

NORTHEAST PSC

NORTHEAST INDIA CURRENT AFFAIRS-2024 JANUARY



By Jai Nilling Sir
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ARUNACHAL PRADESH

❑ Arunachal bags civil aviation award

- The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has clinched the coveted title of the 'Most Proactive State under RCS-UDAN-Priority Areas' at the 4th edition of the Wings India Awards.
- The accolade was conferred by Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia during an elaborate ceremony at Hotel Taj Krishna in Hyderabad.
- The state has also earned acclaim for pioneering fixed-wing flights connecting Pasighat, Ziro, Tezu, and Itanagar, contributing significantly to its burgeoning presence in the aviation sector.

❑ Arunachal's Jessica Saring nominated for PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024

- **Jessica Neyi Saring**, a 10-year-old badminton prodigy from Roing in the Lower Dibang Valley district, has been nominated for the esteemed Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2024.
- Formerly called the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement, the PMRBP is India's highest civilian honour for children.
- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for 2024 will be awarded across six categories: art and culture (7), bravery (1), innovation (1), science and technology (1), social service (4), and sports (5).

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Jessica Neyi Saring

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❑ **Arunachal's Bugun tribe, known for conservation efforts, leads Republic Day's tableau**

- In a vibrant display of cultural heritage and environmental stewardship, this year's Republic Day tableau of Arunachal Pradesh highlighted the Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve (SBVCR), a biodiverse haven nestled in the state's West Kameng district.
- The tableau, showcased during the 75th Republic Day parade in New Delhi, captivated audiences with its depiction of the Bugun Community Reserve, an exemplary model of community-led conservation efforts.
- The SBVCR, established in 2017, spans 17 square kilometres and stands as a testament to the dedication of the Bugun tribe to preserving both the region's rich biodiversity and cultural legacy.
- At the forefront of this initiative is the protection of rare and endangered species, including the Bugun Liocichla, a distinctive passerine bird species, and the beloved Red Panda.

❑ **Arunachal set to host International Kayaking Championship**

- The picturesque Tawangchu River in Lumla, Arunachal Pradesh, is all set to host the thrilling Tawangchu Tides International Kayaking Championship from February 5 to 9, 2024.
- This event, supported by fervent private sponsors, institutional backing, and the endorsement of the Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju, aims to position Arunachal Pradesh as a global hub for kayaking and potentially host future World Championships.

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❑ **Arunachal Pradesh has the highest snow leopard population in Northeast**

- In Arunachal Pradesh eight individual snow leopards were detected through more than 40 snow leopard capture events, utilising a network of 115 camera trap locations in Tawang and Bomdila divisions.
- The snow leopard habitat in Arunachal Pradesh is 14,156 sq km.
- A total of 14 individual **Snow leopards** were detected through 64 snow leopard capture events, utilising 99 camera trap locations across Sikkim.
- The snow leopard habitat in Sikkim is 5179sq kms.
- The estimated population of snow leopards in Arunachal Pradesh is 36 and 21 in Sikkim. There are 718 estimated snow leopards in India.
- A total of 241 unique Snow leopards were photographed of which 8 were from Arunachal Pradesh and 14 from Sikkim.

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Snow leopards

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ASSAM

❑ Kaziranga emerges as second-biggest home for migratory birds in India

- The gull-billed tern sighted in the Bagori range of Kaziranga was a new record.
- The 5th Water-Bird Census in Kaziranga conducted on January 10 revealed the presence of 84,839 birds, a 27% increase since the last count (66,776 in 2021-22).
- This places Kaziranga among the top 5 in terms of presence of resident and winter-migratory birds in the country.
- Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve extend over 1,302 sq. km with a significant area of over 50% of the landmass under grasslands interspersed with waterbodies, locally known as beels.
- The Tiger Reserve is home to the big five mammals and is a popular destination for birders owing to a very high diversity of over 500 bird species.

❑ NIPER unveiled in Guwahati

- Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers & Health and Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya unveils foundation stone of NIPER in Guwahati.
- At a cost of over Rs 157 crores, the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in Guwahati, Assam, has been completed.
- NIPER will provide research, training, and manpower creation opportunities to the pharmaceutical industry.
- It is hoped that this will pave the way for the growth of the pharmaceutical and medtech sector in India and make it a global leader in this field.

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The gull-billed tern sighted in the Bagori range of Kaziranga

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❑ Assam botanist names plant after father who dedicated his life to tea

- A new herb species *Peliosanthes maheswariana* found in the West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh by Dipankar Borah, Momang Taram and Noriyuki Tanaka has been named after Dipankar's father, Maheswar Borah.
- The discovery is now published after a year of revisions in *Adansonia*, published by the Museum Science Press, Paris.
- Maheswar Borah retired as a head clerk from Monabari Tea Estate in Assam, the largest tea estate in Asia.

❑ Former CJI Ranjan Gogoi to receive Assam's highest civilian award 'Assam Baibhav'

- Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) and Rajya Sabha MP Ranjan Gogoi is set to receive the prestigious 'Assam Baibhav', the highest civilian award in the state.
- Ranjan Gogoi, who served as the 46th Chief Justice of India, holds the distinction of being the first from the Northeast to occupy this esteemed position.

❑ Assam appoints new Chief Secretary Ravi Kota

- A former IAS officer of 1993, Ravi Kota was appointed as an Additional Chief Secretary for the Home & Political Department in September 2023
- Kota has been transferred and posted on a substantial basis as Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Industries, Commerce & Public Enterprises Department.
- He will also be responsible for Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Finance Department and OSD to the Government of Assam in the Office of Chief Secretary, Assam.

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Ravi Kota



Ranjan Gogoi

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MANIPUR

❑ Manipur activist wins 'best social reformer of the year' award

- **Dr Alyson Abonmai** , a musician and social activist from Manipur, received the award for 'best social reformer of the year' for the northeast region during the 31st Annual Conference and National Achievement Awards in New Delhi.
- Hosted by the Newspaper Association of India, the prestigious event recognised outstanding individuals whose contributions have significantly impacted the nation's development.

❑ Manipur to host North East India Film Festival 2024 in Imphal

- Manipur will host the prestigious North East India Film Festival (NEIFF) 2024 in Imphal.
- Jointly organised by the THOUNA Manipur with Film Forum Manipur and the Department of Information and Broadcasting, the festival will be held from March 3 to March 7, 2024.
- The objectives for the festival are to promote the growth of a vibrant and inclusive film industry in northeast India, to support filmmakers and technicians with a unique vision, to promote artistic excellence and creative freedom of artists to draw attention to showcase the unmatched traditional cultural heritage through cinema.

❑ Manipur's Roshibina Devi, Sushila Chanu conferred with Arjuna Award

- Two women athletes from the state, Naorem Roshibina Devi and Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, were honoured with the prestigious Arjuna Award 2023.

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❑ 2 new mammal species discovered in Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve

- Recent enumeration surveys in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve have brought cheers with the sighting of two new mammalian species in the protected area.
- With this, the list of mammalian species in the park rises to 37.
- The first is the elusive Binturong (*Arctictis binturong*), also known as bearcat (Young in Assamese), which is the largest civet in India and is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- An arboreal mammal native to south and southeast India, it is not easily found due to its nocturnal and arboreal habits.

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Dr Alyson Abonmai



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MEGHALAYA

❑ Meghalaya Games: Anthem 'Here we play' ignites excitement

- Meghalaya Games 2024 is set to make a resounding start as the official anthem, "Here We Play," a harmonious collaboration between Shillong based folk fusion outfit Summersalt and Tura's NOKPANTE was unveiled.
- The anthem, a cultural blend of English, Khasi, Garo, and Pnar languages, encapsulates the vision of the Government of Meghalaya, promoting unity through sportsmanship and diversity.
- The lyrics, composed by Kit Shangpliang of Summersalt, along with Mikhael Marak from NOKPANTE, weave a motivational narrative echoing the values of hard work, discipline, and resilience. The orchestration, led by Augustine Kurbah, incorporates indigenous musical elements, creating a rhythm that mirrors the heartbeat of Meghalaya.
- President of India Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 5th Meghalaya Games 2024 at the PA Sangma Stadium, Tura, Meghalaya, marking the commencement of the State's marquee multisport event.

❑ Byrnihat tops list of Most Polluted Cities in India in 2023

- Byrnihat in Meghalaya has been identified as the most polluted city in India in 2023, as per a report released on Wednesday by the independent think tank Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).
- This is followed closely by Begusarai in Bihar and Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.
- The report, based on air quality data from 227 cities, highlighted that Delhi, infamous for its persistent winter air pollution, ranked eighth in the list of most polluted cities.
- The findings indicated that 78 out of the 85 cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM10 levels (60 microgrammes per cubic metre).

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MIZORAM

❑ Three Mizo players set to shine at AFC Asian Cup 2024

- Three talented youths from Mizoram will showcase their skills at the upcoming AFC Asian Cup in Qatar from January 12 to February 10, 2024.
- The trio is part of the 26-player squad assembled under the guidance of Indian coach Igor Stimac.
- The players selected to represent India include the defender **Lalchungnunga**, midfielder **Lalengmawia Ralte**, and forward **Lallianzuala Chhangte**.

❑ New coral snake species discovered by researchers from Mizoram University

- Researchers from the Zoology Department at Mizoram University have identified a new species of coral snake in Mizoram.
- Named **Sinomicrurus gorei** after British India's medical officer, Dr. Gore, the finding was reported in the Times of India.
- The researchers made this discovery during their study of skeletal and DNA (nuclear and mitochondrial gene 5) of coral snakes in Mizoram.
- The new species was unveiled in a study titled "Reappraisal of the systematics of two sympatric coral snakes (Reptilia: Elapidae)," which was published in the British science journal, Systematics & Biodiversity (Taylor & Francis Group) on January 10.

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Sinomicrurus gorei

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NAGALAND

❑ Rengma Sports Association to hold first edition of RSA Mini Olympic

- The 1st RSA Mini Olympic 2024 is set to be a celebration of athleticism, camaraderie, and the indomitable spirit of Tseminyu as a district and its people.
- The theme of the mini olympic will be “Aspire to Inspire.”

❑ First president of Naga Mothers’ Association conferred Padma Shri

- Founding member and first president of the influential Naga Mothers’ Association (NMA), **Sano Vamuzo** from Kohima, Nagaland, was conferred with the Padma Shri award for spearheading peace campaigns and championing women’s representation.
- The 83-year-old tribal social worker was among 110 awardees from across the country.

❑ Nagaland all set to host 4th Asia Music Summit 2024

- Nagaland is all set to host the 4th edition of the Asia Music Summit (AMS) from January 1-3 at the Regional Centre of Excellence for Music and Arts (RCEMPA) at Jotsoma.
- The Chairman of Task Force for Music and Arts (TaFMA), Theja Meru, emphasised the universal nature of music, transcending color, creed, and culture.
- He expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Neiphu Rio for his unwavering support and visionary leadership in promoting music in the North East region.

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SIKKIM

❑ Tiger spotted at 3,966 metres in Sikkim

- Tiger is reaching higher places in Sikkim.
- The roar can now be heard at 3966 metres.
- A tiger at 3966 metres at Kyongnosla Wildlife Sanctuary and there is every possibility that tigers can be found at higher altitudes.
- This is the second-highest record globally after Bhutan.
- Earlier in 2019, Tiger was recorded from North Sikkim (3602 m) and in 2023 from Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary at (3640 m).

❑ Cane species used by Lepchas rediscovered after over a century

- Scientists at the Department of Science and Technology, Sikkim have rediscovered the cane species **Calamus inermis** from the Dzongu valley along the river Teesta, Mangan District, Sikkim, around 65 km away from Gangtok town and now there are only seven populations.
- Three populations were also found at Taryang, at the meeting point of river Mani kyung and on the bank of river Rungyong at Passindang on the way to leek village, Lum (Pudom) village.

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❑ **After tigers, now Tibetan brown bear found at over 3,600 metres in Sikkim**

- Camera traps installed by the Sikkim Forest Department and WWF-India recorded Tibetan Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos pruinosus*) in the high altitudes of North Sikkim.
- The Tibetan brown bear also known as the Tibetan blue bear is one of the rarest subspecies of bears in the world, and is rarely sighted in the wild.
- It is uniquely adapted to the harsh conditions of the Tibetan Plateau. Until now, there were only a few confirmed records from Nepal, Bhutan and the Tibetan plateau.
- Consequently, it has been accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 by listing it under Schedule-I.
- It is also listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as a protected species.

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TRIPURA

❑ Tripura to get Archaeological Survey of India zonal office

- The Central government has approved the relocation of the Zonal office of Archeological Survey of India (ASI) from Mizoram to Tripura.

❑ Tripura spiritual leader, woman weaver conferred Padma Shri

- Tripura Spiritual leader, Chitta Maharaj, and woman weaver, Rekha Chakma, were conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri Award.

- While Maharaj has been actively working for the preservation of the cultural and religious practices of the tribal society, Chakma revolutionised the handloom sector through the introduction of organic dyes.

❑ Tripura takes a leap in agriculture with launch of first mobile app

- The Bagma Agri Producers Company Limited (BAPCL), a Farmers Producers Organisation in Tripura, is set to pioneer the development of the state's inaugural agriculture mobile app, aimed at facilitating seamless communication of vital information to farmers.

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently granted approval for the app during the state credit seminar held in Agartala.

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