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DEFENCE

Bangladesh Border Force Detains Indian BSF Soldier, Returns Him Safely



An Indian Border Security Force (BSF) soldier was detained by the Bangladesh Border Force at the India-Bangladesh border. The detention was brief, and the soldier was released shortly after an interrogation. He returned safely to India without any injuries.

Indian officials confirmed that the incident was resolved promptly and the soldier was brought back to Indian territory. Neither side has released further details regarding the cause of the detention.

The incident highlights the need for clear communication between the border agencies of both countries to prevent such occurrences in the future.

EDUCATION

NEHU to hold 28th convocation on December 17 after four-year gap



North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) has announced that its 28th convocation will be held on December 17, 2023, after a four-year gap. The central university, located in Meghalaya, last held a convocation in 2019. The event will take place on the university campus, where degrees will be conferred to the graduating class. NEHU officials stated that the event is resuming as usual after the extended break. Faculty members, graduates, and their families will be in attendance.

The university has prepared for the event, ensuring that all academic and administrative requirements are met. NEHU leadership expressed enthusiasm for welcoming the new batch of graduates and celebrating their achievements.

The event is part of efforts to strengthen NEHU's academic reputation and provide formal recognition to graduates for their studies.

TECHNOLOGY

Meghalaya Aims to Become India's Next AI Valley as CM Announces 125 New Jobs



Chief Minister Conrad Sangma announced today that Meghalaya will create 125 new jobs aimed at strengthening the state's AI infrastructure. This move is part of a broader strategy to become "India's Next AI Valley."

Sangma explained that these positions would be in research, development, data analytics, and support services, designed to attract startups and research institutions. He stated that the state would offer incentives such as tax breaks and land grants to encourage investment.

This announcement follows recent efforts to diversify Meghalaya's economy beyond agriculture and tourism. Officials believe the AI initiative will create employment opportunities for local talent and give the state a competitive position in the national technology landscape.

SARKARI YOJANA

Meghalaya CM gives Sixth Pay Commission eight months to submit report



Shillong, Meghalaya – Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has constituted the Sixth Pay Commission to review the salary structure of state employees. In a brief press conference, the CM stated that comprehensive reforms are necessary to align salaries with the current cost of living.

The commission has been given a strict eight-month deadline to complete its study process, gather input from stakeholders, and present a detailed report to the government. Officials said this timeframe was set to implement any recommended changes before the next financial year.

The commission's membership has not yet been made public, but it is likely to include senior officials, financial experts, and representatives from employee unions. The government said the commission's report will be presented in the upcoming legislative assembly session, after which legislative approval will be sought for any changes to the pay scale.

This move follows similar pay commissions in other Indian states, aimed at eliminating wage disparities and boosting the morale of public sector employees. No additional information was provided about the scope or methodology of the process at the time of the announcement.

TECHNOLOGY

Meghalaya Launches Government Mobility App Integrating Taxi and Bus Services



The Meghalaya government has introduced a new mobile application to bring taxi and bus services onto a single digital platform. The app allows users to find available rides, book seats, and make payments through a secure in-app gateway.

In addition to booking, the platform offers real-time vehicle tracking and estimated arrival times, helping to reduce wait times for passengers. This integration aims to streamline operations for both public and private transport operators.

Officials stated that this move will help reduce traffic congestion in urban centers and provide a reliable option for daily commuters. By consolidating services on a single platform, the app also seeks to increase revenue for local transport providers.

Future plans include expanding the network to more districts and adding features such as fare comparison and loyalty rewards for frequent travelers.

JOBS & CAREER

Advertisement for 2,000 police posts in Meghalaya, recruitment system reforms



The Meghalaya cabinet has decided to issue an advertisement for 2,000 police posts. The announcement comes after a comprehensive restructuring of the state's police recruitment system. The new framework aims to streamline selection procedures, increase transparency, and reduce delays in filling vacancies. After the advertisement is published, candidates will be notified through official channels and the recruitment process will commence.

TECHNOLOGY

Meghalaya announces AI Valley project, says CM Conrad Sangma



The Meghalaya government today announced the launch of the AI Valley, aimed at making the state a key player in the AI sector. CM Conrad Sangma stated at the event that the initiative is a step toward modernizing the economy and creating high-skill jobs.

firms, research institutions, and startups with infrastructure, incentives, and a collaborative ecosystem. Sangma noted that the project will also focus on skill development and education to prepare a workforce ready for AI-driven industries.

The exact location and timeline are not yet clear, but the announcement highlights Meghalaya's desire to diversify beyond traditional sectors. The government plans to work with central agencies and private partners to ensure investment and expertise.

Analysts believe this step aligns with efforts to enhance national AI capabilities and that the Meghalaya model could serve as an example of technology-based development for other northeastern states.

TRAVEL

Meghalaya Launches Plan to Boost Tourism with 250 Luxury Tented Stays



Meghalaya, known for its hills and waterfalls, has launched a new tourism initiative that will add 250 luxury tented stays across three destinations. The project aims to provide travelers with a unique, high-end accommodation option, thereby enhancing experiential tourism in the region. Through these premium tented resorts, the government hopes to increase local tourism revenue and create employment opportunities for residents. The first site is expected to open soon, although specific locations and booking details have not yet been released.

JOBS & CAREER

Meghalaya Bus Drivers Plan Peaceful Rally Against Depot Eviction



Bus drivers across Meghalaya have recently announced plans to organize a peaceful rally in protest against eviction notices. The initiative is being coordinated by the state's drivers' union, which states that the evictions could jeopardize the livelihoods of hundreds of transport workers.

Drivers claim that the eviction orders were issued under a redevelopment plan that does not provide alternative facilities or adequate compensation. Without suitable locations, removal from the depots will disrupt services for daily commuters and threaten job security for many families.

Local authorities said they are reviewing the drivers' concerns and have appealed for the rally to remain peaceful. Officials stated that discussions are ongoing to find a solution, but no concrete proposal has been offered yet.

The rally aims to draw public attention to the issue and pressure the government into reaching an agreement that protects the rights of both the transport network and the workers.

Bangladeshi border guards detain BSF jawan in Meghalaya, release him after flag meeting



The Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) stated that a BSF jawan from a sector in Meghalaya crossed the border into Bangladeshi territory and was taken into custody.

According to BGB officials, senior officers from both countries held a flag meeting to resolve the matter, during which the jawan was held for a short period.

Following the meeting, the BGB handed the BSF jawan over to Indian authorities, stating that the detention was purely procedural and reaffirming both sides' commitment to maintaining peace along the border.

TRAVEL

United Airlines reports 1.5-hour system outage, causing flight delays



United Airlines stated that a 1.5-hour system outage disrupted its departure operations across its network. The outage affected flight scheduling and check-in systems, leading to delays on several flights. The airline's IT team worked to restore services and apologized to affected passengers. United Airlines said it is reviewing its IT infrastructure to prevent such incidents in the future.

SPORTS

Meghalaya Hosts Three Senior National Championships, Welcoming 767 Athletes



Meghalaya hosted three senior national championships in various sports, with over 767 athletes participating.

The competitions were held at multiple venues across the state, reflecting its growing sports infrastructure.

Chief Minister Conrad Sangma welcomed the participants and emphasized the need to increase sports awareness among the youth.

The event is expected to boost local sports participation and establish Meghalaya as a key destination for national-level competitions.

HYC criticises Deputy CM over remarks on teachers



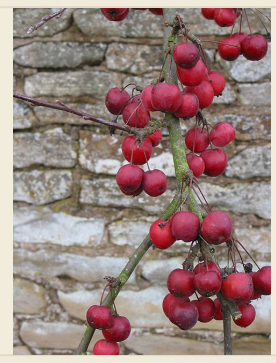
The Hyderabad Youth Congress (HYC) released a statement yesterday condemning the Deputy Chief Minister's remarks on teachers. The group described the comments as disrespectful to educators and demanded a formal apology.

HYC urged the Deputy Chief Minister to clarify his statements and reaffirm the state's commitment to teachers. The Deputy Chief Minister has not yet responded to the criticism.

The incident has sparked debate among teachers and political analysts about how public officials should approach the teaching profession.

ENTERTAINMENT

Meghalaya's 'Last Cherry Blossom' Film Features a Staged Manipur in 2026



e-pao.net highlighted the new film "Last Cherry Blossom" produced in Meghalaya. The project was created by Jingshempong Tribal, a tribal film-maker, and uses a 2026 Manipur setting as its backdrop. The film aims to present an imaginative vision of Manipur's future, employing the narrative style and visual language of North-Eastern Indian cinema. Detailed plot information is not yet available, but the 2026 setting suggests an exploration of near-future socio-cultural themes. e-pao.net, a leading news portal for Manipur, listed the film as a cultural development, underscoring the growing trend of inter-state collaboration within the North-Eastern film community.

SPORTS

BSF Meghalaya to Host 2026 Half Marathon



BSF Meghalaya has announced plans to host a half marathon in 2026. The event will be organized by BSF Meghalaya. The marathon is scheduled to take place in 2026. The announcement was made by officials of BSF Meghalaya.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Warns of Teacher Shortage and Financial Implications



The Chief Minister of Meghalaya announced that the state government is facing a shortage of teachers. He warned that this deficit could place financial pressure on the education sector. The chief emphasized that the government should carefully assess the fiscal impact before taking further action. No specific remedial measures were mentioned in the statement.

POLITICS

Meghalaya to Officially Accept AAI's Takeover of Baljek Airport on Thursday



The Meghalaya government announced that it will formally accept the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) takeover of Baljek Airport on Thursday. The move is part of a broader effort to upgrade and expand the state's aviation infrastructure. Under the agreement, AAI will assume responsibility for operating and maintaining the airport, while land ownership will remain with the state. The acquisition is expected to improve connectivity for local residents and stimulate investment in tourism and trade. Officials said the formal process will involve finalising legal documents and handing operational control to AAI. The state also plans to invest in infrastructure upgrades, including runway extensions and new terminal facilities, to accommodate larger aircraft and rising passenger traffic.

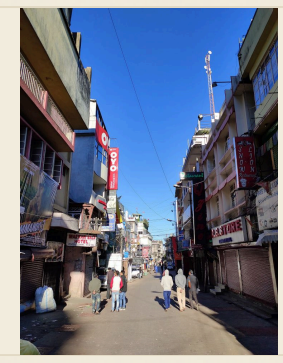
INTERNATIONAL

Modi Launches Nine New Initiatives to Strengthen India-Asian Relations



Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced nine new initiatives to deepen relations between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The announcement, made during a press briefing, emphasized boosting economic, security and cultural cooperation. The initiatives aim to increase trade, investment, technology exchange and people-to-people contacts between India and ASEAN member states. Modi said the future of the Indo-Pacific region should be built on collaboration, not competition. Through these measures, India seeks to deepen its strategic partnership and reinforce its leading role within the Indo-Pacific architecture.

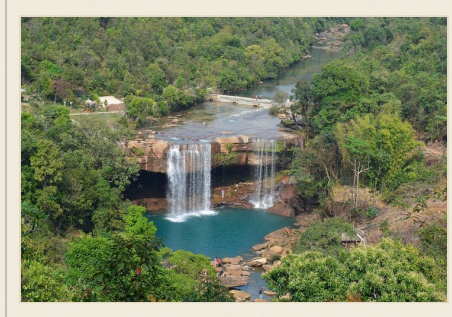
Meghalaya Police Launch Cybersecurity Training in Nongranga



The Meghalaya Police Department has announced a cybersecurity training programme for its officers in Nongranga. The programme's primary goal is to train personnel in digital crime investigation, online threat identification and digital forensics techniques. This initiative forms part of a wider effort to strengthen cyber security across all law-enforcement agencies in the state. Experts from the National Cyber Crime Coordination Centre will lead the training sessions, providing practical workshops for police personnel.

TRAVEL

Meghalaya Named in BBC's Top 20 Travel Destinations for 2027



The BBC has announced that Meghalaya will be included in its list of the top 20 travel destinations for 2027. The selection prominently features the state's lush landscapes, waterfalls, and rich tribal culture. This news was reported by India Today NE, a regional news outlet.

Known as the "Abode of Clouds," Meghalaya is renowned for its misty hills, dense forests, and unique living root bridges. The BBC's recognition is expected to boost tourism and draw international attention to the region's attractions.

Local officials welcomed the news, stating that it will promote sustainable tourism and support the livelihoods of indigenous communities. The state's tourism department has planned to launch promotional campaigns to leverage the BBC's endorsement.

Travelers will have the opportunity to explore locations such as Cherrapunji, Mawlynnong, and Nohkalikai Falls, which have been featured prominently in the BBC's travel guide.

TRAVEL

Meghalaya launches 'Living Meghalaya' luxury tented circuit, to attract metro travelers



The tourism department of the state of Meghalaya announced the launch of a new luxury tented circuit called "Living Meghalaya". The initiative combines the state's natural beauty with comfortable accommodation to offer a premium experience.

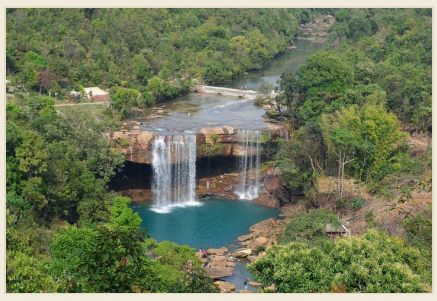
be erected at selected scenic sites, allowing tourists to enjoy mountains, waterfalls and cultural attractions without any inconvenience.

Primarily targeting the domestic market, special emphasis is placed on attracting travelers from India’s major metro cities—Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru.

By drawing metro travelers, the state hopes to increase off-season arrivals, generate income for local communities and promote sustainable tourism.

LOCAL

Meghalaya DGP Praises Peace in Nongmensong



The Meghalaya police chief publicly praised Nongmensong for turning a history of conflict into a model of peace. Earlier, the area frequently experienced inter-community clashes, but in recent years incidents have declined markedly. Local officials attribute the change to community dialogue and engagement programmes. Today the locality is known for harmonious relations among its diverse groups, with residents citing increased trust and cooperation as key to maintaining peace. The chief’s statement underscores the importance of sustained community engagement and offers a template for other regions facing similar challenges.

Meghalaya Health Department Passes Three New Service Rules to Stop Irregular Promotions



The Meghalaya Health Department has approved three new service rules to stop irregular promotions among its employees.

These rules establish clear eligibility criteria, a structured performance evaluation process, and a defined promotion cycle, replacing the previous discretionary system.

By standardizing the promotion process, the department aims to reduce bias, boost employee morale, and bring human resource practices in line with state civil service standards.

Officials say this new framework will be implemented across all health facilities in the state from the coming financial year.

New Travel Experiences in Meghalaya with Curated Luxury Stays



Today's Traveller has presented a selection of specially chosen luxury accommodations in Meghalaya. This list includes boutique resorts, heritage homestays, and eco-lodges, blending modern amenities with the state's natural beauty.

Featured properties include a hill-top villa in Shillong, a rainforest retreat near Cherpunji, and a sea-side cottage in Mawlynnong. These all offer amenities like spas, fine-dining, and private guided tours, as well as reflecting local architecture and craftsmanship.

This curated list aims to attract high-end tourists and promote sustainable tourism in the region. By promoting premium experiences, this initiative aims to increase per capita tourist spending and encourage the conservation of cultural-environmental heritage.

Bookings for these accommodations can be made through Today's Traveller's online platform, where detailed descriptions, photo galleries, and contact information are available.

First Scientific Study on Traditional Areca Nut Fermentation in Meghalaya



Scientists have completed the first in-depth investigation of areca nut fermentation, a practice followed for generations in Meghalaya. The study details each step of the traditional process and identifies the natural yeasts and bacteria that drive fermentation. Results show that the microbial community significantly contributes to the unique flavor and preservation qualities of the fermented product. Researchers suggest that this documentation can support sustainable agricultural practices and open new possibilities for value-added food products. This report, published through Hub News, marks a significant step in providing scientific validation to indigenous food technologies.

The investigation utilized standard microbiological techniques and chemical analyses, ensuring the data reflects the actual conditions in local households. By listing specific microbial species, this study provides a reference point for future research and potential commercial expansion. While this paper doesn't propose immediate commercialization, it highlights the cultural significance of the practice and its role in regional food security. food technologists are expected to benefit from these insights, potentially leading to improvements in the sustainability and safety of fermentation. This publication adds another significant contribution to the body of literature bridging traditional knowledge and modern science in northeast Indian states.