NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN
DATED:- 20.05.2025

HEADLINES:-

- Union Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal reviews Inland Waterways infrastructure projects in Assam and North East, says, government is developing robust waterway infrastructure worth 1,000 crore rupees and targets to complete by 2026.

- National Investigation Agency arrests one militant who is among key perpetrators of crime in which woman was massacred in Zairawn village in Manipur in November last year.

- Meghalaya government sanctions additional 15 crore rupees for redevelopment of Ïewduh, one of the biggest markets in Shillong, with focus on improving drainage, upgrading footpaths, and laying groundwork for comprehensive master plan.

- Press Information Bureau, Gangtok organizes "Vartalap," to share government initiatives and schemes to media persons as well as build bridge between government officials and journalists of Sikkim.

- Fifth edition of State Level Shirui Lily Festival 2025 will kick off in Ukhrul district in Manipur from today; Manipur Governor, Ajay Kumar Bhalla will inaugurate the festival at Heritage Ground, Shirui village amid additional security arrangements.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

INLAND WATERWAYS:
Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal yesterday reviewed Inland Waterways infrastructure projects in Assam and the North East. Sonowal also reviewed progress on the proposed Inland Water Transport project at Doyang Lake, and assessed the potential of Noune and Shilloi Lakes in Nagaland for water sports and tourism. Feasibility studies for Inland Water Transport development on Tiawng and Chhimtuipui rivers in Mizoram, as well as Umïam Lake and Umngot River in Meghalaya were also reviewed. He said that as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central government is developing robust waterway infrastructure in Assam and the North East with projects worth 1,000 crore rupees on the anvil, targeted for completion by 2026. He also said that the North East is not just a gateway to Southeast Asia, but a key contributor to India's journey towards becoming a global maritime leader and achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047. Reviewing multiple projects from new infrastructure development for capacity enhancement on national waterways to scaling up with skill development initiatives for the youth of Assam and the North East in the maritime sector, Sonowal emphasised the urgency and the need for optimum utilisation of funds.

NIA:
The National Investigation Agency has arrested one militant associated with an insurgent group, People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak and he was among the key perpetrators of the crime, in which a woman was massacred and several houses were set afire and looted in Zairawn village, Manipur in November last year. According to the NIA, Rajkumar Maipaksana was arrested from Kannur district of Kerala. One of the miscreants, Thangminlar Mate, involved in the attack on IRB post in Moreh area in Manipur was also arrested from Silchar in Assam. The attack was carried out by miscreants on 17th January last year, resulting in the death of one Manipur Police personnel and two other policemen seriously injured.

SANCTION:
The Meghalaya government has sanctioned an additional Rs 15 crore for the redevelopment of ïewduh, one of the biggest markets in Shillong, with a focus on improving drainage, upgrading footpaths, and laying the groundwork for a comprehensive master plan to modernise the area without disrupting the livelihoods of its vendors. Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong, Tourism Minister Paul Lyngdoh, officials of the Hima Mylliem, and various government departments, inspected the market yesterday to assess ongoing redevelopment and identify pressing infrastructural challenges, particularly related to waterlogging and drainage system. During the visit, the delegation encountered first-hand impact of rainfall on the market. Vendors also highlighted several persistent issues, including poor drainage, narrow access lanes, and lack of basic amenities.

VARTALAP:
The Press Information Bureau, Gangtok organized "Vartalap," a media workshop that brought together media houses of Sikkim as well as representatives from Press Information Bureau, Akashvani & Doordarshan Kendra, Gangtok. The event aimed to share government initiatives and schemes to media persons as well as build a bridge between government officials and journalists of Sikkim. Additional Director General, PIB, North Eastern Zone, Kripa Shankar Yadav, graced the program as the chief guest. In his address, he highlighted the key purposes of Vartalap and emphasized that the relationship between media and government must be reaffirmed.

SHIRUI LILY:

In Manipur, the fifth edition of State Level Shirui Lily Festival 2025 will kick off in Ukhrul district from today. The 5-day long festival will be inaugurated by Manipur Governor, Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Heritage Ground, Shirui village. Unlike previous editions, additional security arrangements have been made for the festival. The Shirui Lily festival is celebrated to showcase and promote the endangered plant- Lilium Mackliniae, locally known as Shirui Lily which blooms exclusively in the Shirui Hills of Ukhrul district. This flower plant species cannot be replanted elsewhere on earth and is found only in Manipur.

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