

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 03.02.2025

HEADLINES:-

- Union Budget 2025-26 introduces key reforms and enhances allocations to support nutrition and regional connectivity in the Northeast and across India.
- Union Minister Sonawal says the Government has extended the Tonnage Tax Scheme to inland vessels, including those operating on National waterway-2 which runs through the Brahmaputra River.
- In Manipur, the State Level World Wetlands Day 2025 observed at Leishang Hiden near Canchipur under the UN theme 'Protecting Wetlands for our common future'.
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar says the country cannot have millions of illegal migrants and allow electoral politics to be disturbed by demographic dislocations.
- The festival of Basant Panchami or Saraswati Puja is being observed today throughout the country.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

BUDGET

The Union Budget 2025-26 has introduced key reforms and enhanced allocations to support nutrition and regional connectivity in the Northeast and across India, reinforcing the government's commitment to inclusive growth. Under the Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 initiative, the Government will provide nutritional assistance to over 8 crore children, 1 crore pregnant and lactating mothers, and nearly 20 lakh adolescent girls in the Northeast. In a significant boost to regional air connectivity, the UDAN scheme will be expanded with 120 new destinations, enhancing accessibility, particularly in hilly, aspirational, and remote areas of the Northeast. Additionally, a revamped UDAN initiative has been announced to facilitate the movement of 4 crore passengers over the next decade.

WATERWAYS

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal has welcomed the budget and termed it progressive policy statement towards realising the vision of PM Narendra Modi of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Recognising the strategic importance of inland waterways, Sonowal said the Government has also extended the Tonnage Tax Scheme to inland vessels, including those operating on National waterway 2 (NW-2), which runs through the Brahmaputra River. This move will incentivise cargo movement in the Northeast, as vessels will now be taxed based on their capacity rather than profits, making inland water transport a financially viable and attractive investment.

WETLAND

In Manipur, the State Level World Wetlands Day 2025 was observed yesterday at Leishang Hiden near Canchipur under the UN theme ‘Protecting Wetlands for our common future’. Speaking on the occasion, the state Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that Leishang Hiden had been chosen as the site for observing the World Wetlands Day, considering its historical significance and to work out measures to conserve it. He informed that the Leishang Hiden eastern part Phase-I project is being developed with a cost of around 12.81 crore rupees. He further informed that the western side would also be developed with spaces for walking, cycling and open gym among others. He informed that beautification of various rivers including Imphal River and Kongba River would be taken up with a project cost of 86 crore rupees approximately.

DHANKAR

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said that the country cannot have millions of illegal migrants and allow the electoral politics to be disturbed by demographic dislocations, as he appealed to the youth to neutralise anti-national narratives. Jagdeep Dhankhar, also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, voiced concerns over frequent disruptions in Parliament. Speaking at yesterday’s World Forum of Accountants conference, organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in the national capital, he said the youth should be concerned about the existential challenges. Expressing concerns that some people and entities are not feeling good about the country’s development journey, the Vice President also said there is a trend to generate sensation and narratives. Appealing to the youth, he said that power is in their hands to neutralise these anti-national narratives and defeat those inimical forces in India.

WEATHER

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast dense fog conditions over Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh during the morning and night hours today. The Met Department forecast scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall or snowfall over the Western Himalayan Region during the next two days. The IMD said light rainfall is also likely over adjoining plains of Northwest India during the next two days.

FESTIVAL

The festival of Basant Panchami or Saraswati Puja is being observed today throughout the country. On this occasion, people offer worship to Maa Saraswati, the Goddess of wisdom and knowledge. The festival also marks the arrival of spring – a time to celebrate new beginnings and the beauty of nature. On this occasion, President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi also extended greetings to the nation. In a message shared on social media, President Murmu wished that this joyous occasion, which is associated with education and knowledge, bring happiness, prosperity, and wisdom to all citizens of the country. In a social media post, Prime Minister Modi also extended greetings on the occasion
