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DIGITAL E-PAPER

RELIGION

Meghalaya's Wangla Festival gains international recognition, celebrating cultural heritage



The Wangla Festival, an ancient tribal tradition in Meghalaya, has always been a rural celebration marking the end of the harvest. The festival is now gaining recognition on the global stage, underscoring its cultural significance. The growing international interest is viewed as a positive indicator for the festival's rich heritage and the state's cultural identity.

AGRICULTURE

Farmers in South West Garo Hills of Meghalaya Turn to High-Value Crops



Farmers in the South West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya have shifted from traditional staples to high-value horticultural crops. The shift reflects expectations of higher incomes driven by growing market demand for fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants, compared with conventional cereals. Agricultural extension officers note a surge in the cultivation of ginger, turmeric, banana and a variety of exotic vegetables. Farmers cite improved market access and support from the state's horticulture schemes as the primary drivers of this transition. Diversification is likely to raise rural household incomes and reduce reliance on low-yield subsistence farming. Officials said inputs, training and market linkages will be monitored to keep pace with the expanding horticulture sector. Overall, the change signals a sweeping transformation of Meghalaya's agricultural landscape, with high-value crops increasingly becoming the backbone of rural livelihoods.

SPORTS

Shillong Lajong wins in the Indian Football League



Shillong Lajong, a football club based in Meghalaya, has secured a victory in a recent match in the Indian Football League. Accurate details about the match, such as the score and opponent, have not yet been released by official sources. This win is a significant achievement for the club, showcasing their competitive spirit and skill in the league. Fans are awaiting further updates on the team's performance and upcoming matches.

ENTERTAINMENT

Meghalaya Artist Da Minot Releases Hand-Made Music Video, No AI Used



Meghalaya-based singer Da Minot released his latest music video on Thursday, claiming that it was entirely hand-made. The video accompanies his newest song and features animated frames manually prepared by the artist and his team.

The hand-drawn animation stands out from the digital visuals typically used in contemporary music videos. Da Minot explained that every frame was sketched and colored by hand, then scanned and combined into a coherent sequence.

Amidst growing speculation regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, Da Minot publicly stated that no AI assistance was utilized in creating the video. He emphasized that the creative process remained entirely human.

The release has sparked interest among fans and industry observers, who view it as a testament to traditional artistic skills in an era dominated by AI-generated content.

SPORTS

Meghalaya's Lingkoi Wins Hardtail Title at MONDURO 6.0



The MONDURO 6.0 Hardtail Mountain Bike Race concluded with a decisive victory for Lingkoi of Meghalaya. Competing against a group of experienced cyclists, Lingkoi demonstrated consistent speed and technical skill on the challenging course. His performance in the final stages propelled him to the top position. This victory marks a significant milestone for him and showcases the emerging talent in Meghalaya's mountain biking scene. Officials praised the competitive spirit of the event and stated that Lingkoi's success would attract more players from the region to the sport.

ENTERTAINMENT

Meghalaya's Wangala Festival Sets Guinness Record with 1,000 Drums



The Wangala Festival in Meghalaya, a vibrant harvest celebration, has secured a spot in the Guinness World Records. Known for its energetic music and dance performances, the festival achieved this feat by gathering over 1,000 drummers. The impressive display of rhythmic precision and unity in drumming captivated the audience and set a new standard for the festival. This achievement highlights Meghalaya's rich cultural heritage and artistic talent, presenting its unique traditions to the world.

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.

POLITICS

Meghalaya Government Appeals to JPC for Relaxation of FCRA Rules for Christian Organizations



The Meghalaya state government has sent a formal letter to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) requesting the relaxation of certain provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) applicable to Christian organizations. The application states that current FCRA rules hinder churches and religious NGOs from receiving foreign donations and utilizing them for social work.

Government officials argue that strict regulations increase the administrative burden and cause delays in essential projects, necessitating a balanced regulatory approach. They stated that relaxing the rules does not compromise national security but rather facilitates legitimate religious and social

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This request comes amidst ongoing debates in the central government regarding comprehensive amendments to the FCRA, where some members of parliament are advocating for stricter oversight of foreign funding. The JPC will consider Meghalaya's presentation in its upcoming session, and any changes will require parliamentary approval.

Representatives of the Christian community have welcomed this step and expressed hope that amended rules will restore confidence and allow social outreach to continue without unnecessary legal hurdles.

AGRICULTURE

Meghalaya Teacher Trinity Sajo Revives Lakadong Turmeric



Trinity Sajo, a teacher from Meghalaya, has launched an initiative to revive Lakadong Turmeric, which is renowned both domestically and internationally for its deep orange color, intense aroma, and GI tag. This crop was traditionally grown in the state's hilly regions, but its production had declined in recent years due to changes in farming practices and market challenges.

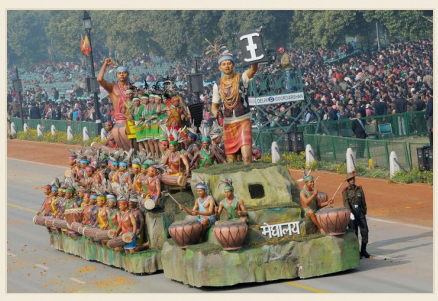
farmers, sharing simple cultivation techniques suited to the region's climate and soil. In collaboration with the state agriculture department, he provided quality seeds and technical guidance, inspiring a new generation of farmers to adopt this variety again.

Early results of these efforts are beginning to show, with Lakadong Turmeric plants now sprouting in several villages. The revival of this high-value crop is expected to boost farmers' incomes and help preserve Meghalaya's cultural heritage.

Stakeholders view Sajo's community-based agricultural revival as a model and hope that with continued support, Lakadong Turmeric cultivation will spread to more districts and regain its place in both domestic and export markets.

ENTERTAINMENT

Wangala Festival with 100 Drums Achieves Guinness World Record on Golden Jubilee



The Wangala Festival in Meghalaya, featuring 100 drums, celebrated its golden jubilee this year and gained global recognition. Organized by the Garo community, this three-day festival presents traditional music, dance, and rituals in gratitude for the harvest.

During the jubilee celebrations, organizers arranged for 100 drums to be played simultaneously, meeting the criteria for a Guinness World Record. Representatives from the record-boarding agency verified the attempt, and it was officially registered.

This achievement highlights Meghalaya's rich cultural heritage on the international stage and boosts hopes for tourism growth. Local officials praised the community's effort, stating that the record would bring new energy to the preservation of the state's tribal arts.

Experienced and young Garo percussionists participating in the Wangala Festival expressed pride in bringing their traditional music to the world. This record will also be prominently featured in future cultural events.

The Wangala Festival with 100 drums is now listed in the Guinness World Records, further cementing Meghalaya's status as a center for vibrant tribal traditions.

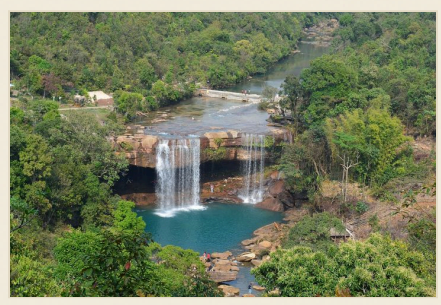
Suspected Industrial Waste in Umtrev River Prompts MSPCB Investigation Demand



Residents living along the banks of the Umtrev River in Meghalaya have reported distinct changes in water color and odor, raising concerns about potential industrial pollution. Local environmental groups claim that nearby factories are dumping untreated waste into the river, threatening aquatic life and drinking water. In response, a request has been made for the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB) to conduct a comprehensive investigation, including water sampling and source identification. The Umtrev River flows through several rural communities and is vital for irrigation, fishing, and daily domestic use. Officials have pledged full cooperation and warned of fines and strict enforcement against any violations.

SPORTS

Meghalaya Takes 101-Run Lead After Bowling Out Nagaland for 55 in Vijay Merchant Trophy



In its opening match of the Vijay Merchant Trophy, Meghalaya achieved a decisive victory by restricting Nagaland to a mere 55 runs. Disciplined bowling and sharp fielding saw Nagaland's batters fall one after another.

Nagaland's innings collapsed in the opening overs, with top-order batters failing to provide stability, leading to the team being bowled out before the scheduled overs.

Following this low score, Meghalaya posted a total that gave them a 101-run lead, strengthening their position in the group stage. This substantial lead is expected to boost team confidence and solidify their chances of reaching the knockout rounds of the tournament.

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.

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.

TECHNOLOGY

Meghalaya Sets Goal of Becoming India's AI Valley, Says CM Conrad Sangma



Shillong, Meghalaya – Chief Minister Conrad Sangma expressed the state's aspiration to become India's AI Valley. He said the government will foster a collaborative ecosystem for artificial intelligence to promote partnerships among startups, research institutions, and industry.

The plan includes leveraging Meghalaya's talented youth and strengthening digital infrastructure to attract investment in AI technologies. Sangma emphasized the need to build a skilled workforce through skill development programs and collaborations with universities.

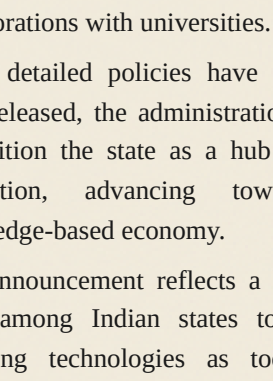
While detailed policies have not yet been released, the administration aims to position the state as a hub for AI innovation, advancing toward a knowledge-based economy.

This announcement reflects a broader trend among Indian states to adopt emerging technologies as tools for economic growth and job creation.

Stakeholders expect concrete steps and timelines for the AI Valley initiative to be finalized in the coming weeks.

TECHNOLOGY

Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma Launches MeghGo, the State's First Integrated Mobility App



Shillong – The Meghalaya government unveiled its first integrated mobility platform, MeghGo, in the presence of Chief Minister Conrad Sangma. The app consolidates real-time information for buses, taxis, and shared rides into a single interface, making it easier for passengers to plan trips, book tickets, and track vehicles.

commitment to promoting digital solutions in public transport, a challenge long plagued by fragmented services and limited access in hilly regions. Officials said the app will initially cover major routes in Shillong before expanding to other districts.

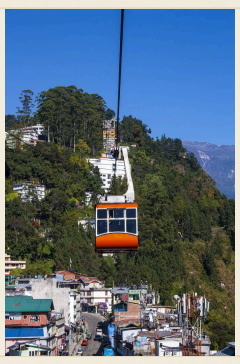
MeghGo is expected to enhance passenger convenience, reduce waiting times, and help planners optimize routes and schedules using data. The service will be maintained and updated in partnership with local tech companies, bolstering the state's smart city initiatives.

The app is now available for download on both Android and iOS platforms, with free registration open to all residents. Features such as fare integration and multilingual support will be refined based on usage patterns and feedback.

This initiative represents a significant step in Meghalaya's digital transformation agenda, aligning with national efforts to modernize transport infrastructure through technology.

POLITICS

Meghalaya Minister Says Shillong Cable Car Project Cannot Be Relocated, Citing New Clearances and Surveys



The Minister of Tourism and Infrastructure of Meghalaya announced that the Shillong Cable Car project cannot be relocated, stating that the current site has received new environmental clearances and updated survey data. The cable car, designed to connect Shillong to a hilltop viewpoint, had been the subject of debate among local stakeholders regarding its location. The minister emphasized that the new clearances confirm the feasibility of the project at its current site. The government is committed to completing the project on schedule, noting that it will boost tourism and create employment opportunities in the region. Officials declared the decision final and stated that no relocation would be considered.

TECHNOLOGY

Meghalaya CM Launches State's First Digital Transport Platform 'MeghGo'



Shillong, Meghalaya – The Chief Minister of Meghalaya officially inaugurated 'MeghGo', introducing the state's first digital transport platform. The event highlighted the government's initiative to modernize public transport and provide online convenience for passengers.

transport services onto a single digital portal, allowing users to access information, book rides, and track vehicle locations. Officials stated that the platform will reduce reliance on cash transactions and enhance fare transparency.

This move aligns with the ongoing digital transformation in Northeast India, which aims to integrate technology into everyday services. Representatives from the Transport Department and local operators participated in the event, expressing their support.

Plans are in place to further develop the platform based on user feedback and operational data even in its initial phase. The launch is expected to inspire other states to digitize their transport systems.

EDUCATION

Meghalaya Teachers with Low Acquisition Levels Reject Government Offer, Strike Continues



Teachers in Meghalaya with low acquisition levels are continuing their strike despite a letter from the government. The teachers are demanding that the government fulfill their pending demands, which have yet to be addressed. The strike is causing disruptions in the state's education system, as many schools are operating with limited staff. The government has urged the teachers to reconsider their decision and return to work, but the teachers remain firm on their stance.

POLITICS

Meghalaya Government Invites JAC for New Talks, Rejects Allegations of Provocation



The Meghalaya government has sent an official invitation to the Joint Action Committee (JAC) for new negotiations, stating that the meeting is intended for constructive dialogue rather than conflict. Officials said that reports of provocation during previous talks were baseless and that the purpose of this invitation is to resolve pending issues through dialogue.

statement, emphasizing the government's willingness to find solutions in collaboration with all stakeholders. The JAC, which represents various communities and civil society groups, is expected to respond within a stipulated timeframe.

No specific agenda or topics for discussion have been disclosed yet, but the government has reiterated its commitment to a peaceful and cooperative process. Analysts believe this step could help de-escalate tensions that have arisen in recent weeks.

The statement also clarified that the invitation is not an admission of fault or an attempt to worsen the situation, but rather a reflection of the normal practice of building consensus on the state's policy matters.

Stakeholders are awaiting the JAC's response, which will determine the direction of future talks.

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.

Meghalaya CM Aims to Make State India's Next AI Valley, Announces 125 New AI Jobs



The Chief Minister of Meghalaya announced at a press conference that the state will be developed into India's next AI Valley. He stated that the government will create 125 new AI-related jobs, including positions in research, development, and deployment.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to upgrade the state's technical infrastructure and attract domestic and international investment. The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of skill development and called for collaboration between universities, industry partners, and the government.

Meghalaya's plan aims to diversify its economy beyond traditional sectors, creating high-value employment opportunities for residents.

POLITICS

Meghalaya MLAs Discuss Equality and Education at Ambedkar House



Legislators from Meghalaya gathered at Ambedkar House in Shillong to discuss commitments to equality and education. The meeting was organized by the state's legislative leadership, where representatives from various parties deliberated on measures to strengthen inclusive policies.

The session emphasized the need to ensure equal access to quality education in remote areas, stating that education is the foundation of social progress. Attendees recalled the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in social justice and principled governance, reiterating the need to apply these values to current policy-making.

The meeting concluded with a consensus to initiate collaborative efforts to bridge gaps in educational infrastructure and to prioritize the principle of equality in the future legislative agenda.

John Abraham appeals to Meghalaya tourists: 'Please keep it clean'



Popular Bollywood actor John Abraham recently appealed to tourists during his visit to Meghalaya to keep the state clean. Speaking at a local gathering, he advised visitors not to litter in public places and to respect the environment.

He noted that Meghalaya's famous waterfalls, living root bridges, and limestone caves are fragile ecosystems that can be damaged by careless behavior. "For heaven's sake, don't dirty the place," he said, stressing the need for responsible tourism.

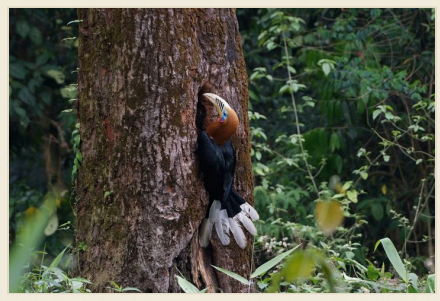
The actor also mentioned that India's largest football stadium is set to be built in Meghalaya soon, but cautioned that infrastructure development should not come at the cost of environmental damage.

State tourism officials welcomed Abraham's message, stating that ongoing cleanliness drives and awareness programs would be further strengthened by the star's support. They urged all domestic and international travelers to adhere to local waste management rules.

The appeal comes amid a growing influx of tourists to Meghalaya, serving as a reminder to all who enjoy this natural heritage of the importance of cleanliness.

BUSINESS

Ekambara opens outlet at Meghalaya Age Pavilion for products made by persons with disabilities



Ekambara, a social enterprise focused on inclusive employment, inaugurated a special outlet at the Meghalaya Age Pavilion. The store displays a selection of handicrafts, textiles, and accessories made by persons with disabilities, aiming to provide them with market access and a sustainable income.

disability rights groups attended the inauguration ceremony and praised the initiative's potential to bridge the economic gap. Organizers noted that a significant portion of sales revenue would be returned directly to the artisans, ensuring they benefit from the trade.

Ekambara's management stated that this step aligns with broader efforts to promote social entrepreneurship in the Northeast. They added that if the model proves successful, similar outlets are planned for other states.

The Meghalaya Age Pavilion, a venue for cultural and social programs, has now become a commercial platform for inclusive products, where visitors can purchase unique items while supporting the cause.

The outlet is expected to contribute to the economic empowerment and social integration of the disability community.

POLITICS

Meghalaya Tourism Minister invites JAC to new talks, urges constructive approach



Shillong, Meghalaya – The state's Tourism Minister has invited the Joint Action Committee (JAC) to fresh negotiations. In a statement, he said the committee should bring concrete proposals for accommodation facilities rather than resorting to protests.

The minister stated that cooperation between the government and stakeholders is essential for tourism development. He urged the JAC to present measures to address the shortage of accommodation for travelers, as complaints regarding the lack of infrastructure in the region have persisted.

The date for the meeting has not yet been fixed, but officials said discussions will be arranged soon. The invitation reflects the government's willingness to resolve issues through dialogue while prioritizing tourism growth.

Stakeholders are expected to present their accommodation proposals before the meeting, allowing the ministry to assess their feasibility and incorporate them into upcoming tourism plans.

This move is part of the Meghalaya government's broader efforts to establish the state as a premier destination for eco-tourism and cultural experiences.