

## Nagaland Warms up for Hornbill FEST



KOHIMA, Nov 11: The annual Hornbill Festival of Nagaland is approaching. Several additional events are lined up for the week-long festival commencing from December 1 to last till the 7th at the picturesque Naga Heritage Village Kisama. Among the many events include a Naga chili-eating competition, Hornbill International Photo Fest, a "WW-II car rally, Hornbill ball," paragliding, panchuting and traditional sport competitions.

Domestic and international tourists will once again get a glimpse of the rich culture and heritage of Nagas, glimpse of their lifestyle and perhaps understand the Naga way of life better. The festival is mainly

designed to promote tourism in the state through providing a platform to exchange and display Nagas' cultural heritage.

The festival was given the tag "Festival of Festivals" in 2000 to not only promote tourism but also to make Nagaland 'more recognizable' and attractive destination for tourists. Building on the momentum gained by the state tourism industry over the past few years, the Nagaland Cabinet approved the adoption of the two sobriquets 'Land of Festivals' for Nagaland and 'Festival of Festivals' for the Hornbill Festival. Regular features of the festival include the exhibition of handloom and handicrafts, indigenous sports, games and rituals, paintings, woodcarvings, and sculptures, cultural dances and songs, arts and crafts, food, flower and fashion shows, a beauty contest, Naga wrestling, musical concerts, kids carnival, a night bazaar, a motor rally, a rock contest and tour packages to important tourist spots. (The Sentinel, 12.11.10)

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## Youth Body Expresses Concern Over Chinese incursion in Assam

**'China is a bigger threat to India than Pakistan and Bangladesh. India needs to deal with China with a stern hand'**

Guwahati, Nov 18: The Hindu Yuba Chatra Parishad, Asom, has expressed concern over Chinese incursion in Assam and the Northeast and called for beefing up security along the Indo-Chinese border.

At a press meet today in Guwahati, Parishad president Brajen Kakati said, "Many areas which were part of the Indian Territory are now under Chinese occupation. Chinese incursion in Assam and other State of the Northeast is something that cannot be denied or taken lightly. Unfortunately the Indian Government prefers to play down reports of Chinese incursion and is not dealing this issue with the seriousness that it deserves. Our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had blundered on many occasions on the China issue and our present representatives are also committing the same mistake by not taking considering China as a military threat to the country."

"In 1962 China invaded India with overwhelming force. India was taken completely unawares by this invasion. It exposed India's flawed intelligence network that failed to pick up the movement of heavy artillery and other Chinese military activities along the Himalayan frontier. But it seems we have still not learnt any lessons from history. India is not dealing China with a stern hand which is a bigger threat to the country than Pakistan and Bangladesh," said Kakati.

The Parishad has called for strengthening of armed forces along the Indo-Chinese border. There is need to create new posts to man gaps at different points along the international border and to increase the strength of our army to match Chinese deployment. China is superior to us in terms of infrastructure like road and other facilities along the border. We also have to build better roads and other infrastructural facilities to match them," said Parishad chief advisor Nayan Bhattacharyya and added: "India cannot afford to turn a blind eye to Chinese incursion in Assam or other parts of the country."

The Parishad has demanded that Kailash Mansarovar should be included in Indian territory and burnt a flag of China at the party head office today. (The Sentinel, 19.11.10)

## Repeat of Chinese 1962 Aggression Not Possible: Army Chief

New Delhi, Nov 7: Army Chief General VK Singh has said India was "not sure" of China's intentions for developing infrastructure along the borders, but a repeat of the 1962 aggression was "never" possible.

Describing the regional security situation as "fragile," Singh said Pakistan Army's India-centric posturing and diversion of US counter-terrorism military aid against India were matters of concern.

"China is doing a great amount of infrastructure development, which it says is for locals of the area. No bones about it, no crib about it. But our problem is we are not very sure about the intentions. And when intentions change, with this capability, things can go wrong. And that is what is a matter of concern," he said.

"But, there is going to be no 1962. Never," he said, referring to the Chinese aggression of Indian territory that year.

Singh reasoned that he did not see the kind of signage of 1962 at present, as there were no military build up or territorial claims that were witnessed just before the only time the two countries went to war.

"Absolutely, with full conviction," he said, when asked if he was confident there would be no repeat of history.

"Things are better than what it was in 1962," he said, noting that situation along the borders was peaceful "to an extent" and the stand-offs were within the known parameters governed by Confidence Building Measures, with "nothing going astray".

There were also mechanisms between the two countries now to take care of such stand-offs. But there was a question mark over the intentions of China's infrastructure development, he said.

On regional security, Singh said, "Any country which has unsettled

borders, which are un-demarcated and with problems, the security situation in the overall calculus remains fragile. It remains a cause for concern and that is what it is."

On Pakistan, the Army Chief told the 'Devil's Advocate' talk show on CNN-IBN that "the major problem is that the terrorist infrastructure is intact (across the border)".

Pointing to Pakistan Army Chief Ashfaq Pervez Kayani's remarks that his whole Army was India-centric, Singh said, "when you combine this (with the economic condition, terror and political uncertainty there), it means the following:

That the proxy war will carry on. And they will keep looking for an alibi. And this is a matter of concern."

On the USD two billion American military aid to Pakistan for war against terror, Singh said all aid that were ever given to Pakistan were diverted against India and there were credible inputs to support this charge.

"Historically, all aid that has ever come to Pakistan, for whatever purposes, despite the assurances, have been used against India. We have credible inputs to say that out of this assistance to fight terror in Afghanistan and coalition support, a fair amount is being funneled for upgrading capability against India," the Army Chief said.

But, Singh said, India was not concerned over build up of capabilities of the Pakistan Army by inducting new technology and that it was ready to meet the challenge.

"Pakistan is doing the same and we are doing the same. I am not really much concerned about where they have gone. But what I am concerned is that I should be able to meet the type of threat that comes up. Let me assure you, we are prepared to meet any challenge that comes to our nation," Singh said.