

NOTES
Maintain Pan Arunachal view for all developmental work: Govt to officers

ITANAGAR, JULY 6 /-/- Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brigadier (Retired) B D Mishra today urged the government officials to maintain a 'pan Arunachal view' while carrying out development work in the state, an official release said here today. The governor also stressed that any initiative taken by the officials should be able to address the challenges faced by majority of the population in Arunachal. Addressing a meeting of the state's senior officers, Brigadier Bhavan here, Mishra stated that "every paisa spent" from the public funds on any programme or project should be utilized to bring about development, the release said. The meeting was convened to discuss issues that could be raised at a plenary conference of the North Eastern Council (NEC) in Shillong on July 9 and 10, it said.

The governor, during today's meet, also shared his concerns about the alleged corrupt practices and absence of government officials from their offices. He asked the bureaucrats to suggest issues that could be taken up for discussion at the plenary meeting. "The state must make best use of the NEC forum to solve problems related to road connectivity, law and order, infrastructure, education and health," the release said quoting Mishra. The governor also advised the officers to explore institutional mechanism to expedite the implementation of N E C s p o n s o r e d projects, it added. (PTI)

Policeman commits suicide in Bankura
BANKURA, JULY 6 /-/- A police officer here committed suicide by shooting himself by his service revolver in Saltora police station in Bankura district, the police said today. Biswanath Mondal (47), who was a sub-inspector of the police station, shot himself dead in the duty officer's room on Thursday night, superintendent of police Sukhendu Hira said. The gun shot was heard by a constable who rushed to the room and found Mondal lying in a pool of blood, he said. Mondal might have committed suicide as he was facing some family problems, the SP said.

Tripura govt to distribute free ration to 10 tribal blocks

AGARTALA, JULY 6 /-/- The Tripura government will distribute free ration to about 9000 tribals in the remote areas for two months immediately, a minister said today. The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting on Thursday evening, state education minister Ratan Lal Nath told newsmen. Nath said: "The BPL families in ten tribal blocks will get this facility for two months because during this time they face shortage of food." He also said that one family would get 20 kg of rice per month and for this 244 tonnes of rice would be required. The government also announced a hike in transport fare by 20 per cent in view of increased fuel prices and other material cost, transport minister Pranajit Singha Roy said.

Steps taken to improve connectivity with India: B'desh tourism minister

KOLKATA, JULY 6 /-/- A three-day tourism fair was inaugurated here today amid talks on ways to increase connectivity between neighbouring countries - India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Bangladesh tourism minister Shahjahan Kamal said both India and his country have taken steps to ensure easy and hurdle-free travel for the tourists. There exists a sense of nostalgia among millions in West Bengal, whose ancestors hailed from present-day Bangladesh, the minister said after inaugurating Travel and Tourism Fair (TTF) here. "The two countries have taken measures to increase connectivity through roads, rail and air, facilitating tourists from India to visit Bangladesh easily," Kamal said.



Nepal consul general in Kolkata, Ek Narayan Aryal, said the three neighbours can sew up a tourist circuit. "India, Nepal and Bangladesh are very close neighbours. We can create a tourist circuit to reach out to people of the three countries," Aryal said. The tourism fair at Netaji Indoor Stadium, in its 30th year, saw the participation of 13 countries and 28 states in the country. Sanjiv Agarwal, the CEO of Fairfest - the organizer of the event - said.

Meghalaya CM rubbishes reports of PDF pulling out of alliance

SHILLONG, JULY 6 /-/- Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma today said the four-month-old Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) government is "stable" and rubbished media reports of coalition partner People's Democratic Front (PDF) pulling out of the alliance. The MDA comprises the National People's Party (NPP) with 19 MLAs, the United Democratic Party (UDP) with seven MLAs, the PDF with four MLAs, the Hill State People's Democratic Party (HSPDP) and the BJP with two MLAs each. The NCP with one MLA and two Independents MLAs in the House of 60. "The government is stable. I had a talk with them (PDF MLAs) and there is no question of their withdrawal," the chief minister said on the sidelines of a programme here. He said all MDA partners were "committed" to completing the five-year term. Sangma's statement came in the wake of media reports of PDF chief P N Sien, who is also the chief executive member of the



with the policies and programmes of the government and we are not withdrawing support. He said it was childish on the part of Sien to make such alleged statements without first consulting the MLAs concerned. Currently, the strength of the Meghalaya Assembly stands at 58 after Congress MLA Martin M Dango and NPP MLA Agatha K Sangma resigned. Dango resigned as he will join the ruling NPP while Agatha resigned to make way for Conrad Sangma to get elected to the state Assembly. Conrad Sangma is currently the Lok Sabha MP from Tura. PT: "We are moving ahead

Police detains 45 Cong activists for opposing Naveen's visit to Puri

PURI, JULY 6 /-/- Police detained at least 45 Congress activists today while they were preparing to hold a demonstration during chief minister Naveen Patnaik's visit to the holy town here, the police said. Congress and two local outfits opposed Patnaik's visit in protest against the state government's alleged failure in managing affairs of the Shree Jagannath Temple, IG of Central Range Soumendhra Priyadarshi said. He said Patnaik was in the city to attend the fourth and final Ratha Yatra coordination committee meeting here. The IG rejected claims by Congress activists that they had thrown tomatoes at the chief minister's carcade while it was passing through Chakratirtha Road near the RT Office here. "We have verified the claim and found that no tomato was thrown at the CM's carcade," Priyadarshi said adding the chief minister had reached the venue safely without any untoward incident.

JMM MLA held for assaulting school teacher during bandh

JAMSHEDPUR, JULY 6 /-/- A Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MLA was today arrested in West Singhbhum district for allegedly assaulting a physically disabled teacher for keeping the school open during the bandh called by his party to protest amendments in the Land Acquisition Act, police said. JMM MLA from Chakradharpur constituency in West Singhbhum district, Shashi Bhushan Samad along with his supporters barged into the Upgraded Middle School at Chakradharpur after finding it open during the bandh and assaulted the teacher Nirmal Kumar Dubey, officer-in-charge of the Chakradharpur police station Gopinath Tiwari said. Samad allegedly beat up the teacher following an altercation over the school remaining open during the bandh, Tiwari said.

Paswan thanks PM for hiking MSP

PATNA, JULY 6 /-/- Union minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) president Ram Vilas Paswan today thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling his promise of hiking the MSP of Kharif crops to 1.5 times the cost of production. The Modi government has fulfilled one of its two promises of hiking the minimum support price (MSP). The government had committed to fixing the MSP at 50 per cent above the cost of production. Paswan, the Union minister for consumer affairs, food and public distribution, told newsmen here. The earlier hikes used to be in the range of Rs 20 to Rs 30, but this is the first time that the MSP has seen a "quantum jump", he said. "Our party thanks 'Prime Minister

Narendra Modi for the Central Cabinet's decision to hike the MSP to 1.5 times the production cost for 14 food grain items. This is a historic decision," Paswan added. The Modi government is now working on its second promise of doubling farmers' income by 2022, he said, adding, "The government has constituted a committee to look into various aspects so how to execute it." Stating that the Centre had taken several steps to improve the farmers' lot in the past, the Union minister said the government implemented the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. Besides, the last Union budget was regarded a farmers' budget.

Orissa HC asks ASI to inspect 2 other key temples of Puri

CUTTACK, JULY 6 /-/- The Orissa High Court today directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to inspect the Maushima Temple and the Gundicha Temple in Puri for any structural defects in these shrines. A division bench comprising of Chief Justice Vinod Saran and Justice B R Sarangi gave this direction. The ASI has been asked to submit a report in the court by July 30 and justify if the shrines required any repair works. The court also asked the ASI to repair the cracks identified in the Jay Vijay Dwar of the Jagannath Temple during the Rath Jatra as the deities will be out of the shrines during these days for a nine-day visit to Gundicha Temple. The Rath Jatra would begin from July 14 and conclude on July 25 with Neeladri Bijie. The ASI today submitted a status report in the court giving the details of the repair works that have been undertaken to repair the small temples in the Jagannath temple complex. The High Court in April this year had asked the ASI to inspect the small temples, including the Mukti Mandap. The Orissa High Court is monitoring the works undertaken by the ASI in repairing the Jagannath Temple while adjudicating over a PIL filed in this connection. The PIL had alleged that the ASI was neglecting in protection and preservation of the 800-year-old temple at Puri despite cracks that had appeared at many places.



Hindu devotees boarding on Agartala Deoghar Express on its first ever journey from Agartala railway station on Friday — UNI PHOTO

Prime accused in Tripura lynching case arrested

AGARTALA, JULY 6 /-/- Nine persons, including prime accused Sunil Mohan Tripura, have been arrested in connection with the lynching of a man for campaigning against rumour-mongering on child-lifting in Tripura, the police said today. While Sunil Mohan was arrested on Thursday from Sabroom in south Tripura district, another accused Hiren Tripura was held from the student hostel of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar College of Belonia sub-division of the same district early today, IG (law and order) K V Sreejesh told newsmen here. "We have got the video footage of the killing of Sukanta Chakraborty. He was held on the basis of the footage and complaints. We have found from the footage that all the accused were involved in the killing," he said. Seven persons have been arrested earlier. Four police personnel including one assistant sub-inspector of police and two personnel of the Tripura State Rifles (TSR) have already been suspended in this connection. Sukanta Chakraborty (33), a resident of the Sabroom sub-division of South Tripura district, was lynched by a mob on June 28 last, when he was returning from Kalachara village after campaigning against the child lifting scare in the state. He was hired by the state Information and culture department. A woman and a hawker were also beaten to death on the suspicion of being child lifters in separate incidents in the state on the same day.

Agartala-Deoghar Express flagged off

AGARTALA, JULY 6 /-/- Union minister Rajen Gohain and Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb today jointly flagged off the Agartala-Deoghar Express to ease the journey of devotees visit the pilgrim town of Deoghar. Gohain, Union minister of state for railways, said in his address that the train would help devotees of Anukulchandra "visit their Gurus' ashram at Deoghar, in Jharkhand, also famous for Baidyanath temple. He said the train would be proposed to be named the 'Satsang Express' after 'Satsang', the institution founded by Anukulchandra and the name of its head quarters in Deoghar. Agartala-Deoghar Express would cover 1,462 km distance in 39 hours. Gohain said railway services in the Northeast saw several de-

velopments since the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government came to power at the Centre. Chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb thanked railway minister Piyush Goyal and Gohain for the new train. "The new train has been flagged off on the birthday of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Nearly 3000 devotees of Thakur Anukulchandra start for Deoghar today on the train's debut journey. People have been waiting for this service for years. The Centre has fulfilled a long cherished dream of Tripura," Deb said. Introduction of the train was the pre-poll promise of the BJP in Tripura which has around 17 lakh followers of Anukulchandra, a senior Satsang leader said. Earlier, these followers would have to reach Deoghar via Guwahati or

Vegetables produced in Jharkhand to be exported to Europe: Raghubar

RANCHI, JULY 6 /-/- Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das today said vegetables produced in the state would be exported to European countries in the near future. "Vegetables have demand in Europe. We have made provision in the budget to set up 100 cold rooms. Six are already there. "Das told a press conference here. He said that a couple of investors have expressed interest in taking up the cold rooms and setting up food processing units and in the coming times Jharkhand's vegetables would go to Europe. This way Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of making farmers income double would be fulfilled, he said. Das also appealed to the farmers to take up horticulture, poultry, besides agriculture. Stating that organic fertiliser could be made through cow dung, the chief minister said "Kishan Sangh" would be set up and the farmers would be motivated towards organic cultivation. Das welcomed the Centre's decision of lateral entry into the bureaucracy. "It is a good step. I welcome it," Das told the press conference replying to a query on the issue. "We have to speed up development of the country. If any expert is there, what is the problem in making (that person) secretary?" Das added. "In the coming time you will see change in Jharkhand too," he said.

Assam CM emphasises on productive use of funds by women SHGs

GUWAHATI, JULY 6 /-/- Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal today emphasised on productive use of funds released to the women Self Help Groups (SHG) for uplift of their economic condition. The chief minister, while reviewing the implementation of Kanaklata Mahila Sabalikkaran Achnoni in two upper Assam districts of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia, underlined the need for more technical knowledge and developing commercial outlook amongst the beneficiary groups for effective implementation of the scheme, a release said. Sonowal directed the panchayat and rural development departments to organise extensive training programmes for the SHGs at block level and asked the department to involve the local MLAs in the training programmes, it said. "Women empowerment programmes were taken up earlier also but had failed to yield the desired results. The present government, however, will ensure the success of the scheme," he said. The chief minister stressed on adopting market oriented initiatives by the women SHGs and asked the officials to nurture professionalism amongst them. The meeting was attended by MP Rameswar Teji, MLAs Prashanta Phukan, Chakradhar Gogoi, Rituparna Baruah, Binod Hazarika, Bimal Bora, deputy commissioner Loya Madduri and several other senior government officials of both Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts, the release added.