

HEADLINES:-

- Birth anniversary of former President Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam observed across the country yesterday.
- Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar will be on a two-day tour to Guwahati in Assam and Shillong in Meghalaya today and tomorrow.
- A group of elected members of Manipur Assembly, representing Kuki-Zo-Hmar, Meitei, and Naga communities meet in New Delhi to discuss the current scenario in the state.
- India conducts its first population estimation of riverine dolphins in the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus River systems.
- Meghalaya Government makes it clear that it is not practical to make 100 percent increase on SSA teachers' salary at one go.

ANNIVERSARY

The birth anniversary of former President Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam was observed across the country yesterday. It was on this day in 1931 that the former President was born in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. Known as the Missile Man of India, Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam specialized in Aeronautical Engineering and made significant contributions as Project Director to develop India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle. He was also responsible for the evolution of ISRO's launch vehicle program, particularly the PSLV configuration. After working for two decades at ISRO, Dr. Kalam took on the responsibility of developing indigenous guided missiles and was instrumental in the development and operationalization of the AGNI and PRITHVI missiles. Mr. Kalam is also credited with the weaponization of strategic missile systems and the Pokhran-II nuclear tests, which made India a nuclear weapons state.

VISIT:

The Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar and Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar will be on a two-day tour to Guwahati in Assam and Shillong in Meghalaya today and tomorrow. During his visit, the Vice-President will preside as Chief Guest and lay the foundation stone of the Meghalaya Skill and Innovation Hub at Mawdiangdiang in New Shillong. Vice President is scheduled to also visit IT Park and Raj Bhavan Shillong and meet Chief Minister and other senior officials.

LEGISLATURE

A group of elected members of Manipur Assembly, representing Kuki-Zo-Hmar, Meitei, and Naga communities, met in New Delhi yesterday to discuss the current scenario in the state. The Union Home Ministry said in a statement that the meeting unanimously resolved to appeal to the people belonging to all communities in the state to shun the path of violence so that no more lives of innocent citizens are lost.

DOLPHIN

India has conducted its first population estimation of riverine dolphins in the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus river systems and its findings will be released soon, officials said. The famous Ganges river dolphin is found in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna river system and its tributaries spanning across India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. A small population of the Indus river dolphin, a close relative of the Ganges river dolphin, is found in the Indus river system in India.

## RTI:

In order to cater to the rules and procedures with regard to the citizens' right to access information and also facilitate the Government to effectively implement the RTI Act, a One Day sensitization on Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005 was organised for the Meghalaya Government employees of all departments in West Garo Hills District at DRDA Conference Hall, Tura. The sensitization was organised by the District Administration, West Garo Hills Tura. It may be mentioned that under the provisions of RTI Act, any citizen of India may request information from a "public authority" that is a body of the Government or State which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days.

## HEARING

The Federation of Khasi Jaintia and Garo People's, East Jaintia Hills district president, Deihok Sumer met Dr. G.H. Chyrmang, Member Secretary of the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board and expressed opposition to the public hearing for Megha Top Cement Private Limited. Sumer cited concerns over existing factories harming water resources and rivers in the area. Dr. Chyrmang clarified that his office organizes public hearings in collaboration with the Deputy Commissioner, with decisions made by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. Dr. Chyrmang appreciated the FKJGP's willingness to engage in dialogue, noting that often accusations are made without understanding the facts.

## TEACHERS

As SSA teachers continue to be on the streets demanding 100 percent salary enhancement, the Meghalaya Government has made it clear it is not practical to fulfil their demands at one go while informing that the Department is working out a formula to resolve the impasse. Education Minister, Rakkam Sangma yesterday told reporters that he could not meet the agitating teachers since was busy with the rescue and relief work in Garo Hills which witnessed huge devastation recently. The Department is trying to find out a way to resolve the issue even as he added that it is not easy to fulfil their demands at one go.

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