

Headlines at a Glance - 8th Feb

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PM

participates in celebration of the Jan 27 signing of the Bodo Agreement

In a fervent appeal the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today gave a clarion call to those pursuing the Path of Violence to lay down their arms and return to the mainstream like the Bodo Cadres. Prime Minister was participating in the celebrations of the signing of the Bodo Agreement at Kokrajhar in Assam. This is his first visit to the North-East since the signing of the historic accord on the 27th of January 2020. Prime Minister praised the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU), the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), Shri Hagrama Mahilare, the Chief of BTC and the Government of Assam for playing a very positive role in the Bodo agreement.

SOURCE: *PIB*

Agreement

signed for Nepal's largest hydropower project

India and Nepal inked financial closure of Arun-III, the largest hydropower project in the Himalayan nation. Built by the financial assistance from India, the 900 MW hydropower project is under construction at Sankhuwasabha District of Nepal. The Project Development Agreement (PDA) for construction of the dam was signed between SAPDC and Investment Board of Nepal in November 2014. The estimated cost of the project stands at USD 1.04 billion.

To be completed in 5 years, it will produce 4,018.87 million units of electricity annually. The project is expected to generate 3,000 jobs in the country. The total investment of the project is estimated to cross 1.6 billion dollars, including over 156 million dollars for the development of the transmission line.

SOURCE: *Times of India*

Major Anoop Mishra develops world's first bulletproof helmet against AK-47 bullets

An Indian Army Major who had developed a bulletproof jacket for protection against sniper bullets, has now developed a helmet which is claimed to be first such in the world that can stop an AK-47 bullet round from a distance of 10 meters. "The ballistic helmet has been developed under project Abhedya by Major Anoop Mishra who has also developed a full-body protection bulletproof jacket which can withstand even sniper rifles." The officer is part of the Indian Army's College of Military Engineering and had got into the development of bulletproof jackets after he had received gunshots on his vintage bulletproof jacket.

Besides this, Indian Army's College of Military Engineering jointly with a private firm has developed India's first and world's cheapest gunshot locator. It can locate the exact location of the bullet from distance of 400 meters which will help to locate and neutralize terrorists faster.

SOURCE: *Livemint*

Haryana Govt. launches 'Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojna':

In order to provide social security benefits to eligible families of the State, Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal launched "Mukhyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojna" here today. Under this scheme, annual financial assistance of Rs 6000 will be provided to those families in the State whose annual income is upto Rs 1.80 lakh and land holding is less than 5 acres so that premium of various welfare schemes of the Central Government, pension scheme and crop insurance could be paid automatically from the bank accounts of needy families. Mr Manohar Lal who was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Mr Dushyant Chautala launched the scheme while addressing a press conference on the completion of 100 successful days of the present State Government here today. The Chief Minister also transferred the amount under the scheme to five beneficiaries present on the occasion through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

SOURCE: *Economic Times*

WHO

Director General warns world running out of protective equipment against Coronavirus

World Health Organization chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus recently warned that the world is running out of masks and other protective equipment against the novel Coronavirus. Talking to WHO's executive board in Geneva, Tedros said that he will speak to members of the supply chain network for protective gear to try and resolve bottlenecks in the production. Earlier this week, WHO said, it had started sending masks, gloves, respirators, protective isolation gowns and test kits to countries requiring assistance. Tedros also pointed out that for the past two days the number of reported cases of the virus has declined.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*