

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 21.11.2024

HEADLINES:-

1. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma inaugurates Shillong Integrated Command and Control Centre at Umsawli, New Shillong.
2. Central Board of Secondary Education announces board exams for class 10th and 12th to begin from 15th February 2025.
3. North Eastern Hill University Students' Union and KSU NEHU Unit, Shillong, suspend indefinite hunger strike.
4. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma visits New Shillong Township to conduct site inspections of ongoing projects.
5. Jal Utsav celebration in Ri Bhoi District of Meghalaya culminates with an event at Nongpoh.
6. Scientific study leads to rediscovery of two frog species in Meghalaya's Garo Hills.
7. Literary Festival concludes at Ward's Lake in Shillong.

CENTRE

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma inaugurated the Shillong Integrated Command and Control Centre at Umsawli, New Shillong yesterday. In his address, Chief Minister Sangma shared that the Centre is a technology platform that will centralize data, enabling better and faster decision-making. He added it integrates technology to manage and coordinate various activities effectively, representing a significant leap in governance and infrastructure. Mr Sangma also shared information about various upcoming projects in New Shillong such as the Unity Mall, Skills Park and more.

EXAM

The Central Board of Secondary Education has announced that the board exams for class 10th and 12th will begin from 15th February 2025. The class 10 exams will conclude on 18th March and class 12 exams will end on 4th April. The CBSE has ensured that there is sufficient gap between examinations of subjects that are generally offered by the same student.

NEHU

The North Eastern Hill University Students' Union and KSU NEHU Unit, Shillong, have suspended their indefinite hunger strike following appeals from the teaching and non-teaching staff of the university, along with medical advice. The student leaders, however, have asserted that they would resume agitation if Vice-Chancellor Prabha Shankar Shukla is not removed by the Central Government. The hunger strike was formally concluded yesterday with an event where Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Nirmalendu Saha and senior professors felicitated the students.

INSPECTION

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma visited New Shillong Township, Mawdiangdiang yesterday to conduct site inspections of various ongoing projects. The Chief Minister inspected the construction of the 2nd phase of the Shillong IT Park. The first phase of the IT park is up and running providing direct and indirect employment to several thousands youth from Meghalaya.

UTSAV

The culmination of the Jal Utsav celebration in Ri Bhoi District of Meghalaya was marked by a significant event held at Saint Parish Hall, Nongpoh yesterday. The celebration highlighted the district's progress under the Government of India's Aspirational Districts Programme. Marcuise N. Marak, Minister for Public Health Engineering attended the function. Jal Utsav is a nationwide initiative celebrating water management, conservation, and rural development. It underscores the critical role of sustainable water resources in improving the quality of life, particularly in regions facing challenges related to water availability.

FROG

A study by a team of Indian and international scientists has led to the rediscovery of two frog species and the description of a new one from community reserves in Meghalaya's Garo Hills. Published in *Herpetozoa*, the research illuminates the rich amphibian diversity of the region, which lies in the globally significant Indo-Burma biodiversity hot-spot. The rediscovered species, *Raorchestes Garo* (formerly *Ixalus Garo*) and *Raorchestes kempiae* (formerly *Ixalus kempiae*), were last described over a century ago by George Boulenger in 1919. Until now, their status remained ambiguous due to inadequate historical records. Alongside these, a new species, *Raorchestes asakgrensis*, has been identified, marking a pivotal addition to the scientific understanding of northeastern India's amphibian fauna.

MANDARIN

One metric ton of Khasi mandarin was exported to Lulu Mall, Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates recently. According to the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the first consignment was sourced from the Jirang Farmer Producer Company in Ri-Bhoi district. The succulent Khasi mandarin grows abundantly in different parts of Meghalaya during this season. In 2014, a GI tag was procured for this native and delicious fruit and the Government has been promoting and

marketing it worldwide. Last year, Meghalaya exported 20 metric tons of Khasi mandarin and pineapple.

FESTIVAL

The three-day 4th edition of the Shillong Literary Festival concluded yesterday at the picturesque Ward’s Lake in Shillong. Meghalaya Tourism Minister Paul Lyngdoh lauded the success of this year’s festival, describing it as a significant cultural milestone. The Ambassador of Türkiye to India, Firat Sunel, in his keynote address, highlighted the importance of cultural diplomacy in fostering mutual understanding and trust between nations through the exchange of language, history, art, and literature.
