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1. First ABDM Microsite Launched in Mizoram (Aug. 26, 2023)

National Health Authority (NHA) inaugurated the ABDM microsite in Aizawl, Mizoram as part of the 100 microsites project.

An Overview of the News

- The objective of the ABDM microsite is to accelerate the adoption of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) across India.
- Mizoram is the lead state operating the ABDM microsite.
- The initiative aims to transform health facilities including private clinics, small hospitals, and laboratories into ABDM-enabled establishments that provide digital health services.

Appointment of Interfacing Agency in Mizoram

- The implementation of the ABDM microsite in Aizawl has been entrusted to "Youth for Action" appointed as the interfacing agency.
- His role includes overseeing the successful execution of the ABDM microsite at Aizawl.

Significance of the 100 Microsites Project

- CEO of NHA underlines the paramount importance of the 100 microsites project under ABDM.
- This initiative has the potential to revolutionize healthcare digitization and encourage active participation of small and medium-scale healthcare providers.

Enhanced Patient Experience

- Patients can seamlessly link their health records with Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA).
- Access and sharing of health records is facilitated through ABDM-enabled personal health record (PHR) applications on mobile devices.

Learning from Pilot Projects

- Previous pilot projects in Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Surat have contributed to shaping the architecture of the wider 100 Microsites project under ABDM.
- States like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh are also making significant progress in implementing ABDM microsites.

2. New species of flying lizard found in Mizoram (May 24, 2023)

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New-species-of-flying-lizard-found-in-Mizoram

Mizoram's flying lizard species has been officially named as Gecko mizoramensis.

An Overview of the News

- The research for this discovery was done through a collaborative effort between
 Mizoram University and the Max Planck Institute for Biology in Tübingen,
 Germany.
- The study detailing the findings of the research on the gliding gecko species was published in a renowned **German journal on herpetology.**
- Specimens of Gecko mizoramensis were collected from different places of Mizoram.
- Collection sites include the Wildlife Sanctuary in **Kolasib District, Dampa Tiger Reserve, and Lawngtlai District.**

Mizoram:

- It is a state located in Northeast India.
- The name "Mizoram" is a combination of two words: "Mizo" and "Ram."
- "Mizo" refers to the self-described name of the original inhabitants of Mizoram.
- Establishment 20 February 1987

Capital - Aizawl

Chief Minister - **Zoramthanga**

Official flower - Renanthera imschootiana

Official Animal - Sumatran Serow

Official Tree - Ceylon Ironwood

3. Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Sittwe Port in Myanmar (May 10, 2023)

Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Sittwe Port in Myanmar

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** and Deputy Prime Minister of Myanmar **Admiral Tin Aung San** jointly inaugurated **Sittwe Port in Myanmar on 9 May.**

An overview of the news

- Admiral Tin Aung San also received the first Indian cargo ship which was flagged off from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata.
- The development of Sittwe port will reduce the cost and time of movement of goods between Kolkata and Agartala and Aizawl by 50 per cent.

It will promote trade links and people-to-people ties between India and Myanmar and the wider region and help boost the economic development of the northeastern states.

About Sittwe port

- The project was envisaged to provide alternative connectivity of Mizoram with Haldia, Kolkata or any Indian port through Kaladan River in Myanmar.
- Sittwe Port has been developed as a part of the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)** funded under grant-in-aid assistance from the Indian government.
- Once the waterway and road components of the KMTTP are fully operational, the east coast of India will be connected to the north-eastern states through the Sittwe port.
- The commissioning of Sittwe port will increase **bilateral and regional trade** as well as boost the local economy of **Myanmar's Rakhine state.**
- The greater connectivity provided by the Port will **lead to employment** opportunities and enhanced growth prospects in the region.

About Myanmar

- It is a country located in **Southeast Asia** and is bordered by **India, Bangladesh, China, Laos and Thailand.**
- The capital city of Myanmar is Naypyidaw, which was officially designated as the capital in 2005.
- President Myint Swe (Acting)
- Prime Minister Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing
- Currency Myanmar kyat

4. India to showcase organic farming of Sikkim at B20 conference in Gangtok (March 15, 2023)

The **vibrant organic farming of Sikkim** will be prominently showcased to the world through the **3rd B20 Summit** to be held in **Gangtok**, **Sikkim** from 15 to 17 March 2023.

An overview of the news

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT**) is organizing four **B20 conferences in the North Eastern Region** to showcase the untapped potential and opportunities within the region.
- Out of which two conferences have already been held in **Imphal and Aizawl.**
- The **third and fourth conferences** are to be held in **Gangtok and Kohima** respectively.

- The hosting of the B20 summit in Sikkim is important to showcase the vibrant organic
- farming of the state to the world.
- In addition, the B20 event to be held in Gangtok will throw light on organic farming.

G20 Tracks

- G20 has two Tracks- Sherpa Track and Finance Track.
- Sherpa Track has 13 working groups and 11 engagement groups.
- **DPIIT is the nodal ministry** for two working groups namely Startup 20 and Business 20 (B20).
- Working groups consist of non-governmental participants from each G20 member who provide recommendations to G20 leaders and contribute to the policy-making process.

Business 20 (B20)

- It was **formed in 2010** and is the **official G20 dialogue platform** with the global business community.
- The B20 aims to provide concrete actionable policy recommendations on each Presidency's priorities to drive economic growth and development.
- The B20 has scheduled a total of 100 meetings, including 65 in-person meetings and 35 hybrid meetings.
- B20 summit to be held in New Delhi from 26 -27 August 2023.

The Startup 20

- Startup 20 has been established under the **G20 Presidency of India.**
- It aims to act as a dialogue platform with stakeholders of the global startup ecosystem.
- It aims to represent the global startup ecosystem with G20 leaders to raise macroeconomic concerns and challenges faced by entrepreneurs.
- A total of **60 meetings of the Start-up 20 Engagement Group** will be held, of which **5 are in-person meetings.**
- The upcoming event is Startup **20 Gangtok, Sikkim** on 18-19 March 2023.
- The Startup 20 Summit will be held in Gurugram from 2 -4 July 2023.

5. Second Business-20 program organised in Aizawl between March 1-3 (March 1, 2023)

Aizawl is hosting the **second** of the **four Business-20 (B20)** India events scheduled in the Northeast from March 1-3, 2023.

An Overview of the news:

- B20 is the official G20 dialogue forum for the global business community.
- As one of the G20's most notable cooperation groups, the B20 represents the G20 business community and consolidates the views of global business leaders on global economic and trade governance.
- The B20 provides concrete policy suggestions to each rotating presidency to promote economic growth and development.
- During the B20 summit, the B20 sends its final recommendations to the G20 Presidency.
- The B20 event, scheduled from March 1-3, 2023, will highlight the opportunities for multilateral business partnerships that state delegations can present in urban planning, infrastructure, bamboo, startups, skill development, nursing and paramedics.
- Around 500 participants comprising ministers, senior government officials, diplomats and representatives of the business community will participate in the event.
- On March 3, the last day of the summit, **Chapchar Kut,** a spring festival of Mizoram, will be performed before the delegations at AR Ground to conclude the B20 summit in Aizawl.

6. Puducherry and Aizawl (Mizoram) adjudged best performing State and District in Social Progress Index (Dec. 20, 2022)

State and District in Social Progress Index

The Prime Minister Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) on 20 December 2022 released the Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative.

The index assesses states and districts based on 12 components across three critical dimensions of social progress - **Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity**. The index uses an extensive framework comprising 89 indicators at the state level and 49 at the district level.

- Basic Human Needs assess the performance of states and districts in terms of Nutrition and Basic Medical Care, Water and Sanitation, Personal Safety and Shelter.
- **Foundations of Wellbeing** evaluates the progress made by the country across the components of Access to Basic Knowledge, Access to Information and Communication, Health and Wellness, and Environmental Quality.
- **Opportunity** focuses on Personal Rights, Personal Freedom and Choice, Inclusiveness, and Access to Advanced Education.

Based on the SPI scores, states and districts have been ranked under six tiers of social progress. The tiers are Tier 1: Very High Social Progress; Tier 2: High Social Progress; Tier 3: Upper Middle Social Progress; Tier 4: Lower Middle Social Progress; Tier 5: Low Social Progress; and Tier 6: Very Low Social Progress.

Top Ranked States/Union Territories

State /Union Territories	SPI	Rank
Puducherry	65.99	1
Lakshadweep	65.89	2
Goa	65.53	3
Sikkim	65.10	4
Mizoram	64.19	5

Bottom Ranked State

Jharkhand was ranked at the bottom, 36th with SPI score of 43.95 and Bihar was ranked at 35th with a score of 44.47.

Uttar Pradesh with a SPI score of 49.16 was ranked 31st and was put in the Low Social progress category.

Top performing districts

Aizawl (Mizoram), Solan (Himachal Pradesh), and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) are the top 3 best-performing districts.

7. Indian Navy and Royal Enfield organises motorcycling expedition across North east India (Nov. 25, 2022)

The Indian Navy Motor Bike team, '**The Sea Riders,** in partnership with **Royal Enfield**, the world's oldest motorcycle brand, embarked on an motorcycle expedition, as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations', commemorating the 75th year of independence, across the seven states of North East India from 25 Nov - 14 Dec 22. Royal Enfield is the owner of the famous brand 'Bullet'.

The expedition was flagged off by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral **R Hari Kumar**, by Video Conferencing from South Point School at Guwahati. Fifteen Sea Riders rode out on Royal Enfield Meteor 350 cc bikes on their journey to cover a total distance of 3500 kms over a period of 24 days across the seven states of NE India.

The expedition is being conducted over two phases across seven states with each phase covering some of the toughest and most breath-taking terrains in North East India. The riders will traverse along the Indo-Bangladesh border, visiting historical Unakoti sculptures, , the only floating national park in the world **Keibul Lamjao National Park** (Manipur) and witness the famous **Hornbill festival** (Nagaland). The expedition will pass through Guwahati (Assam), Shillong (Meghalaya), Aizawl (Mizoram), Imphal (Manipur), and Kohima (Nagaland).

North Eastern States

States	Capitals	
Assam	Dispur	
Manipur	Imphal	
Mizoram	<u>Aizawl</u>	
Meghalaya	<u>Shillong</u>	
Sikkim	Gangtok	
Arunachal Pradesh	ltanagar	
Nagaland	Kohima	
Tripura	Agartala	

8. 3-day International Tourism Mart begin in Mizoram (Nov. 17, 2022)

3-day International Tourism

The three-day **International Tourism Mart (ITM**) began in **Mizoram** on November 17, 2022.

Important facts

- It is the 10th edition of the International Tourism Mart, jointly organised by the Ministry of Tourism, GOI and the state tourism department.
- State Commerce and Industries minister **Dr. R Lalthangliana** inaugurated the event.
- The event will focus on "**G20 Priorities for Tourism Track**", as India will assume the upcoming G20 Presidency for one year starting from 1st December 2022.
- The Mart was inaugurated at **R Dengthuama Indoor Stadium in Mualpui, Aizawl** in the presence of Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of State for Tourism Ajay Bhatt and Chief Minister Zoramthanga.
- On the occasion, a mega exhibition and food court pavilion was inaugurated at the Assam Rifles Ground in Aizawl by State Commerce and Industry Minister Dr. R. Lalthangliana.
- The exhibition has hundreds of stalls set up on local food processing, cuisine, handloom and handicrafts and tourism.
- It will have business-to-business sessions and panel discussions between buyers, sellers, government agencies and other stakeholders.

About International Tourism Marts

- International Tourism Marts are organised on **rotation basis** in the North-Eastern States.
- Mizoram is hosting this Mart for the first time.
- The earlier editions of this mart have been held in **Guwahati**, **Tawang**, **Shillong**, **Gangtok**, **Agartala**, **Imphal and Kohima**.
- The objective of the event is to showcase the tourism potential of the North-Eastern Region in the domestic and international markets.

9. "Aibawk cluster" in Mizoram becomes the first cluster to be completed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (Nov. 5, 2022)

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

According to the Government of India, Aibawk cluster in the <u>Aizawl district</u> of **Mizoram** has become the first cluster to be completed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM).

SPMRM was launched by the Government of India with a vision to provide amenities to rural areas which are perceived to be urban and have the potential to stimulate local economic development.

300 clusters has been selected under the mission for well-planned and holistic development.

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at **Kurubhat**, in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh on February 21, 2016. The mission is **of five years** duration.

The mission follows a cluster based approach for rural development instead of focusing on a single village unit.

Aim of the Scheme

The Aim of the Mission are:

- Bridging the rural-urban divide in the economic, technological and those related to facilities and services.
- Stimulating local economic development with emphasis on reduction of poverty and unemployment in rural areas.
- Spreading development in the region.
- Attracting investment in rural areas.

What is a Rurban Cluster?

A 'Rurban cluster' is a cluster of geographically contiguous villages with a population of about **25000 to 50000** in plain and coastal areas and with a population of **5000 to 15000** in desert, hilly or tribal areas.

Under the Mission, presently, out of 300 selected clusters spread across the country, **109** are tribal clusters and **191** non-tribal clusters.

Nodal ministry for the SPMRM scheme

The **Union Ministry of Rural Development** is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission.

Who identify the Rurban Clusters?

The Union Rural Development Ministry proposes a suggestive list of sub districts to the State. The State Governments then select the clusters following a set of indicated principles included in the Framework for Implementation of the scheme.

Funding pattern of the scheme

Various rural development schemes of the Central and the State government are converged in the clusters. The funding meant for those schemes are spent into the cluster.

The SPMRM also provides an additional funding support of upto 30 percent of the project cost per cluster as Critical Gap Funding (CGF) as Central Share to enable development of such Rurban clusters.

Union Minister for Rural Development: Giriraj Singh

10. President Murmu inaugurates the permanent Northeast Campus of IIMC in Aizawl (Nov. 3, 2022)

Campus of IIMC in Aizawl

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)
North East campus located at **Aizawl** in Mizoram University in virtual mode on 3 November 2022.

The IIMC North East Campus began functioning in 2011 from a temporary building made available by Mizoram University. The construction work for the campus began in 2015 and was completed in 2019.

Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) is a premiere Journalism Institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

It was inaugurated in 1965 to cater the training needs of media professionals in the country and other developing countries.

It has set up five regional center in India to cater the need of five regions of India

The Regional centers of IIMC are;

Eastern Regional Center : IIMC Dhenkanal near Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Western Regional Center: Amravati, Maharashtra

Northern Regional Center: Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir

Northeastern Regional Center: Aizawl, Mizoram

Southern Regional Center: Kottayam, Kerala

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman of IIMC: Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

State of Mizoram

It was created as a **Union Territory** on 21st January 1972 by bifurcating Assam.

It was granted statehood on 20 February 1987.

Chief Minister of Mizoram: PU Zoramthanga

Governor of Mizoram: Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati

Capital: Aizawl