

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN
DATED:- 08.03.2025

HEADLINES:-

- President Droupadi Murmu extends her greetings to the people on International Women's Day.
- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio proposes an all-party delegation to meet with the Union Home Minister to express the concerns over the recent decision to suspend the Free Movement Regime along the Indo-Myanmar border.
- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio advocates for the resumption of petroleum exploration and extraction in Nagaland.
- Meghalaya Legislative Assembly passes the Meghalaya Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2025 of over two thousand one hundred and nine crore rupees.
- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma informs the state Assembly that there are 39 individual consultants and 69 consultancy firms being engaged by the Government.
- Chapchar Kut-the biggest festival of the Mizo people celebrated across Meghalaya.

GREETINGS:

President Droupadi Murmu has extended her greetings to the people on the eve of International Women's Day. In her message, President Murmu said International Women's Day is an occasion to honour the achievements of women power and their unique contribution to the country and society. The President said women are the foundation of the family, society and the nation and they have successfully carved out their identities in diverse fields, despite facing adversities and challenges. The President said a lot needs to be done to improve the socio-economic conditions of women. President Murmu urged everyone to pledge to create a society where every woman feels safe and gets equal opportunities to move ahead. The President congratulated all women achievers and wished them a bright future.

DAY:

In Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills District, Smt. Bina Sungoh, Secretary of the Village Employment Council (VEC) in Khliehrangnah, is one among many women leaders whose contributions have driven rural transformation through sustainable livelihood initiatives. With her strong leadership, she has advanced various development programs, particularly by integrating MGNREGS with non-NRM initiatives. Her efforts in integrating MGNREGS with agricultural initiatives have provided an alternative to coal-dependent jobs, improving economic stability for local residents. Bina spearheaded an innovative project aimed at land reclamation, converting 20 hectares of waste land into productive agricultural land.

RESOLUTION:

In a significant move, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio yesterday proposed an all-party delegation under his leadership to meet with the Union Home Minister to express the concerns and sentiments of the people regarding the recent decision to suspend the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Indo-Myanmar border. In a statement delivered during the ongoing State Assembly Session, the Leader of the House highlighted the resolution adopted unanimously during the fourth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly on Free Movement Regime along the Indo-Myanmar Border in March last year. He appealed to the Government of India to reconsider its decision to suspend the FMR along the Indo-Myanmar Border.

EXPLORATION:

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has advocated for the resumption of petroleum exploration and extraction in Nagaland, stating that it will improve the State's finances. He said this remarks during the discussion on the "Exploration & Extraction of Petroleum Oil in Nagaland" in the Assembly yesterday. The Chief Minister highlighted the state's rich oil reserves, with the first discovery made in Wokha district's Changpang in 1973, and production beginning in 1983.

However, production ceased in 1994 due to non-payment of royalties and unauthorized extraction. Mr Rio emphasized that the Nagaland Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulations 2012 paved the way for exploration, with Metropolitan Oil and Gas Private limited granted rights in Wokha District. The Chief Minister detailed ongoing efforts with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to resolve the deadlock.

BILL:

The Meghalaya Legislative Assembly yesterday passed the Meghalaya Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2025 to enable the State Government to withdraw an amount of Rupees two thousand one hundred and nine crore, forty lakh, forty-two thousand, seven hundred and thirty four from and out of the Consolidated Fund of Meghalaya for the financial year 2024-25. While tabling the Bill, Meghalaya Chief Minister, who also holds the Finance Portfolio Conrad K. Sangma informed the House in that the amount to be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of Meghalaya, will enable the Government to defray the several charges which will come in course of payment during the financial year ending on 31st March, 2025.

CONSULTANCY:

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma yesterday informed the state Assembly that there are 39 individual consultants and 69 consultancy firms that are being engaged by the Government for preparation of Detailed Project Reports for various proejcts and schemes in the state. Replying to the question asked by an Oppostion Member, Brightstarwell Marbaniang, who wanted to know the number of independent consultants and consultancy firms in the state, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said Meghalaya was able to receive an amount of Rs. 200 crore rupees through the Challenge-Based Destination Development Scheme due to availability of these highly professional consultancies.

FESTIVAL:

In Mizoram, Chapchar Kut – the biggest festival of the Mizo people is being celebrated across the state today with traditional fervour and enthusiasm. Chapchar Kut is celebrated annually in the month of March after completion of their most arduous task of jhum operation. “Chapchar Kut – the biggest festival of Mizoram has been celebrated since time immemorial. The festival brings people together across all sections of society and fosters the spirit of love and unity. In olden days, the festival was celebrated for a week. However, in recent times, the festival is being celebrated for a day. Chapchar Kut signifies and honour the “Dignity of labour”.
