

SHORTNEWS:

1.KUKI-ZO GROUPS

NEWS: The **Kuki-Zo insurgent groups** and the Ministry of Home Affairs have reached an understanding on **closure of seven camps close to Meitei areas in Manipur.**

About Kuki Zo Groups

- The Kuki-Zo are an **ethno-linguistic tribal group** in the Northeastern Indian states of **Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**, as well as the neighbouring countries of **Bangladesh and Myanmar.**
 - The **Chin people of Myanmar** and the **Mizo people of Mizoram** are kindred tribes of the Kukis and are **collectively known as the Zo people.**
- **Language:** They speak languages belonging to the **Tibeto-Burman family.**
- **Society:** Their society is traditionally **clan-based** and many **follow Christianity**, introduced during British colonial rule.
- **Agricultural Practice:** Kukis traditionally engaged in **shifting or Jhum cultivation.**
- **Institutions:** The Kukis have a rich cultural heritage, with **institutions like Sawm and Lawm.**
 - **Sawm** is a **community center for boys** where they learn under the guidance of elders.
 - **Lawm** is a **youth club** that fosters social activities and practical skills.
- **Background:** In May, 2023, **ethnic violence broke out** between the **Kuki-Zo (hill tribes) and Meitei (valley-based majority) communities in Manipur.**
- **Main Demands:**
 - **Pre-2023:** Autonomy through Kuki Territorial Council.
 - **Post-2023 Violence:** Separate Union Territory with Legislative Assembly for Kuki-Zo areas in Manipur.

2.NEW TECH PLATFORMS UNVEILED IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

NEWS: Recently, the Union Home Minister unveiled **three major technology platforms to improve the speed and precision of disaster management.**

The three platforms are

- **Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER)**
 - **Objective:** To enable real-time, technology-driven coordination for nationwide disaster response.
 - **Features:**
 - Streams satellite data to rescue agencies.
 - Facilitates prompt and informed decision-making.
 - Enhances nationwide situational awareness.

- **National Database for Emergency Management Lite 2.0 (NDEM Lite 2.0)**
 - **Objective:** To provide a lightweight, accessible platform for disaster response units across the country.
 - **Features:**
 - Real-time data sharing for coordinated action.
 - Accessible even in remote locations.
 - Ensures unified response across agencies.
- **Flood Hazard Zonation Atlas of Assam**
 - **Objective:** To support flood mitigation and planning through a scientific mapping of flood-prone areas in Assam.
 - **Features:**
 - Satellite-based analysis of flood zones.
 - Assists in regulating floodplain development.
 - Supports disaster plans, resilient farming, and crop insurance.

3.SIMHACHALAM TEMPLE

NEWS: Facing roof leaks unresolved by modern methods, the Simhachalam temple is being restored using traditional construction materials like **lime, jaggery, and Arabic gum**.

About the Temple

- **Location:** Simhachalam, Visakhapatnam mandal, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Altitude:** Situated at **244 meters above sea level** on the Simhachalam hill range.
- **Etymology:** *Simhachalam* means “**Hill of the Lion**”, referring to Narasimha (man-lion avatar of Vishnu).

Mythological and Historical Significance

- **Sthalapurana:**
 - Built by **Prahlada**, saved by **Vishnu at Mount Simhadri**.
 - Rediscovered and rebuilt by **Emperor Pururava** of the Lunar Dynasty.
- **Deity:** Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy – an **incarnation of Vishnu combining Varaha and Narasimha**
- **Image:** Small idol kept **covered with sandal paste**, revealed once a year during **Chandanotsavam (May)**.

Inscriptions and Dynastic Patronage

Period	Patron	Contribution
1098–99 CE	Kulottunga-I (Chola)	Early inscription during

		conquest of Kalinga
1137–56 CE	Queen of Gonka III (Velanadu chief)	Gilded idol in gold
13th century	Narasimha I (Eastern Ganga dynasty)	Built Mukhamandapam, Natya mandapam, and verandah in black stone
Vijayanagara period	Krishna Devaraya	Recorded victories and donated 991-pearl necklace

- **Total Inscriptions:** As per government epigraphist's lists for 1899, temple has at least **125 inscriptions**, making it a **valuable historical archive** for the region

Architectural Features

- **Material:** Predominantly **dark granite**
- **Style:** Fusion of **Dravidian and regional styles**
- **Key Features:**
 - Square shrine with a **high tower (vimana)** and **portico**
 - **Mukhamandapam:** 16-pillar granite hall with rich floral carvings and Vishnu Purana scenes
 - **Natyamandapam:** 96-pillared black stone hall for the deity's celestial wedding
 - **Kappa Stambham** (tribute pillar): Believed to have healing powers
 - **Stone chariot** with carved horses and wheels in the outer veranda

4.INDIA DESIGNATED AS CATEGORY A RINDERPEST HOLDING FACILITY

NEWS: India's ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal, has been designated as a **Category A Rinderpest Holding Facility (RHF)** for a one-year term by the **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)** and **FAO** during the **92nd WOA General Session in Paris**.

About Rinderpest/Cattle plague

- **Viral Disease:** It was a highly **contagious viral disease** that affected **cattle and other cloven-hoofed animals like buffalo, sheep, and goats**.
- **Genus:** It belongs to the **Morbillivirus genus**, related to measles and canine distemper viruses.
- **Transmission:** No insect vector and **transmission is strictly animal-to-animal through respiratory secretions, urine, and feces**. It caused **high mortality (up to 90%)**
- **Eradication:** It was officially **declared eradicated in 2011** following the **Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme** initiated by the **FAO** in 1994, making it the **second disease ever eradicated globally, after smallpox**.

Significance For India

- India is now **one of only six facilities globally** entrusted with **securely holding rinderpest virus material**.
 - The other five facilities are located in the **UK, USA, France, Japan, and Ethiopia**.
 - RHF's ensure safe containment, preventing accidental release and protecting global livestock from any potential re-emergence of the virus.

About World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

- It is an intergovernmental organisation founded in **1924**, coordinating, **supporting and promoting animal disease control**.