the President withheld assent to the amendment bill and referred the matter to the Election Commission.

Govt launches 100 accessible websites for Divyangs

Source AIR

New Delhi, Jan 19: Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot today launched 100 accessible websites for Divyangs. These 100 government websites are now divyang friendly. The divyang-friendly websites, especially for

visually impaired, use features such as screen readers and screen magnifiers, which can relay website content to the user in audio format. Mr Gehlot said 900 such websites will be launched in a phased manner. Saying divyangs are full of capabilities but should be given opportunities to prove themselves, Mr Gehlot

asserted a lot needs to be done to empower divyangs in the country.

The Minister urged the states to increase the pace of the work which is being done in favour of divyangs. He said, the Centre is extending all assistance to empower divyangs and bring them into the mainstream.

Foundation Day of Purul Tampak Village held



IT News

Chandel, Jan. 19: Foundation day of the Purul Tampak Village in Chandel district was held today with much fan fare. The third Foundation day was attended by the Chairman MANTRON, Dr. Y. Radheshyam as the Chief

Guest. Th. Hopeson Chothe, member, ADC Chandel presided over the function. Chandel District ki manung channa leiba Purum Tampak (Phaihu) Village khundakhibagi ningshing thouram ngashi Village ashida pangthokkhre.

Other dignitaries from Kakching and Waikhong Zilla Parishad also attended the occasion.

It may be mention that the first settlement in Purul Tampak is recorded in the year 1709 Cultural troupes performed mesmerizing dances to mark the occasion

Rhizome Festival concludes

IT News

Thoubal, Jan. 19: 3 days Rhizome Festival organized by Rural Auxiliary For People's Action (RAPA) Laming under the sponsorship of MIDS, Horticulture and Soil Conservation concluded

today at Tekcham Hill.

The closing function of the festival organized with objects to popularize and protect the indigenous Rhizome was attended by MLA K. Meghachandra, MLA O. Hennary, MLA O. Surjakumar, Sh.

Dwijamani, DIG Manipur Police, Rk. Amarjit, DFO Thoubal, N. Rajivkumar, Principal IRE Group of Institution and Film Actor Rk. Somendro (Kaiku) as Chief Guest, President, Guest of honour and Special Guest.

PM Modi to share his thoughts in next edition of Mann Ki Baat on January 28

Source AIR

New Delhi, Jan 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will share his thoughts with listeners of All India Radio in the next edition of Mann Ki Baat programme on 28th of this month. This will be the 40th Episode of Mann Ki Baat. In a tweet, Mr Modi said this will be first Mann Ki Baat of this year and looking forward to your inputs for the programme. He said, it is always a delight to read your insightful ideas and inputs for Mann Ki Baat. Mr Modi asked people to

share their ideas and suggestions on the Narendra Modi App.

People can also share their views, ideas and suggestions in the My Gov Open Forum and can dial the toll-free number 1XXX-XX-7800 to record their messages in Hindi or English. Some of the recorded messages may become part of the broadcast. People can also give missed calls on the number 1922 and follow the link received in SMS to directly give the suggestions to the Prime Minister.

The Mann Ki Baat programme will be broadcast on entire network of AIR and Doordarshan at 11 AM on 28th of this month. It will also be streamed on the YouTube channels of the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and DD News.

Akashwani will broadcast the programme in regional languages immediately after the Hindi broadcast. Regional language versions of the programme will also be repeated at 8 PM