

HEADLINES:-

1. Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and his Axiom-4 crewmates begin return from International Space Station.
2. Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sanjay Kumar and NCERT Director Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani visit North East Regional Institute of Education in Shillong.
3. Nongpoh MLA Mayralborn Syiem pledges support to Umpathaw Mathan LP School and Umpathaw Presbyterian Secondary School in Umden.
4. Central Empowered Committee, formed by Supreme Court, inspects parts of Ri Bhoi District in Meghalaya following complaint linked to deforestation leading to flooding in Guwahati.
5. West Khasi Hills Blood Donors Organisation officially launched at Civil Hospital Nongstoin.
6. Behdeinkhlam Festival celebrated with fervour at Jowai.
7. Meghalaya bags 52 medals at National Arms Wrestling Championship in Kerala.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

RETURN

Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and his Axiom-4 crewmates began their return from the International Space Station at 4:30 PM last evening. Their arrival on Earth is expected today around 3 PM IST. Shukla, the first Indian to visit the ISS (International Space Station) and second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma, spent 14 days aboard the station conducting seven India-specific experiments. After landing, the crew will undergo a week-long rehabilitation. The Axiom-4 mission was launched on June 26 aboard SpaceX Falcon 9 with three international astronauts accompanying Shukla.

NERIE

Secretary of Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sanjay Kumar and NCERT Director Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani visited North East Regional Institute of Education (**NERIE**) in Shillong yesterday. They stressed the need to strengthen teacher education and launched the four-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme. Mr Kumar urged for vocational education from class six and appealed to the Meghalaya government to provide land to expand the NERIE. Professor Saklani called for better infrastructure, while Meghalaya Education Secretary Swapnil Tambe appreciated the NERIE's training role. The visit ended with the inauguration of Kanaklata Girls' Hostel and the NERIE Guest House.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Nongpoh MLA Mayralborn Syiem visited Umpathaw Mathan LP School and Umpathaw Presbyterian Secondary School in Umden yesterday, pledging support for infrastructure and resource improvement. At Umpathaw Mathan Lower Primary, one of the oldest schools in the area, he assured development aid during a community meeting attended by the village headman, head teacher, and parents. The MLA later interacted with the School Managing Committee of Umpathaw Presbyterian Secondary School and noted their concerns. Mr Syiem reaffirmed his commitment to uplift rural education and address the challenges faced by schools in the region.

ENVIRONMENT

The Central Empowered Committee (CEC), formed by the Supreme Court, inspected parts of Ri Bhoi District's Killing area on 11th July following a petition by Assam resident Jitul Deka. The complaint linked deforestation and quarrying there to environmental damage and flooding in Guwahati. The CEC visited USTM and nearby stone quarries to assess the impact of tree felling and excavation. Ri Bhoi Deputy Commissioner Abhilash Baranwal said local officials and police accompanied the team to maintain order. The inspection aimed to verify the alleged environmental degradation connected to the rising flood risk.

DONATION

The West Khasi Hills Blood Donors Organisation, a branch of the Aijjingim Voluntary Blood Donors Organisation, Shillong, was officially launched yesterday at Civil Hospital Nongstoiñ. The inaugural blood donation camp saw several members step forward to donate. The hospital’s blood bank has saved nearly 500 lives so far, a hospital authority said and stressed the importance of voluntary donation. The new unit aims to provide free support during emergencies and reduce dependence on families for donors.

BEHDEINKHLAM

The sacred Behdeinkhlam Festival was celebrated with fervour yesterday at Jowai, the major city in the Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya, blending ancient Pnar rituals with modern social themes. Thousands of people, adhering to the indigenous Niamtre faith gathered as vibrant processions, drumbeats, and towering ‘Rots’ were taken out to the Wah Aitnar pool. The festival, meaning ‘driving away plague’, symbolizes spiritual cleansing and community resilience. This year’s Rots carried powerful contemporary themes: environmental protection, women’s safety, Operation Sindoor, and the role of artificial intelligence in shaping society.

MEDALS

Meghalaya bagged 52 medals at the National Arms Wrestling Championship held at Thrissur in Kerala, from 28th June to 2nd July. The 52-member team, including 22 women and several para-athletes, brought home 25 gold, 15 silver, and 12 bronze medals. Para-athletes stood out with 14 golds, playing a key role in the state's success. Meghalaya was declared 1st Runner-up in the overall championship for both para and general categories, as well as in the master’s division.
