

**HEADLINES:-**

- ✧ Union Home Minister Amit Shah says all 8 states of the North East will be connected to Delhi through rail and air connectivity by 2027.
- ✧ In Meghalaya, the polling for Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council elections began this morning.
- ✧ Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma emphasizes that the climate crisis is not just an environmental challenge but also a fundamental issue of justice and equity.
- ✧ Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram on their Statehood Day.
- ✧ Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla appeals the communities of the state to surrender the looted and illegal weapons.
- ✧ Nagaland Government decides to constitute a Task Force to promote the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality sector in the state.

**NEWS IN ORDER:-**

**CONNECTIVITY**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said that all 8 states of the North East will be connected to Delhi through rail and air connectivity by 2027. Addressing the Unity Utsav-One Voice, One Nation in New Delhi today, Mr. Shah underscored that the central government has opened numerous avenues for the Northeast in every field, from tourism to technology and sports to space. He said that the reduction of 70 percent in violent incidents and 85 percent in civilian casualties in the Northeast under the NDA government indicates that, along with the establishment of peace in the region, cultural development is also taking place. The Home Minister mentioned that since 2014, more than 10,500 militants have laid down their arms in the North-East, and 12 peace accords have been signed in the region between 2019 and 2024.

**POLLING**

In Meghalaya, the polling for the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council elections began this morning. The counting of votes and declaration of results will be held on February 24th. The state Government has urged all eligible voters to participate in the democratic process. Meghalaya government has declared today as a general holiday in multiple districts to facilitate voting in the elections for the KHADC and JHADC. The announcement was made through an official notification issued by the Governor of Meghalaya on Wednesday. Additionally, Central Government employees who are voters in these constituencies will also be eligible for special leave on polling day.

**CLIMATE**

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma has emphasized that the climate crisis is not just an environmental challenge but also a fundamental issue of justice and equity. He made this statement while addressing the Climate Investments Coalition for the Global South in New Delhi. Highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change, Sangma stated, "Those who have contributed the least to climate change are suffering the most. It is essential to address this disparity." He reiterated Meghalaya's commitment to climate action, stressing that the state has taken proactive measures to mitigate environmental challenges.

**STATEHOOD**

Mizoram yesterday observed 38th State Day, the anniversary of its being upgraded to full-fledged statehood from union territory status, after signing the historic Mizo Accord to find a lasting solution to the vexed Mizo problem. Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people of Mizoram on the occasion of the State Day celebrations. Taking to his social media X, Modi said this vibrant state is known for its breathtaking landscapes, deep-rooted traditions and the remarkable warmth of its people. Conveying her greetings to the people, President Droupadi Murmu said that blessed by Mother Nature and having rich cultural heritage, both Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh represent India at its best.

**ADD-STATEHOOD**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people of Arunachal Pradesh on their Statehood Day yesterday. In a social media post, Mr. Modi said that the state is known for its rich traditions and deep connection to nature. He added that hard-working and dynamic people of Arunachal Pradesh contribute immensely to the growth of the country. Mr. Modi asserted that the tribal heritage and breathtaking biodiversity of the state make it truly special.

**APPEAL**

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla has appealed to the people of different communities of the state, particularly the youths in the Valley and Hills to voluntarily come forward and surrender the looted and illegally weapons and ammunition to the nearest Police Station, Outpost or Security Forces Camps within next seven days with effect from yesterday. In an appeal note issued from Rajbhavan, Imphal, the Governor said that the people of Manipur both Valley and Hills have suffered immense hardship for the last over 20 months due to a series of unfortunate incidents affecting peace and communal harmony. It said that in the greater interest of restoring normalcy, all communities in the State must come forward to ensure cessation of hostilities and maintenance of peace and order in the Society.

**TASK FORCE**

The Nagaland government has decided to constitute a Task Force to promote the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector in the state. This decision was made during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Dr. J Alam in Kohima yesterday. The move aligns with the central government's increasing focus on the AVGC-XR industries. The meeting, attended by various Administrative Heads of Departments, Heads of Departments, and officers from key stakeholder departments, focused on discussing comprehensive strategies for developing the AVGC-XR sector in the state. The newly formed Task Force will comprise representatives from all relevant departments, with the Department of Information & Public Relations acting as the Nodal Department.

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