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1. The fourth edition of the State Level Shirui Lily Festival 2022 was held in Manipur (May 25, 2022)

The fourth edition of the State Level Shirui Lily Festival 2022 was held in Manipur from May 25 to 28.

- This annual festival is organised by the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur to create awareness about the Shirui Lily flower.
- The four-day festival was inaugurated by Manipur Governor La Ganesan and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in Shirui village of Ukhrul district.
- The festival is held around April and May as it is the blooming season of Shirui Lily.
- The four-day festival will host a variety of activities ranging from Manipur's rich cultural performances, sports, musical extravaganzas and entertainment, especially of the Tangkhul Naga community.
- During this, Shirui Lily Marathon is also being organised under the theme 'Say No to Drugs' in line with the Drugs Campaign of Manipur State Government.

STATE	FESTIVAL
MIZORAM	ChapChar Kut Festival, Thalfavang Kut
TAMILNADU	Mahamaham Festival, Thiruvaiyaru Festival
MANIPUR	Kachai Lemon Festival
ASSAM	Tea Festival, Magh Bihu Festival, Shilpgram Festival

• About Shirui Lily

- It is the state flower of Manipur.
- Its scientific name is *Lilium mackliniae*.
- Shirui Lily is a species of ground lily found only around the Shirui Hills of Manipur. Tangkhul Naga tribe resides in this area.
- This flower was discovered in Manipur in 1946 by the English scientist Frank Kingdon-Ward.
- This flower is found only in Ukhrul district of Manipur and cannot be planted anywhere in the world.

2. Haryana hockey team won the Hockey India Sub-Junior Women's National Championship 2022 (May 24, 2022)

Haryana hockey team won the Hockey India Sub-Junior Women's National Championship 2022 by defeating Jharkhand hockey team 2-0 in the final.

- The 12th National Sub Junior Women's Hockey Championship 2022 was organised in Imphal, Manipur from May 11-22.
- During the final match, Riya scored one goal each in the 13th minute and Sejal in the 39th minute to help Haryana's hockey team win.
- In the competition, Uttar Pradesh defeated Madhya Pradesh 3-0 to finish third in the tournament.
- Uttar Pradesh got the third position in this competition for the second time in a row.

3. Lt Gen Gajendra Joshi takes over as GOC Strike 1 (May 11, 2022)

Lieutenant General Gajendra Joshi has taken over the charge of new General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Strike 1 or 1 Corps.

- He took over the reins of 1 Corps from Lt Gen MK Katiyar.
- Lt Gen Gajendra Joshi had vast operational experience in the form of operations in Sri Lanka during Operation Pawan.
- He was actively involved in counter-insurgency operations as a Battalion Commander in South Kashmir and as a Sector Commander in Manipur.
- He has commanded a division along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.
- His staff experience includes appointments to the General Staff Officer-Grade 1 (Operations) of the Mountain Division, Colonel General Staff (Operations) at Corps Headquarters in the High Altitude Area, Military Operations at Army Headquarters and Deputy Director General of Military Intelligence.
- **About Strike 1 or 1 Corps**
- I Corps is a military field formation of the Indian Army.
- Its headquarter is in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- It was established on 1st April 1965.
- It was launched in the Sialkot sector.
- The Corps retaliated during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.
- In the 1971 war against Pakistan, corps 1 took part in the Battle of Basantar.
- Currently it is a 'Strike Corps' within the Indian Army's Central Command.

Central Command headquarters is at Lucknow.

4. India elected as Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-24 (May 11, 2022)

India has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024 at the recently held meeting of the Executive board and General Assembly at Manila, Philippines.

- The Election Commission, Manila was the current chairman of the AAEA.
- The new members in the Executive Board now include Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan and Philippines.
- The Election Commission of India's three-member delegation headed by deputy election commissioner Nitesh Vyas, along with CEO Manipur Rajesh Agrawal and CEO Rajasthan Praveen Gupta, attended the executive board meeting in Manila.
- 62 officials from 12 AAEA members participated in the 3rd International Virtual Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) hosted by ECI during Assembly Elections in 2022.

• About AAEA

- The AAEA provides a non-partisan forum in the Asian region for sharing experiences and best practices among election authorities.
- It discusses and acts upon ways to promote open and transparent elections.
- The objective to do so is to support good governance and democracy.
- AAEA is also an Associate Member of the 118 member Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB).
- It was established in pursuance of the resolution passed by participants of the Symposium on Asian Elections in the Twenty First Century held from January 26-29, 1997 in Manila, Philippines.
- It was established in 1998.
- Currently 20 Asian EMBs are members of AAEA.

5. Central government will reconsider giving minority status to Hindus in some states (May 11, 2022)

The Centre informed the Supreme Court that the power to notify minorities is vested with the Union government and any decision in this regard will be taken after discussion with states and other stakeholders.

- The petition, filed in the Supreme Court, had sought a direction to frame guidelines for identification of minorities at the state level.
- The petition said that Hindus are a minority in 10 states.

• **Population of Hindus in 9 states**

1. 1% in Ladakh
2. 2.75% in Mizoram
3. 2.77% in Lakshadweep
4. 4% in Jammu & Kashmir
5. 8.74% in Nagaland
6. 11.52% in Meghalaya
7. 29% in Arunachal Pradesh
8. 38.49% in Punjab
9. 41.29% in Manipur.

• **Who are the Minorities?**

- Minorities are not explicitly mentioned anywhere in the Constitution.
- Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jain and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- According to the 2011 census, the percentage of minorities in the country is about 19.3% of the total population of the country.
- The population of Muslims are 14.2%, Christians 2.3%, Sikhs 1.7%, Buddhists 0.7%, Jain 0.4% and Parsis 0.006%.
- Article 29 of the constitution deals with the “protection of interest of minorities”.
- The constitution recognizes religious minorities in India and linguistic minorities in India through Article 29 and Article 30.

6. Home Minister Amit Shah confers President's Colours Award to Assam Police in Guwahati (May 10, 2022)

Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Color Award to Assam Police in Guwahati and said that terrorism is almost over and talks are on for peace.

- Assam is the 10th state in the country to receive this honour which is given in recognition of exceptional services.
- **About President's Colours Award**
- The President's colour Award is one of the "greatest honours" given to a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation during both war and peace.

It is also known as 'Nishan'.

- It is an emblem worn by all officers of the unit on the left hand sleeve of their uniform.
- Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Gujarat and Tripura are the other states that have received this award.
- Delhi is the only Union Territory to receive this prestigious award.

- **About Assam**

- Assam is known for Assam tea and Assam silk.
- The first site for oil drilling in Asia.
- The state shares its borders with Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, and West Bengal.
- The state shares international borders with Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bhutan.
- Chief Minister - Himanta Biswa Sarma is the 15th Chief Minister
- Governor - Prof Jagdish Mukhi is the 30th Governor

7. In 2020, Ladakh recorded highest sex ratio in the country, Manipur lowest (May 5, 2022)

According to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on 2020 Civil Registration System report the Union Territory of Ladakh recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala.

- **Highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) state are -**

1. Ladakh (1104)
2. Arunachal Pradesh (1011)
3. A&N Islands (984)
4. Tripura (974)
5. Kerala (969)

- **Lowest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) state are -**

1. Manipur (880)
2. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (898)
3. Gujarat (909)
4. Haryana (916)

Madhya Pradesh (921)

- 5.
- In 2019, the highest sex ratio at birth was reported by Arunachal Pradesh (1024), followed by Nagaland (1001), Mizoram (975) and A&N Islands (965).
 - The lowest sex ratio was reported in 2019 - Gujarat (901), Assam (903), Madhya Pradesh (905) and Jammu & Kashmir (909).
 - **No data from 4 States**
 - As per the report the requisite information from Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi on sex ratio at birth was “not available.”
 - None of the States or Union Territories have recorded sex ratio at birth below 880.
 - **Infant deaths**
 - The report noted that 1,43,379 infant deaths were registered in 2020 and the share of rural area was only 23.4%, while that of urban area was 76.6% in total registered infant deaths.
 - Non-registration of infant deaths in rural areas is a cause of concern.
 - It is compulsory to report births and deaths to the Registrar of Births and Deaths under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.
 - **What is Sex ratio at birth?**
 - Sex ratio at birth is number of females per thousand males.
 - “The Sex Ratio (Number of females per thousand males) at birth of registered events is an important indicator to map the sex differential of the population at the beginning of their life.
 - The sex ratio at birth has been calculated after deducting the delayed registration of more than one year for the year 2020.

8. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy inaugurates ISBT terminus in Manipur (May 3, 2022)

Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the Inter State Truck Terminus at National Sports University Campus, Khuman Lampak, Sekmai Manipur.

- The opening ceremony was organised during the North East Regional Sports Week to commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The Inter State Truck Terminus was completed during 2021-22 and is the first and only Truck Terminus in the State.
- It is situated 2.5 km from NH-02 on Khurkhul Awang Sekmai Road with campus area of 18.34 acres.
- It was constructed under NEC funding to provide a formal transit point for inbound and outbound trucks and goods carriers for the state.

9. Centre keen on lifting AFSPA from northeast (April 29, 2022)

PM Narendra Modi said that AFSPA may be partially withdrawn from Assam, Manipur and Nagaland (from 1st April) due to peaceful conditions since 2014.

- AFSPA will now be applicable only in 31 districts and partially in 12 districts in four states of Northeast Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.
- These four states together have 90 districts.
- AFSPA was withdrawn completely in Meghalaya in 2018, Tripura in 2015 and Mizoram in the 1980s.

• What is AFSPA?

- Armed Forces Special Powers Act, (AFSPA), gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in "disturbed areas."
- It came into force decades ago in the context of insurgency in the northeastern states.
- It provides "special powers" to the army, air force and central paramilitary forces.
- The Act provides that if "reasonable suspicion exists", the armed forces may also arrest any person without warrant; May enter or search premises without warrant and prohibit possession of firearms.
- AFSPA is presently in force in areas falling under the jurisdiction of 3 districts of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and 8 police stations of Arunachal Pradesh bordering Assam.

• What are the Disturbed Areas?

- A disturbed area means which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA.
- A region may be disturbed because of differences or disputes between members of different, racial, religious, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory have power to declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

10. Manipur celebrates Khongjom Day at Khongjom War Memorial Complex (April 23, 2022)

Khongjom Day was celebrated on 23rd April at Khongjom War Memorial Complex at Khebaching in Thoubal District of Manipur.

- Khongjom Day is celebrated every year on 23 April in Manipur.
- This day is observed in the memory of the brave Manipur warriors who made the supreme sacrifice against the British in the battle of Khongjom during the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891.

- The day is celebrated annually by the Government of Manipur at Khongjom War Memorial Complex located in Thoubal district.
- The Khongjom War Memorial Complex, a historic war memorial site, houses the world's tallest sword statue built in memory of the soldiers who fought in the war.

- **Anglo-Manipur War**

- The Anglo-Manipur War was an armed conflict between the British Empire and the Kingdom of Manipur, which was fought from 31 March to 27 April 1891.
- This historic war started due to jealousy, discontent, distrust and discord among the princes of Manipur.
- This war was fought at Kheba hills of Khongjom in Manipur and hence the name of this day is Khongjom Day.
- After the war ended on 27 April 1891, Manipur was under direct control of the British.
- After this war, the British government prosecuted many people and sentenced them to death.