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HEADLINES:-

- ✓ Tourists will not be allowed to travel to Sikkim's Nathula near the India-China boundary on January 1,2025 due to border personnel meeting.
- ✓ Six tourists from Assam stranded in North Sikkim due to heavy snowfall rescued by police and local people.
- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General (Retired) K.T. Parnaik stresses the need for preserving indigenous scripts.
- ✓ Meghalaya Tourism Minister, Paul Lyngdoh welcomes the suggestion to have consultations with all stakeholders on Meghalaya State Investment Promotion Facilitation Act. 2024.
- ✓ The 162nd death anniversary of U Kiang Nangbah, a renowned freedom fighter observed across Meghalaya.
- \checkmark Meghalaya farmers are reeling under the burden of deduction made on the agricultural products once they reach the market from the field, says a Meghalaya farmer K. Kurbah.

VISIT:

Tourists will not be allowed to travel to Sikkim's Nathula near the India-China boundary on January 1,2025 in view of the special border personnel meeting there, officials said yesterday. The tourists have been advised to avoid visiting Nathula on the first day of 2025, they said. A special border personnel meeting will be held at Nathula, located on the Indian side, on January 1, 2025 for which the movement of tourists and civilians in and around Nathula will be temporarily restricted for the day to ensure smooth proceedings, the officials said.

RESCUE:

Six tourists from Assam, travelling on motorcycles, were rescued after they got stranded in North Sikkim due to heavy snowfall, police said yesterday. The tourists were stranded at Yakshe, around 10 km from Lachung, in Mangan district on Sunday night. Police, along with locals, rescued the tourists. Black ice on the roads made it impossible for the motorcycles to move, a police officer said.

SCRIPTS:

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General (Retd) K.T. Parnaik stressed the need for preserving indigenous scripts, documenting rituals, prayer songs, dances, and oral histories, and archiving them for future generations. Gracing the Silver Jubilee Foundation Day celebration of the Indigenous Faith and Cultural Society of Arunachal Pradesh in Itanagar, he encouraged the creation of cultural repositories or libraries to safeguard artifacts, scripts, and manuscripts related to indigenous traditions.

SUGGESTION:

Meghalaya Tourism Minister, Paul Lyngdoh welcomed the suggestion to have consultations with all stakeholders on Meghalaya State Investment Promotion Facilitation Act, 2024. The MSIPFA will allow the Invest Meghalaya Authority (IMA) to buy land and lease the same to private investors. Speaking to reporters, Lyngdoh said that MSIPFA is a policy which was tabled in the Assembly and it was passed by the House. He believed that the process of consultations will help to rectify and further improve the policy.

ANNIVERSARY:

The 162nd death anniversary of U Kiang Nangbah, a renowned freedom fighter, was observed near the Shillong Civil Hospital yesterday. The entire state paid tribute to the martyrdom of U kiang Nangbah, who led a rebellion against the British army and fought for the rights of the people. President of the Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement, Thomas Passah said his organization came to his venue to pay respects to U Kiang Nangbah, a true hero of Meghalaya. Even after 162 years, his sacrifices and bravery continue to inspire the Hynniewtrep community. Passah also emphasized the significance of remembering U Kiang Nangbah's contributions to the indigenous people of Khasi and Jaintia. It is unfortunate that the current generation has forgotten the importance of Kiang Nangbah's sacrifices, he said. In this connection, North East Students Organisation, Seinraij Jowai and Khasi Students' Union also observed the death anniversary of U Kiang Nangbah.

FARMERS:

Meghalaya farmers are reeling under the burden of deductions made on their agricultural products, including potatoes, chillies, and ginger, once they reach the market from the field. Speaking to the media, a farmer from Khasi Hills K. Kurbah said that when the farmers take produce to the market, 1 kg is deducted from every 10 kgs. If 100 kgs are taken, 10 kgs are deducted, which is equivalent to one bag of rice. This is a huge loss for us farmers. Kurbah appealed to the Government to regularize the rates of products that come from the field to the market. Despite repeated assurances from the government to form a committee to regulate the prices of agricultural produce, the issue remains unresolved, Mr. Kurbah said.

WEATHER:

North India, including the national capital, will see a chilly New Year as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a significant drop in minimum temperatures across the region in the coming days. Talking exclusively to Akashvani News, IMD senior scientist, Dr. Soma Sen Roy said the weather department has said that Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are likely to experience dense fog conditions in the night and morning hours for the next 2-3 days.
