

HEADLINES:-

- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh says Northeast is key driver for India to realize the vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah to attend function in Mizoram today for relocation of Assam Rifles bases from Aizawl to Zokhawsang.
- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announces one billion-dollar fund for creator’s economy as part of World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit.
- Leader of Opposition, Mukul Sangma says recently concluded two-week budget session of Meghalaya Assembly was more productive than previous sessions.
- Security forces recover 50 weapons, a large cache of ammunition from four districts of Manipur.
- Border Area Programme, organized by North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur and Department of Arts and Culture, Meghalaya held at Kata Beel, Norgorpara.
- Operation Clean-Up team involved in river cleaning meets Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council Chief Executive Member, Shemborlang Rynjah.
- Holi celebrated across country amid joy and festive fervor.

**SAFFRON:**

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh yesterday said that the Northeast is a key driver for India to realize the vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’ and the region will also become the country’s next saffron hub. Dr Singh said that the government’s Mission Saffron initiative has since 2021 expanded saffron cultivation across Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya. For the ambitious plan, he laid down the foundation stone for the new permanent campus of the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) in Shillong. Dr. Singh said that large-scale cultivation is now underway at Menchukha of Arunachal Pradesh and Yuksom of Sikkim, with plans to extend to Nagaland and Manipur.

**SHAH:**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch multiple development projects in Assam today. He arrived at Golaghat last evening. Mr Shah will inaugurate the state-of-the-art Lachit Barphukan Police Academy and lay the foundation stone for housing projects of the Academy in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal at Dergaon in Golaghat district. This afternoon, the Home Minister will visit Mizoram to take part in a function related to the relocation of the Assam Rifles base from the heart of Aizawl city to Zokhawsang.

#### SUMMIT:

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced a one billion-dollar fund for the creator's economy as part of the World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025. The event to be held in Mumbai from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May, will give creators community a platform to create high value content. The session, organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in New Delhi sought to engage the international community. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said WAVES will serve as a pivotal platform for fostering discussions, collaboration, and innovation in the media and entertainment industry.

#### BUDGET:

The Leader of the Opposition, Dr Mukul Sangma has said the recently concluded two-week budget session of the Meghalaya Assembly was more productive than previous sessions. The former chief minister lauded the structured approach adopted to ensure thorough discussions on crucial matters. Dr Sangma pointed out that the Business Advisory Committee made a collective and conscious decision to allocate dedicated time for the discussion of the demands for grants.

#### ARMS:

The Indian Army and Assam Rifles along with other security forces recovered 50 weapons, a large cache of ammunition from four districts of Manipur, defence officials said yesterday. The Army, Assam Rifles, CRPF, BSF, ITBP and Manipur Police launched operations in the hill and valley districts of Chandel, Imphal West, Kakching and Thoubal districts and recovered weapons, Improvised Devices, grenades and ammunition.

#### BORDER:

The Border Area Programme, organized by the North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur, in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture, Government of Meghalaya, was held at Kata Beel, Nogorpara. The event brought together cultural troupes from Meghalaya, Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Nagaland, showcasing the rich traditions of the participating states. The programme featured a variety of traditional performances, including folk dances and music, highlighting the diverse cultural heritage of the Northeast and beyond. The Border Area Programme aimed to promote cross-cultural interactions and strengthen regional ties through the celebration of indigenous art and heritage.

#### RIVER:

The Operation Clean-Up team involved in river cleaning since 2019 met Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council Chief Executive Member, Shemborlang Rynjah, to stress the need to protect rivers and water bodies within the Council's jurisdiction. In a memorandum, the team said that there is a need to protect rivers and water bodies from pollution caused by dumping of garbage, direct release of waste from septic tanks and drains and also washing of vehicles.

#### HOLI:

Holi, the festival of colors, was celebrated across the country yesterday with people smearing each other with colors, dancing to festive music, and feasting on traditional sweets. People from diverse communities celebrated Holi together. Security forces celebrated the festival at forward locations. Holi was celebrated across the north-eastern region amid joy and festive fervor.

\*\*\*\*\*