

HEADLINES:-

1. Cyclonic storm 'Remal' makes landfall on Bangladesh's coast with strong wind and heavy rainfall leading to severe weather conditions in states of North East India.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs meeting in New Delhi to review preparedness for cyclone 'Remal' over North Bay of Bengal.
3. 7th edition of India-France joint military exercise 'SHAKTI' concludes at state-of-the-art Foreign Training Node at Umroi in Meghalaya.
4. Government issues directions to Telecom Service Providers for blocking of incoming international spoofed calls to prevent fraudsters from making international spoofed calls by displaying Indian mobile numbers to Indian citizens and committing cyber-crime and financial frauds.
5. Lok Sabha Secretariat makes extensive arrangements and constitutes special teams of officials few weeks before counting of votes and announcement of results to welcome newly elected Members of Parliament.

CYCLONE 'REMAL'

Cyclonic storm 'Remal' has made landfall on Bangladesh's coast with strong wind and heavy rainfall. The cyclone began to make landfall on the Sagar Island, West Bengal-Khepupara, Bangladesh coast at midnight of Sunday, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department. Maximum sustained wind speed within 64 kms of the severe cyclone centre was 90 kph rising to 120 kph-in gusts or squalls. Bangladesh has evacuated more than 800,000 people from the coastal areas. Due to the cyclonic storm Remal, states in North East India are also bracing for severe weather conditions. The India Meteorological Department forecasts that isolated extremely heavy rainfall will occur till tomorrow. In Meghalaya, wind speeds could reach 40 to 50 kmph, with gusts up to 60 kmph today. In Tripura, heavy rainfall is likely to continue for two days under the influence of Remal.

REMAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday chaired a meeting in New Delhi to review preparedness for cyclone "Remal" over North Bay of Bengal. During the meeting, he was briefed that the National Crisis Management Committee is in regular touch with the Government of West Bengal. All fishermen have been advised not to venture into South Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. Around one lakh people are being moved to safer places. The IMD is also extending information support to Bangladesh with regular updates. During the meeting, Prime Minister Modi said that the Central government has extended full support to the State Government and must continue to do so. He said that the Ministry of Home Affairs should monitor the situation and take a review after the landfall of the cyclone in order to extend necessary assistance for restoration. NSD = 14

MILITARY

The 7th edition of the India-France joint military exercise 'SHAKTI' concluded at the state-of-the-art Foreign Training Node at Umroi in Meghalaya yesterday. This biennial exercise, which began on the 13th of this month, showcased a wide array of warfare equipment from both nations' forces. The exercise held alternately in India and France, aims to enhance military cooperation and interoperability between the two countries. The previous edition took place in France in November 2021. The Indian contingent, consisting of 90 personnel, was primarily represented by a battalion of the RAJPUT Regiment along with members from other arms and services. The French contingent, also comprising 90 personnel, featured mainly soldiers from the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade. Over the fourteen days, the exercise focused on intensive joint training, demonstrating combat power and understanding the complexities of multi-domain operations in sub-conventional scenarios. The grand closing ceremony featured cultural exchanges, allowing both nations to appreciate each other's values and traditions.

SPOOFED CALLS

The government has issued directions to Telecom Service Providers for blocking of incoming international spoofed calls. In a statement, the Ministry of Communications informed that fraudsters are making international spoofed calls displaying Indian mobile numbers to Indian citizens and committing cyber-crime and financial frauds. These calls appear to be originating within India but being made by the cyber-criminals from abroad by manipulating the calling line identity. The ministry said that these calls have been misused in recent cases of fake digital arrests, Fed Ex scams, drugs/narcotics in courier, impersonation as government and police officials, disconnections of mobile numbers by DoTs/TRAI officials. The incoming international spoofed calls with Indian landline numbers are being blocked by the Telecom Service Providers as per the directions.

PREPARATIONS

With a few days left for the end of Lok Sabha polls and announcement of results, preparations are in full swing to welcome the newly elected MPs in Parliament. The Lok Sabha Secretariat is making extensive arrangements and has constituted special teams of officials for the purpose. Before their travel, Nodal officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat will be in contact with the newly elected MPs. Special reception centres are being set up in different terminals of the IGI airport and Railway Stations. The newly elected MPs will be received at designated points after their arrival by air, rail and road.
