

HEADLINES:-

- Centre grants time till November 20 to Commission of Inquiry to submit report on its investigations into series of violence in Manipur.
- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches dedicated web portal via video conferencing to monitor progress of Special Swachhata Campaign 4.0.
- Assam State School Education Board becomes operational with oath-taking of Chairman, Vice Chairman of other Board members in the presence of Assam Education Minister Dr. Ranoj Pegu.
- Meghalaya government clarifies that multiple factors contribute to fluctuation in prices, particularly essential commodities like food grains, pulses, and vegetables.
- 5th Edition of Brillante Piano Festival will be held in Bangalore on 28th and 29th of this month as entire festival being moved for first time from Nagaland to South India.

REPORT:

The Centre has granted time till November 20 to a Commission of Inquiry to submit a report on its investigations into the series of violence in Manipur. The commission, headed by former chief justice of Gauhati High Court, Ajai Lamba, was set up on June 4, 2023. The panel, also comprising retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and retired IPS officer Aloka Prabhakar, was mandated to make inquiries with respect to the causes and spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, which took place in Manipur since May 3, 2023. The Commission of Inquiry was supposed to submit its report to the central government as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting.

CAMPAIGN:

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched a dedicated web portal to monitor the progress of Special Swachhata Campaign 4.0. via video conferencing yesterday. The Special Campaign aims to institutionalize Swachhata in all offices of the central government with a saturation approach. The government has decided to observe special campaigns every year from October 2nd to 31st to institutionalize Swachhata and reduce pendency. The Special Campaign 4.0 will be preceded by a preparatory phase from the 16th to 30th of this month. Meanwhile, the Swachh Bharat Mission Meghalaya (Urban & Grameen) will organize the launching of Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2024 on the 17th of this month at the SRGT Second Ground, Polo in Shillong.

BOARD:

The Assam State School Education Board has become operational yesterday with the oath-taking of Chairman, Vice Chairman of the board and other members in the presence of Assam Education Minister Dr. Ranoj Pegu. The Chairman of the board is RC Jain and Rukma Gohain Baruah as Vice Chairman besides other members. The Education Minister said that the new school education board will be totally accountable to secondary education in the state. Apart from academic activities, the board will hold examinations, issue certificates, prepare curriculum etc. The board has been constituted in sync with the NEP-2020. From now on, schools will impart vocational education, besides honing the skills of students. Assam has 4,300 higher secondary schools at present.

PRICES:

In Meghalaya, multiple factors have contributed to the fluctuation in prices, particularly essential commodities like food grains, pulses, and vegetables. The hilly terrain of the state has also increased the transportation costs which are subsequently passed on to consumers. A statement issued by the Meghalaya Food Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs Department said that proactive measures have been taken to address rising prices of essential commodities. Irregular and late monsoon rains experienced across parts of the country has led to widespread droughts, significantly affecting food grain and vegetable production. In other regions, heavy rainfall has also caused flooding, destroyed crops and further reduced the supply. On the government

safeguard consumer interests, the Department has strengthened its monitoring mechanisms by establishing the State Level Price Monitoring Committee and District/Sub-Divisional Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

FESTIVAL:

The 5th edition of the Brillante Piano Festival will be held in Bangalore on the 28th and 29th of this month. It is for the first time that the entire festival which started in 2017 is being moved from Nagaland to South India, marking its debut outside the state. Festival Director, Khyochano TCK said, the festival will feature an exclusive event for the specially-abled musicians with participants from Nagaland and across India. It will also feature a street piano in the heart of Bangalore, at Church Street from the 22nd of this month. The Festival Director announced that Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma has confirmed his participation in the festival. A 60-member group from Nagaland including students from Hope Academy, Ülikhrie Folk Group, and specially-abled musicians will attend the upcoming festival. Participants from 18 countries including the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, France, Australia, Canada, USA, will be performing apart from representatives from 16 Indian states.
