

India's tallest railway pier bridge comes up in Manipur

IT News
Imphal Feb. 23

The construction of India's tallest railway pier bridge in Manipur as part of 111 km Jiribam-Imphal railway project will be completed ahead of its scheduled target of March 2022, Chairman Railway Board VK Yadav said Saturday.

The 555-metre long bridge is one of the 148 bridges along the route which also has 47 tunnels through steep hills to connect the capital of Manipur with the broad gauge network of the country.

"We would like to complete the



tallest bridge before the tunnels," Chairman Railway Board VK Yadav told reporters at

Marangching area under Noney district in Manipur. "We would like to complete (it) before March

2022 which is the outer limit." Yadav accompanied by General Manager Sanjive Roy of Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) and other senior officials of the Railways and construction companies, was in Manipur on Saturday to inaugurate 2.265-km long tunnel on the Jiribam-Imphal line at the hilly terrain of Marangching village in Noney district, about 65 km west of Imphal.

The pier railway bridge near the Noney district headquarters is also one of the world's tallest railway bridges with a height of 141 metres. The total estimated cost of the railway bridge is Rs 280 crores.

The Railway Board Chairman said most of the tunnels in the project have been completed except the longest one. The Tupul-Imphal railway tunnel on the Jiribam-Imphal line which was taken up as national project since 2008, is one of India's longest rail tunnels at 10.28 km. "The tunnel is the most critical. It is going to take time because it is long tunnel. But we're making our effort to complete the entire railway project in Manipur before December 2021," he promised.

MSAD annual magazine 'MAHEIROI' formally released for Manipur

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The annual magazine of Manipur Students' Association Delhi (MSAD) 'MAHEIROI' was released yesterday at the Readers Book Store, Manipur University.

It was first released in Delhi on Feb 16 and was again

formally released for Manipur yesterday.

Guest faculties of Political Science Department, Manipur University G. Rakesh Sharma, K. Shakila Devi, Sh. Babena Chanu and former advisor of MSAD Muhammad Ali released the annual magazine.

The releasing function was attended by the students of

Manipur University, Dhanamanjuri College and well wishers.

Participants also discuss several topics particularly on gender issues prevailing in the State.

The copies of the annual magazine of MSAD 'MAHEIROI' are being made available at The Readers Book Store, MU.

Extinction of their mother language will lead to the extinction of the identities of their respective communities

IT News
Imphal Feb. 23,

International Mother Language Day jointly organised by Research Forum (REFORM) and District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Keikol was held yesterday at DIET, Keikol.

Lecturer of GP Women College Dr. Waikhom Romesh in his keynote address highlighted the importance and the needs to preserve the Mother language.

He stressed that if their mother language get extinct than it will lead to the extinction of the identities of their respective communities.

Saddened by the lack of institution to learn the Mother language of Meitei in the state, he said that anyone can



learn different languages like Korean, Japanese, Myanmar at Manipur University but not the mother language.

Contradicting that Manipuri Department is not the a place to study Manipuri language it is just an institution to study the literature of Manipuri.

Romesh further said that both the students as well as the parents are not aware that students can appear their exam

in their mother language upto ten standard on all the subjects except English.

"People still lacks the knowledge to understand that teaching and writing in their own mother language have more privilege to understand it", he added.

Director of Mutua Museum, Mutua Bahadur stressed that people need not fear if they didn't know English. All we

have to do is to focus on our goals instead as there is a space for translation, he continued.

He also added that our mind cannot think in languages other than the mother language.

Bahadur continued that there is a need to make the medium of instruction to be in their own mother language as it will help in the understanding easily.

"People should not felt ashamed of speaking their mother language instead they should feel pride in using it", Bahadur maintained.

The observation was attended by General Secretary of REFORM advocate Sukham Premjit and Director of DIET, Keikol Aheibam Romel as the presidium members.

Seized timber and Betel nuts worths about Rs. 5 crore missing

IT
Imphal Feb. 23

Five times Imphal Times tried to contact the PRO Assam Rifles, he didn't pick the call. May be he knows that Imphal Times want a clarification. Where are the Timber and Betel nuts which cost around

Rd. 5 crores that they reported

News

seized by troops of Assam Rifles from Sangshak area? Have the person in charge of the Assam Rifles at (24) have concealed the reality or had the AR PRO have no capability of answering such question raised by Imphal Times.

Superintendent of Custom says those seized items were

and are never handed over to them. Commissioner of Forest has no idea of whether it has been handed over or not. PRO Assam Rifles fails to give any explanation.

Who are the corrupted in Manipur? Taking 100 rupees by a peon at his capacity or those in power and might playing in terms of crores?

CM to launch Rs 710 crore Assam Darshan scheme on Monday

Agency
Guwahati Feb. 23

The Assam government will launch the Rs 710 crore Assam Darshan scheme, aimed at infrastructure upgradation of religious places, on February 24, a senior minister said here on Saturday. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal will formally launch the scheme by

giving grants to the representatives of the religious institutions at a function on Monday. Under the programme, Rs 10 lakh each will be handed over to 915 religious institutions or places of spiritual tourism. They include 459 temples, 186 'satras' (Vaishnav monasteries), 123 namghars (prayer and community halls),

47 mosques and 27 churches, the minister said. Besides, the government will dole out to a total of 74 'devalayas' or places of worship, which had earlier received land from the erstwhile Ahom rulers. Sarma said the second phase of the scheme would entail promotion of 316 tourist destinations and picnic spots.

Passengers from Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia to be tested for coronavirus

Agency
China Feb. 23

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered that passengers arriving from Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia will also have to go through screening at Indian airports.

The aviation regulator, in an order today, expanded the ambit of screening of passengers from

the existing six countries that are China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Thailand and Singapore.

The screening of passengers are to ascertain that no passenger, affected from coronavirus, enters into the country.

The screening at airports is conducted by the Health authorities and a suspected passenger is tested and

quarantined for 14 days to ensure that the virus does not enter the country.

Corona Virus, which emanated in China's Wuhan province, has estimated to have killed about 2,500 people and about 80,000 are estimated to be infected of it.

In India, there have been no deaths from the virus yet but a few cases have been detected all of them went to China.

Anti-CAA protests are politically motivated: Himanta Biswa Sarma

Agency
Guwahati, Feb. 23

Coming down heavily on the ongoing anti-CAA protests in Assam, state education minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said these protests are politically motivated.

He was speaking at the Sankalpa Samaroh in

Dibrugarh. "The anti-CAA protesters forced the BJP workers to quit Panchayats and the party so that they can acquire power," Sarma said.

"This proves that the anti-CAA protests are politically motivated," Sarma added.

He further alleged that a section of people has been

trying to create a situation of unrest in Assam.

"In the name anti-CAA protest, some people are trying to incite violence in society," Sarma said.

"There has been a conspiracy to make Assam violent and these people want to obstruct the road to development," the minister further said.

PM Modi appeals people to pick up activity of their inteterst in 'Mann Ki Baat' on All India Radio

Agency
New Delhi Feb. 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India's diversity fills each and every countryman with a sense of pride. Sharing his thoughts in the 62nd episode of Mann Ki Baat programme on All India Radio this morning, he said, the expanse and diversity of the Nation is a source of inspiration for the citizens.

Citing his recent visit to Hunar Haat in the national capital, Mr Modi said, it reflects the country's diverse expanse, cultures, traditions, cuisines and the warmth of emotions. The repertoire comprising traditional attires, handicrafts, carpets, utensils, bamboo and brass products, musical instruments represented the unique and vivid mosaic of pan-Indian art and culture. He further stated that the stories

of the artisans' perseverance, zeal and love for their skill are equally inspiring.

Mr Modi said, listening to a divyang woman at the Hunar Haat was a source of fulfillment for him. Earlier, the woman used to sell paintings on the pavement and her life changed after she connected with Hunar Haat. Today, she is not only self-reliant but also has purchased a house.

Mr Modi said, at Hunar Haat, he got the opportunity to converse with many other artisans and over 50 per cent of the crafts persons participating at Hunar Haat are women. The Prime Minister told that over the past three years, through Hunar Haat, close to three lakh artisans and crafts persons have gained many employment opportunities. He said, people should attend such events to know India and to experience the country and contribute to the progress and prosperity of

hardworking crafts persons, especially women.

Mr Modi said a nation that is fit will always be a nation that is a hit. He appealed people to pick up activity of their interest and integrate their lives with adventure. He said the geography of India provides many opportunities for adventure sports as it is blessed with mountains, deserts, forests and sea.

The Prime Minister cited the example of Kanya Karthikeyan who has conquered Mount Aconcagua at the young age of just twelve years. This is the highest peak of the Andes Mountains in South America, which is about 7000 meters high. Mr Modi said, India's children and youth are increasingly taking a keen interest in Science and Technology. He said, record satellite launches into space, new records, new missions fill up every Indian heart with a

sense of pride. Mr Modi recalled that when he was in Bengaluru during the launch of Chandrayan-2, he witnessed immense enthusiasm on the part of the children present there. The Prime Minister said a visitors' gallery has been erected at Sriharikota to sit and watch rocket launching to encourage scientific temper in children and young people. Mr Modi urged the Principals and teachers of all schools to take benefit of the facility.

He said, ISRO's Yuvika programme is a very commendable effort to integrate the youth with science. Mr Modi said, Yuva Vigyan Karyakram, YUVIKA program is in tune with the Government's vision of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhaan. In this programme, students visit different centres of ISRO during their holidays and learn about Space Technology,

Space Science and Space Applications.

Mr Modi said, Ladakh witnessed a momentous event on 31st of last month when an Indian Air Force AN-32 aircraft took off from Leh Kushok Bakula Rimpoche Airport. A mixture of 10 per cent Indian Bio-jet fuel was used in this flight and this was the first time that this mix was used in both engines. He said, the bio-jet fuel was prepared from non-edible tree borne oil and procured from various tribal areas of India. He said, such efforts will not only reduce carbon emissions but may also reduce India's dependence on crude oil imports.

The Prime Minister also said India is home to many migratory species and over 500 varieties of birds fly in from varied regions. He said, this phenomenon was discussed and deliberated in

the recently held COP-13 in Gandhinagar. He expressed delight that biologists have recently discovered a new species of fish whose habitat is within the caves of Meghalaya.

Prime Minister Modi exuded pride that women in New India are taking on new challenges and setting a pace for a positive transformation in the society. He cited the example of women in Purnia of Bihar who formed mulberry-production co-operatives with assistance from the Government. The women of Adarsh Jeevika Mahila Mulberry Production Group spun silk yarn from the cocoons and also started getting sares made with those threads which are fetching thousands of rupees now.

Mr Modi also gave the example of 105 year old Bhagirthi Amma from Kollam in Kerala who restarted her

school education despite her advanced age.

He also lauded the effort of Salman from Hamirpur village of Moradabad. Salman is a divyang by birth who manufactures slippers and employs 100 other divyangs like him. He also praised Ismail Khatri of Ajrak village in Kutch area of Gujarat who stayed back in his village following the earthquake in 2001. Khatri nurtured his traditional art form of 'Ajrak print'.

The Prime Minister shared his greeting with fellow citizens for Mahashivaratri which was celebrated on Friday. He greeted the Nation for the upcoming festivals of Holi, Gudi Padva, Navaratri and Ram Navami. Mr Modi said, festivals and celebrations are an inseparable part of the social fabric and each festival has a hidden social message of unity.