

Editorial

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

An Unknown killer-"E-WASTE"

We all have been talking about "ENVIRONMENTAL Problems and Ecological Imbalance" like, Global warming, Water pollution, soil pollution, Air pollution, Noise pollution. Ozone layer depletion etc etc due to deforestation, Industrial influents, Industrial smoke, vehicular smoke and many other human activities. YES, now it has become a great threat to all the living and non-living components on the Earth. In addition to these there is another new kind of threat to the Environment and biological components on the Earth, that is nothing but "E-WASTE", which we common people never thought of.

"E-Waste" is a popular, informal name for electronic product nearing the end of their useful life. E-waste are considered dangerous as certain components of some electronic product contains materials that are hazardous depending on their condition and density. The hazardous contents of these materials pose a threat to human health and Environment. Discarded Computers, Televisions, VCRs, Stereos, Copiers, Fax machines, electric lamp, Cell phones, audio equipment and batteries if improperly disposed can leach lead and other substances into soil and groundwater. Many of these products can be reused, refurbished or recycled in an environmentally sound manner so that they are less harmful to the Eco-system.

These days computers and cell phones have become most common and widely used gadgets in all kinds of activities. E-toxic components in these gadgets can be circuit containing heavy metals like lead and cadmium, batteries containing cadmium, cathode ray tubes with lead oxides and barium brominated flame retardants used on printed circuit boards (PCB), cables and plastic casing, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) coated copper cables and plastic computers casing that release highly toxic dioxins and furans when burnt to recover valuable metals, mercury switches, mercury in flat screens, polychlorinated biphenyl present in older capacitors transformers etc. The hazardous contents of these materials pose an Environmental and health threat. Thus proper management is necessary while disposing e-waste. Specially, Manipur being a land lock state still needs more careful as whatever e-waste disposed improperly will go to the Loktak Lake through water bodies falling in to it and it will boomerang to us through fishes caught from loktak. I there fore appeal specially to our youths not to dispose E-waste improperly which are abundant in every families of Manipur.

Writer -Sanjenbam Jueshor Singh

Some state news

NSCN (IM) derecognizes apex Zeliangrong organisations

Courtesy MEXN
Hebron, July 31,

The NSCN (IM) Joint Council of the Steering Committee, Kilonsers, and Heads of the Departments has derecognized the three apex Zeliangrong organizations - Zeliangrong Baudi (Assam, Manipur & Nagaland), Zeliangrong Youth Front (Assam, Manipur & Nagaland), and All Zeliangrong Students' Union (Assam, Manipur & Nagaland) - with immediate effect.

They will "not represent the voice of the Zeliangrong people any longer," read a press statement from the Ministry of Information & Publicity, NSCN (IM), released today.

It stated the reasons for derecognizing the three bodies to be: challenging the Yariwo's Order of 2011; demanding separate homeland of the Zeliangrong people in collaboration with the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF); and challenging the Tatar Hoho decision of March 23, 2018, which approved the recognition of three Naga tribes as separate tribes, namely Zeme, Liangmai, and Rongmei.

The NSCN (IM) further refuted the allegations of threat on the life of the leaders of the three organizations and attempt to break up the unity of the Zeliangrong community leveled by the ZB (AMN) at the Ministry of Home Affairs' office, Government of India, and to the media as "totally baseless, unwarranted & devoid of any truth."

It recounted that the leaders of the ZB (AMN), ZYF (AMN), and AZSU (AMN) were informed and invited twice for a co-ordination meeting with the Kilo Kilonsor on May 11 at the CHQ Hebron and on May 18 at the CFMC office, 4th Mile, Dimapur to discuss the matter pertaining to the recognition of the three Naga tribes, Zeme, Liangmai, and Rongmei.

"Instead of responding, the leaders of the three organizations went to New Delhi to meet the most Ato Kilonsor without the knowledge of the home authorities and submitted a memorandum on May 16 regarding the inclusion of Zeliangrong areas in the united Naga fold, as the ZB (AMN) was alarmed by false rumor that the Zeliangrong areas of Assam are to be left out as and when solution comes," the NSCN (IM) statement read.

Stating that the principle of the Framework Agreement encompasses the entire Naga-inhabited areas, it maintained that the ZB (AMN) has "made a mountain out of a molehill."

NSCN (IM) further informed that the Zeliangrong community was trifurcated into three distinct Naga tribes on the request of the three apex bodies of the Zeme, Liangmai, and Rongmei tribes for nearly ten years. The GPRN granted "due recognition" on March 23 and accorded the three with the full status of Naga tribes. "The recognition of the three tribes does not mean that the existing Zeliangrong organizations should break up or that the nomenclature 'Zeliangrong' is banned," it explained.

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National & International News

Court grants 2 mnths to CBI for obtaining sanction to prosecute accused in Aircel-Maxis case

Agency
New Delhi, Jul 31

A Delhi court today granted two months time to the CBI for obtaining sanction from authorities concerned to prosecute certain accused in a case against former Union minister P Chidambaram and his son Karti for alleged irregularities and criminal conspiracy in the Aircel-Maxis deal case.

The agency had on July 19 filed charge sheet against the Congress leader, his son Karti, 10 individuals,

including public servants, and six companies as accused in the case. Special CBI Judge O P Saini allowed agency's request to grant time after senior advocate Sonia Mathur told the court that sanctions are awaited.

"Adjourn the matter for October 1," the court said. Mathur, who appeared on behalf of the Central Bureau of Investigation, told the court that the agency was expecting sanctions for prosecution from concerned authorities in about four weeks.

The CBI is probing as to how Chidambaram, who was the Union finance minister in 2006, granted a Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approval to a foreign firm, when only the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) was empowered to do it. The senior Congress leader's role has come under the scanner of investigating agencies in the Aircel-Maxis deal of Rs 3,500-crore and the INX Media case involving Rs 305 crore. In its charge sheet filed earlier in

the case against former telecom minister Dayanidhi Maran, his brother Kalanithi Maran and others, the agency had alleged that Chidambaram had granted an FIPB approval in March, 2006 to Mauritius-based Global Communication Services Holdings Ltd, a subsidiary of Maxis. The Maran brothers and the other accused named in the CBI charge sheet were discharged by the special court, which had said the agency had failed to produce any material against them to proceed with the trial.

Trump threatens government shutdown over immigration

Agency
Washington, Jul 31

President Donald Trump today threatened a government shutdown if the US Congress refuses to back major changes to immigration policies like establishing a merit-based system, saying America is the "laughing stock of the world" due to the "worst" immigration laws. Trump has repeatedly called for the merit-based system and the chain migration to reduce overall immigration to the US. Earlier this year, the White House released a proposal for merit-based immigration, which floundered in Congress amid tepid support from within the president's own party. He also launched an aggressive push for additional border security measures early this year which include USD 25 billion toward construction of a wall along the US-Mexico border.

"We're the laughing stock of the world. We have the worst immigration laws anywhere in the world," Trump said, adding the US needs border security. "Border security includes the wall,

but it includes many other things. We have to end the lottery. We have to end the chain migration, which is like a disaster. You bring one person in and you end up with 32 people," Trump said at a White House joint news conference with visiting Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte. US lawmakers face a spending deadline in September. The federal government has already shut down twice this year, first over a failed deal for Dreamers, young undocumented migrants brought to the country as children, then over a funding bill.

A shutdown was avoided in March after Congress approved a USD 1.3 trillion spending package that would fund the government through the end of September. However, the spending measure did not address immigration and Trump said at the time, "I will never sign another bill like this again." "We have to end these horrible catch-and-release principles where you catch somebody, you take their name and you release them. You don't even know who they are. Then they're supposed to

come back to a court case where they want us to hire thousands of judges. The whole thing is ridiculous and we have to change our laws. We do that through Congress," Trump said.

The US president said he and the Italian prime minister are united in their conviction that strong nations must have strong borders.

"We have a solemn obligation to protect our citizens and their quality of life. My administration is working hard to pass border security legislation, improved vetting and establish a merit-based immigration system, which the United States needs very, very importantly, very badly," he said.

In the past also, Trump has favoured a merit-based immigration system which, according to him, would attract the best and the brightest from across the world to the US. "As far as the border is concerned and personally, if we don't get border security, after many, many years of talk within the United States, I would have no problem doing a shutdown. It's time we had proper border security," he said. Trump's threat, his second in two

days, put him further at odds with his own party in Congress, where many Republicans are facing tough fights in the midterm elections in November.

Trump said he and Conte are focused on the urgent need to protect their nations from terrorism and uncontrolled migration.

"Our countries have learned through hard experience that border security is national security, they are one and the same, he said.

"Like the United States, Italy is currently under enormous strain as a result of illegal immigration, and they've fought it hard and the prime minister frankly is with us today because of illegal immigration. Italy got tired of it, they didn't want it any longer," said the president.

Trump has come under intense criticism for his zero-tolerance immigration policy, which prioritises prosecutions of people who enter the US illegally. That policy led to thousands of children being separated from their parents at the southern border. A federal judge ordered the government last month to swiftly reunite those families.

Indonesia earthquake: nearly 500 hikers evacuated from volcano

Agency
Indonesia, July 31

More than 500 hikers and their guides have been successfully evacuated from an Indonesian volcano after a deadly earthquake triggered landslides that trapped them on the mountain, officials said on Tuesday.

Tonnes of rock and mud were dislodged on Mount Rinjani in the 6.4-magnitude quake, which struck early on Sunday and was followed by scores of aftershocks, blocking the hiking routes that crisscross the mountain.

Some 560 trekkers were originally thought to have been stranded, including citizens from the United States, France, the Netherlands, Thailand and Germany, as well as many other countries, according to search and rescue officials.

"543 hikers have been evacuated - they arrived last night," national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told AFP.

"There are now six people left... They are all healthy and safe."

Hikers were able to start climbing down on Monday after guides discovered an alternate route that was unaffected by the landslides. Most of the trekkers reached the base of the mountain by late Monday evening, according to I Gusti Lanang Wiswananda, a spokesman for Mataram search and rescue agency.

"They were all tired, but in good condition and were checked by our medical teams on the ground upon arrival," he told AFP.

Wiswananda said one Indonesian hiker died on the mountain and a 30-person rescue team was escorting the six remaining trekkers down from Lake Segara Anak, near Rinjani's summit.

Hundreds of other hikers managed to get off the mountain on Sunday, according to officials.

At least 16 people were killed in the earthquake across affected areas of Lombok, while hundreds of buildings were destroyed including a health clinic.

The quake created panic on the holiday island and sent locals and tourists running outside their homes and hotels.

Helicopters and search teams were deployed to scour the volcano's slopes and drop food supplies for those stranded on the mountain.

Some 189 foreign tourists, 173 domestic tourists and 181 porters and guides reached the base of the mountain last night, Mr. Sutopo said.

Rising some 3,726 metres (12,224 feet) above sea level, Rinjani is the second-tallest volcano in Indonesia and a favourite among sightseers keen to take in its expansive views. Hiking trails on the mountain were closed following the quake due to fear of further landslides.

The epicentre of the earthquake was 50 km (30 miles) northeast of Lombok's main city Mataram, the

United States Geological Survey said, far from the main tourist spots on the south and west of the island. The initial tremor was followed by two strong secondary quakes and more than 100 aftershocks.

More than 220 people suffered serious injuries in the quake, Mr. Sutopo said.

A Malaysian was among the dead, with another six citizens injured, the foreign ministry in Kuala Lumpur said.

A total of 5,141 people are staying in temporary shelters and in need of clean water, according to officials.

Burari 2.0? Family of 7 found dead in Ranchi, cops probe murder-suicide plan

Agency
Ranchi, July 31

In a case that brought back the horror of 11 deaths in Delhi's Burari, seven members of a family were found dead in Ranchi's Arsande area.

In Delhi's Burari, 11 members of a family were found dead in what is believed to be a ritual gone wrong. The dead in the Ranchi house were identified as Shashi Kumar Jha, 65, a retired railway employee, his wife Gayatri Devi, 60, along with their sons Deepak Jha, 40, and Rupesh Jha, 39.

Deepak's wife Soni Jha, 38, and their children one-year-old son Jagu and six-year-old daughter Driшти were also found dead. Rupesh was unmarried.

The body of one of the two sons was found hanging from the ceiling along with five other bodies draped in a blanket on two joint mattresses in one room. The second son was

found hanging near the bed in the adjacent room. Police said two upturned wooden stools were also found in the rooms.

"Prima facie, investigations reveal that it seems the brothers had hanged themselves after killing the other five family members. Other angles are also being investigated," he added.

The family was undergoing a financial crisis and had to spend heavily on the medical expenditure for treatment of Jagu, a neighbour said on the condition of anonymity. "They had also taken a loan of around Rs 20 lakh. As a result, Deepak's father often used to speak about their financial crisis," he added.

"The bodies are being sent for postmortem. The exact cause of their death would be clear only after the autopsy," Ranchi's senior superintendent of police Anish Gupta said. The family had moved into the

house, in which they occupied four rooms, in January this year.

Deputy inspector general of police (Ranchi Range) Anil V Homkar said two suicide notes, one of 15 pages and the second of two pages, were found from the spot. He refused to share the details of the notes.

The bodies were found after the child of another tenant on the same floor entered the house, which was unlocked, to call Driшти, whose school van had come at around 8:45am.

Neighbours said Deepak was employed as a marketing representative in a pharmaceutical company and Rupesh was working for online companies from home.

The incident comes a fortnight after six members of a well-to-do business family in the state's Hazaribagh allegedly committed suicide. Members of the extended family and friends, however, alleged they were murdered and demanded a high-level probe.