

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 19.02.2025

HEADLINES:-

- Mizoram Governor, Vijay Kumar Singh will deliver his first-ever address on day one of budget session of state legislative assembly which begins from today.
- Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh terms Union Budget 2025-26 as 'landmark budget' and milestone towards India's journey of becoming an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Vikshit Bharat.
- Campaign for elections to two autonomous district councils in Meghalaya will end at 4 pm today; voting will be held on Friday and counting of votes will take place on Monday.
- Pawan Hans team arrives in Nagaland to conduct inspections under Regional Connectivity Scheme- UDAN.
- Border Security Force thwarts major smuggling attempt after intercepting contraband worth 21 lakh rupees near India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya.
- Shillong is set to host two high-profile international football matches at JN Stadium as Indian senior men's team will face Maldives in FIFA friendly on March 19 and AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifier against Bangladesh on March 25.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

ADDRESS:

Mizoram Governor, Vijay Kumar Singh will deliver his first-ever address on day one of the budget session of the 9th state legislative assembly which will begin from today. No other business will be taken up as it is the convention of the state assembly not to take up other businesses on the day the state governor addresses the house and also on the day the budget is presented in the Assembly. The bills to be tabled in the house include The Mizoram Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2025 and The Mizoram Urban & Regional Development Bill, 2025 as well as The Mizoram Goods & Service Tax (First Amendment) Bill, 2025. An official resolution has been received from the environment, forests & climate change department for a proposal to ratify the The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 2025 already enacted by the Parliament. At least 85 private resolutions have also been received. At least 833 starred questions and 96 un-starred questions have also been received by the assembly secretariat.

VISIT:

Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh yesterday said that the Union Budget 2025-26 is a landmark budget and a milestone towards India's journey of becoming an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and a Vikshit Bharat. The Minister is on a three-day visit to Nagaland. Addressing media persons in Kohima, the Minister said, the current Union budget reflects aspirations of the people of the country and also the vision for a developed India by 2047. Singh said, this year's budget which places special focus

on farmer welfare, youth empowerment, women empowerment, employment generation, education and health, will definitely realize its goals of a strong and developed India, which will play an important role in opening new opportunities of development, investment, and employment. The Minister also highlighted that the government is taking all efforts for the development of the North East and the Government aimed to integrate the region into the mainstream of development which the country is witnessing now. Meanwhile, the Minister also held a meeting with officials of the state forest department.

CAMPAIGN:

Campaigning for the elections to the two autonomous district councils in Meghalaya will end at 4 pm today. The voting will be held on Friday and counting of votes will take place on Monday. Altogether 272 candidates are in the fray which include 158 candidates including 12 women are contesting from 29 constituencies in the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and 114 candidates including 7 women are contesting from 29 constituencies in the Jaiñtia Hills Autonomous District Council. The Meghalaya government has also declared February 21, as a general holiday in several districts for the elections to the two district councils. Government employees and Central government employees who are voters in these constituencies will be granted special leave on the polling day.

PAWAN HANS:

A team from Pawan Hans has arrived in Nagaland yesterday to conduct inspections under the Regional Connectivity Scheme- UDAN. The team will focus on assessing infrastructure and feasibility in five districts - Kohima, Mokokchung, Phek, Tuensang, and Zunheboto, selected under the first phase of the scheme. The initiative aims to enhance regional air connectivity, improving accessibility and economic opportunities for residents in Nagaland's remote areas. In a meeting with the inspection team and transport officials held in Kohima, Transport Secretary Robert Longchari outlined key developments and challenges including financial approvals and minor modifications, such as fencing and helipad upgrades. He emphasized that the helicopter service will significantly benefit not just district headquarters but also subdivisions, particularly in medical emergencies and subsidized transport. Legal and land acquisition issues were also taken up during the meeting.

BSF:

The Border Security Force thwarted a major smuggling attempt after intercepting contraband worth 21 lakh rupees near the India-Bangladesh border. The seizure took place in a remote area of South West Garo Hills district, highlighting ongoing challenges in curbing cross-border smuggling activities along the porous international boundary. Officers from the BSF's 22nd Battalion conducted the operation based on intelligence inputs, recovering the miscellaneous items that were allegedly destined for illegal transport into Bangladesh.

FOOTBALL:

Shillong is set to host two high-profile international football matches in March, with the Meghalaya Government and the Meghalaya Football Association intensifying preparations behind the scenes. The Indian senior men's team will face Maldives in a FIFA friendly on March 19, followed by a crucial AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifier against Bangladesh on March 25 at the JN Stadium. India's assistant coach Mahesh Gawali visited Shillong yesterday to inspect the JN Stadium and the practice ground at the North-Eastern Hill University. Expressing his approval, Gawali hailed the renovated JN Stadium as "one of the best football grounds" in the country, acknowledging its high-quality pitch, upgraded stands, and improved changing rooms. With Shillong's football infrastructure receiving high praise, the upcoming matches are expected to boost the city's profile as a leading football hub in India.
