

**HEADLINES**

- Flood situation in Assam worsens as four new districts are hit.
- Minister of Development of North Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh says Northeast states will be benefited from GST.
- Ahead of switching over to unified tax regime under GST, Tripura Chamber of Commerce and Industries demands manual operation mechanism of GST for small states.
- Nagaland police arrest 560 people for smuggling liquor and banned drugs over the last 18 months, a senior police officer says.
- Peace talks between Mizoram government and Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) scheduled to be held during July is most likely to be elevated to political level talks.
- Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated throughout northeast along with rest of the country.
- Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal pay obeisance to Goddess Kamakhya and seek her blessings for development of all sections of people.
- Union Sports Minister Vijay Goel announces setting up of football academy at Mizoram Football Association's ground at Sairang village near Aizawl.

**NEWS IN ORDER****FLOOD-ASSAM:**

The flood situation in Assam worsened yesterday as four new districts were hit by flood, taking the total number of flood hit districts to eight. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, the deluge has affected the districts of Lakhimpur, Karimganj, Jorhat, Karbi Anglong, Hojai, Golaghat, Sivasagar and Sonitpur. Over one lakh people in the eight districts are affected by the flood. Altogether 170 hectares of agriculture land with standing crops have been submerged with the worst hit being Lakhimpur district. Eight relief camps have been set up with seven of them being in Sonitpur district and one in Karimganj giving succour to a total over 11,700 flood displaced people.

**DoNER:**

Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh said that Northeast states will be benefited from the GST. Addressing a function in New Delhi yesterday, Dr Singh said, contrary to certain misconceived notions in certain quarters, GST will offer these States an opportunity to realize fiscal growth in tandem with the more developed states of India. He said, Government's target of Housing for All by 2022 will also gain momentum through reinforced State ex-chequer following the implementation of GST.

**GST:**

Ahead of switching over to the unified tax regime under GST, Tripura Chamber of Commerce and Industries has demanded manual operation mechanism of GST for small states. Chamber president M L Debnath said that about 90 per cent businessmen of Tripura don't have any infrastructure such as computer, internet and operator of their own to submit GST return online on regular basis. He said there should be a system to submit GST return manually to the local GST authority which will not only help the business community but will also improve GST returns.

**SMUGGLING:**

The Nagaland police has arrested 560 people for smuggling liquor and banned drugs over the last 18 months, a senior police officer said. This was revealed by Inspector General of Police (Crime) Kewetso Mero while speaking on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The IGP said the seizures may be the tip of the iceberg only while much more must be entering the state. He said that Nagaland is primarily used as a conduit route by drug traffickers due to its close proximity to

the Golden Triangle especially with Myanmar. The onus on the law enforcement agencies is not only to undertake preventive work but also to sensitise the masses against the effects of drug abuse, he said.

**PEACE:**

The peace talks between Mizoram government and the Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) scheduled to be held during July is most likely to be elevated to political level talks from the present official level talks. This was stated by a senior state Home department official in Aizawl. The official said that four rounds of talks were held since August 10 last year under cordial atmosphere and mutual trust.

**EID:**

Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated throughout the northeast along with the rest of the country yesterday. The faithful offered special prayers at various Id-gahs across the region. In Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya, large number of people, attired in traditional regalia thronged the beautiful glass-made Madina Masjid to offer namaz. People exchanged greetings and sweets between each other marking the culmination of the holy month of Ramzan.

**KAMAKHYA:**

Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal yesterday paid obeisance to Goddess Kamakhya and sought her blessings for the development of all sections of people. Purohit offered puja in Kamakhya Temple atop the Nilachal Hill in Guwahati. Talking to reporters in the temple complex, Purohit thanked the lakhs of devotees from the country and abroad who had flocked to the famous Shakti Shrine to participate in one of the greatest spiritual gatherings of the country. The chief minister extended his gratitude to the lakhs of pilgrims for coming to Kamakhya Peeth from all over the country and abroad and making the Ambubachi Mela, 'one of the greatest religious congregations' a success.

**ACADEMY:**

Union Sports Minister Vijay Goel has said that a football academy would be set up at the Mizoram Football Association's football ground at Sairang village near Aizawl. Goel, who is on a maiden visit to Mizoram after becoming Union Minister, said that the Football Academy would be set up in view of the recent excellent performance of Mizoram teams in national level football tournaments. Mizoram's Aizawl Football Club bagged the prestigious I-League 2017. Goel, accompanied by Mizoram Sports minister Zodintluanga also visited the Suaka Cricket ground.

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