

HEADLINES:-

- In landmark judgement, Supreme Court rules that sub-classification within SCs and STs reservation is permissible to grant separate quotas for more backwards within categories.
- Manipur Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh informs State Legislative Assembly that peace talks have been going on at Silchar in Assam to bring solution to ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur.
- Indian Institute of Management Shillong in Meghalaya announces strategic partnership with Middlesex University Dubai to build solid framework for collaborative academic initiatives, cultural exchanges, and research projects.
- Lieutenant Vikas Khera takes over as Director General of Assam Rifles following retirement of his predecessor Lt. General Pradeep Chandran Nair.
- Opening ceremony of prestigious Durand Cup for group matches in Shillong, Meghalaya will be held at JN Stadium today; Meghalaya government arranges 18 public buses to operate through local areas.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

CREAMY LAYER

In a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court yesterday ruled that sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reservation is permissible to grant separate quotas for more backwards within the categories. A seven-judge Constitution bench of Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud gave the judgement by a 6-1 majority upholding the power of states to sub-classify the reserved categories of SCs and STs into different groups based on their backwardness for extending the benefits of reservation. The Bench, also comprising Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath, Bela M Trivedi, Pankaj Mithal, Manoj Misra, and Satish Chandra Sharma, gave the judgement by overruling the 2004 EV Chinnaiah vs. State of Andhra Pradesh judgement of the Apex Court which held that sub-classification of SCs/STs is not permissible as they form the homogenous classes. Pronouncing its majority judgement, the bench observed that the members of SC/ST are not often able to climb up the ladder due to systemic discrimination, and Article 14 permits sub-classification of caste. Speaking on the 'creamy layer' within the SCs and STs, Justice BR Gavai said, the states must evolve a policy to identify the creamy layer among the SCs and STs category and exclude them from the fold of affirmative action. He also held that the criteria for identifying the creamy layer among SCs/STs should differ from those used for the OBCs.

MANIPUR

Manipur Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh informed the State Legislative Assembly that peace talks have been going on at Silchar in Assam to bring solution to the ongoing ethnic violence in the State. During the discussion on the State Budget Estimates 2024-25 yesterday, opposition MLAs criticized the budget saying that the budget fails to mention the policies taken up by the Government for the rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons taking shelter at different relief camps in Manipur after the ethnic violence erupted in the State since May last year. Replying to the motion moved by the opposition MLAs, the Chief Minister said that nobody wants the ethnic violence to break out in the State. The State Government has taken up all measures to restore peace and normalcy in Manipur.

IIM SHILLONG

The Indian Institute of Management Shillong in Meghalaya has announced a strategic partnership with Middlesex University Dubai to build a solid framework for collaborative academic initiatives, cultural exchanges, and research projects. This collaboration represents another significant step in IIM Shillong's global expansion and commitment to academic excellence. The agreement was formalised by Professor DP Goyal, Director of IIM Shillong, and

Professor Cedwyn Fernandes, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Director of Middlesex University Dubai, adding another reputed name to the institute's top-tier international collaboration. The strengths of both institutions will be combined to enhance student experiences through exchange programs, joint degree offerings, and experiential learning opportunities. Additionally, the collaboration will promote joint research initiatives, faculty development programs, and the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

DGAR

Lieutenant Vikas Khera took over as Director General of Assam Rifles yesterday, following the retirement of his predecessor Lt. General Pradeep Chandran Nair. Lt General Khera has varied and rich professional experience of Assam Rifles and the North Eastern Region, having served extensively in the North East including being Inspector General of Assam Rifles in Nagaland. He also has extensive experience of planning counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in Jamm Kashmir and North East region.

DURAND

The opening ceremony of the prestigious Durand Cup for group matches in Shillong, Meghalaya will be held at the JN Stadium today. The opening match will take place between local side Shillong Lajong FC and Tribhuvan Army FC of Nepal at 4pm today. The matches are being hosted in four cities, Kolkata, Kokrajhar, Shillong, and Jamshedpur. The competition features teams from the Indian Super League, I-League as well as armed forces from India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Meanwhile in view of the opening ceremony of the Durand Cup at J.N. Stadium Complex, Polo, the Meghalaya government has arranged 18 public buses to operate through local areas. These buses will run on a first-come, first-served basis. While match-day tickets are required, the ride is free of cost.
