

India proposes ban on e-cigarettes with fine up to Rs 5 lakh

Courtesy Northeast Now
Guwahati Aug 23,

The union health ministry has proposed a ban on the production and import of electronic cigarettes to India. E-cigarettes have become quite popular in the Northeast along with the rest of the country.

There is a slow but gradual increase in the use of electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes in some NE states, revealed a latest Global Adult Tobacco Survey. This has been done to ensure that the health of the people of the country is not affected. As per a Reuters report, the health ministry has issued a notice that e-cigarettes and similar technologies that encourage tobacco use or



adversely impact public health are hazardous for an active as well as passive user.

Moreover, the health ministry is also proposing that those who are found to be violating the rules of the ban of e-cigarettes for the first time might have to face a jail term of one year and a fine of Rs one lakh. However, repeat offenders

of the rules might have to face a jail term of three years and a fine of Rs five lakh.

The health ministry had written in the notice that there is evidence that e-cigarettes are a gateway to tobacco products and induce adolescents and young adults to nicotine use leading to addiction.

India has over 100 million adult smokers and many people die every year in the country after consuming tobacco products.

The order as proposed by the health ministry are generally issued in India as an emergency measure when parliament is not in session but implementation of these proposals will depend according to the outcome when discussed in the next session of the parliament.

If the ban on the production and import of electronic cigarettes to India is implemented, e-cigarette manufacturing giants like Juul Labs and Philip Morris International may face a big loss who were planning to launch their e-cigarettes in India.

Foundation Course of the newly admitted MBBS students



IT News
Imphal Aug 23,

As a part of the Foundation Course of the newly admitted MBBS students, under the Disability Competence, a session titled "Disability Competence: Meet the People" was held at Mini-Auditorium, RIMS on

Thursday. The purpose of the session was to make the students understand the perspective, problems of disabled persons and inculcate an idea of inclusivity. L. Sasirani (Hearing Impairment) participated in the session, which was moderated by Brogen Singh Akoiyam, Dean(Acad), RIMS, of Singamei, S. Birla Devi

(Locomotor Disability) of Laipham Khunou, A. Surjit Singh (Visually Impairment) of Luker Maning leikai and Y. Ashalata Devi (Interpreter/ Sign language (Hearing Impairment) participated in the session, which was moderated by Brogen Singh Akoiyam, Dean(Acad), RIMS, of Singamei, S. Birla Devi

Indoor farming new buzz across globe

Courtesy Northeast Now
Guwahati Aug 23,

Urban farming is taking over from conventional farming at many across the globe.

A BBC report states that ten shipping containers dominate a corner of the Brooklyn parking area, each full of climate control tech, growing herbs that are distributed to local stores on bicycles.

The containers are owned by Square Roots, part of America's fast-expanding vertical farming industry, a sector run by many tech entrepreneurs who believe food production is ripe for

disruption.

The world's best basil reputedly comes from Genoa, Italy. Square Roots grows Genovese seeds in a container that recreates the city's daylight hours, humidity, CO2 levels – and all fed hydroponically in nutrient-rich water, the report added.

An artificial intelligence expert, Peggs founded Square Roots with investor Kimball Musk (Elon's brother) two years ago. They've signed a deal with one of America's big distribution companies, Gordon Food Service, to locate herb-growing containers at some of its 200 warehouses.

The report quoted him as saying that the deal represents everything about indoor farming's potential – locally grown, quick-to-market, fresh produce that can be harvested year-round and is free of pesticides and harsh weather. Jeffery Landau, director of business development at AgriCulture Consulting estimates the global value of the vertical farming market will rise to about \$6.4 bn by 2023, from \$403 mn in 2013, with almost half that attributed to growth in the US.

Plenty, another major US player, raised funds from Softbank chief executive Masayoshi Son

and former Google head Eric Schmidt.

The company has ambitions to build hundreds of vertical farms in China. In the UK, food delivery and robotics company Ocado is investing in indoor farming.

In neighbouring New Jersey, however, Bowery Farming, takes a different approach. The five-year-old company runs industrial-sized farms.

Outside one huge, grey windowless warehouse a heat haze shimmers off the concrete. It's a sharp contrast to the chilly interior where an aroma of fresh farm produce hits you immediately, the report added.

DC Imphal East Reviews Preparedness Ahead of 7th Economic Census



DIPR
Imphal Aug 23,

The 1st meeting of the District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC), Imphal East to review the preparedness of the 7th Economic Census was held today. Dr. Rangitabali Waikhom, Deputy Commissioner, Imphal East chaired the meeting held at her Office Chamber at Porompat. To get a complete count of all economic units in Imphal East, the District Administration will formally launch the 7th Economic Census from a Common Service Centre (CSC) unit at Ayangpalli Road, Khongnang Makhong, Imphal East tomorrow informed Dr. Rangitabali. Dr. Rangitabali, who is the Charge Officer of the District, verified the ward-wise and village-wise lists prepared for

the 7th Economic Census for the District.

The census conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India will be conducted after a gap of five years. The Ministry has selected Common Service Centre (CSC) e-Governance Services India Ltd., a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India as the implementation agency for conducting the fieldwork for the 7th Economic Census.

The 247 enumerators engaged by the CSC will visit door-to-door and collect information from all establishments in Imphal East district. The timeline for the fieldwork is three months.

For the first time, the Economic Census will be

paperless. The enumerators engaged by the CSC will do the enumeration of the establishments by using Mobile App and all the establishments will be geo-tagged informed the DC.

The DC who also highlighted the need to sensitize the people about the importance of the Economic Census.

Dr. Rangitabali also appealed to the people and Industry Associations of her District to extend their full co-operation to the enumerators by providing correct information and to participate in the development planning of the State.

The 7th Economic will be conducted in two phases in Manipur. The first phase will be launched tomorrow in six valley districts. The second phase will be launched on 9th September in 10 hill districts.

MSME dominant sector in industrial scenario of Assam: Patowary

Courtesy Northeast Now
Guwahati Aug 23,

Union MSME minister Pratap Chandra Sarangi on Thursday called upon the Assam industries and commerce minister Chandra Mohan Patowary at Janata Bhawan in Guwahati.

Minister Patowary said that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is a dominant sector in the industrial scenario of Assam. He also stated that it contributes maximum employment generation with minimum capital and is a major contributor to the State's economic growth.

As a special category state,

minister Patowary requested minister Sarangi to enhance the Centre and State's funding ratio to 90:10 from the present ratio of 80:20 and increase the amount for infrastructure development in MSME sector from Rs 10 crore to Rs 20 crore for Assam.

He also requested the union minister to consider including the approach road to industrial infrastructures and enhancing the project completion period from two years to three years.

Matters related to MSME schemes like tool room, extension centre, PMEGP, industrial infrastructure improvement etc were discussed in detail.

Minister Sarangi assured all help to expedite and sanction the State's projects pertaining to MSME in the areas of entrepreneurship skill development, procurement and marketing support, setting up of incubation centre on food processing etc.

The Union Minister quoted Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy that production by masses should replace mass production.

He advocated for handicraft and khadi industries to boost rural economy and ensure generation of employment, especially for women and youths.

He also called upon the State

Government to popularize organic farming and promote the value addition of spices to fetch higher prices at the international markets.

Commissioner and secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Dr K K Dwivedi apprised the union minister of the export of fruits and vegetables from Assam to Dubai, Singapore and European countries.

Commissioner and secretary, Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship, Ashutosh Agnihotri; commissioner, Industries and Commerce, S S Meenakshi Sundaram; MD, AIDC, Virendra Mittal and other officials were present in the meeting.

Law Gives Justice To The People: Minister Jayantakumar

DIPR
Imphal Aug 23,

Law and Lagislative Affairs Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh said that it is through law that people get justice.

Minister Jayantakumar was speaking as Chief Guest on the occasion of the Release of "IEC materials on 8 (eight) Legislations", held at Kuki Inn, Imphal, today. He said that it is the responsibility of the government to impart legal knowledge to the people. Public maintain peace and harmony in the society just because there is law which regulates Dos and Don'ts. Breaching law is also liable to be punished, he added. Minister Jayantakumar also

maintained that citizens of this country also ought to know law. There is no excuse for violation of law. Perplexity arises when somebody, who are not aware of the land's law, commit crime. To overcome such mystifications every citizen of this country should be taught and let understood about the law of the land, he added.

He said that translation of different Sections and Clauses of our Law Book to regional languages is as important as giving law lessons to our citizens in easiest means. Directive Principles of State Policy has not inclusively been a direction to the states but it has now become a law. Right to free and compulsory

Education for the children up to the age of 14 has become an Act. Constitution has also been amended several times according to the changing of the society, minister added.

Speaking as Guest of Honour, Advocate General, Manipur N. Kumarjit Singh said that understanding law is necessary for developing a nation. He also appealed to the people to abide by the law of the land.

A booklet containing the translated version of eight legislations was also released by the Chief Guest at the function. The occasion was organized by Law & Legislative Affairs Department, Government of Manipur.

10th Hathei Phanit (Chilli Festival) Kicks Off

DIPR
Imphal Aug 23,

The 10th Hathei Phanit (Chilli Festival) begins yesterday at Sirarakhong Village, Ukhrul District. The Festival was inaugurated by Joseph Pauline Kamson, IAS, DC Ukhrul as Chief Guest.

Delivering a speech, the Chief Guest spoke about the uniqueness and the commercial value of the chilli. He said that the village is very special because no other in the state can claim that they are producing the same variety and it can be said that this chilli is the copyright of the village same as the lemon of Kachai village and the oranges of Tamenglong. The village is very blessed to have such an unique product grown in the land. It can be taken as blessing



from an Almighty God. He further states that the chilli is not only pleasing to look at, it also have lots of nutritional value as studied by experts. He also encourage the chilli farmers to expand their products on large commercial scale because the village is blessed with pleasant weather, abundant water and fertile soil which is favourable for hard

work. N. Premananda Singh, Mission Director, MIDH who attended the function as Guest of Honour said that the Sirarakhong Chilli is known internationally with its own GI tagging from the Government of India. He states that the Horticulture Department has been working along with the farmers, it is to be noted that

this particular chilli has high contents of calcium, its structure is also different from other species of chilli.

Tenshubam Sangeeta, APO(Press), DIPR who also attended the function as Guest of Honour highlights about the activities of DIPR. DIPR has been taking serious and important role to make public aware of the Governmental schemes and projects and at the same time public feedbacks are also sent to the Government, so this directorate is playing an important role in achieving good governance in the state.

It is worth to mention that around 20 stalls belonging to Self Help Groups showcase their products including handloom and handicraft. And as a part of the inaugural function, cultural dance was also performed by the youths of the village.