NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

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HEADLINES:-

- Manipur Governor Ajay Bhalla chairs a meeting at Raj Bhavan Imphal and comprehensively reviews the progress of ongoing national highway projects in the State.
- The 17th Indo-Japan Dialogue on Economic Development in India will be held on March 6th, 2025 at College of Post Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences, Central Agricultural University, Umiam.
- Budget session of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly begins today.
- Meghalaya Chief Minister who also holds the Finance Portfolio yesterday presented a deficit budget of 1,970 crore rupees for fiscal year 2025-2026 in State Assembly.
- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma expresses his appreciation to all the members who take part in the discussion of Governor's Address.
- Meghalaya Chief Minister Shri Conrad Sangma says the state Government has not discussed the Article 371 at any forum.

PROJECT:

Manipur Governor Ajay Bhalla chaired a meeting at Raj Bhavan Imphal yesterday and comprehensively reviewed the progress of ongoing national highway projects in the State. During the meeting, the Executive Director of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited. M.S. Deval provided a detailed briefing on the current status of various national highway projects under construction in different parts of Manipur. He also highlighted key challenges affecting project execution. The Governor directed the officials to implement necessary measures to address these challenges and ensure timely completion of the projects. IG of CRPF Rajendra Narayan Das, Additional PCCF and Secretary of Manipur Land Resources Department and other high ranking officials also attended the review meeting.

AGRICULTURE:

The "17th Indo-Japan Dialogue on Economic Development in India" will be held on March 6th, 2025 at College of Post Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences, Central Agricultural University (CAU). The college is located in Umiam, Meghalaya. This is an initiative of Dr Anupam Mishra, Vice-Chancellor, Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal, while Dr. D. Thakuria, Dean CPGSAS, Umiam will be organizing this dialogue. This Indo-Japanese dialogue is jointly organized by Central Agricultural University Imphal, Kobe University Japan, Indian Society of Agricultural Economics Mumbai India, and Centers for International Projects Trust, New Delhi India. For this meet, group of six scientists from Japan have confirmed their physical presence at CAU-CPGSAS, Umiam.

BUDGET:

The Budget session of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly will begin today. This will be the fourth session of the Eighth Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly and will have 5 sittings. The proceeding on the first day will commence with the Governor's Address. Four bills The Arunachal Pradesh Goods & Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025, The Arunachal Pradesh Arun Parivar Patra Authority

Bill, 2025, The Arunachal Pradesh Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and The Arunachal Pradesh Flood Plain Zoning Bill, 2025 will be introduced in the state Assembly today. The five-day assembly session will conclude on March 12.

DEFICIT

Meghalaya Chief Minister who also holds the Finance Portfolio yesterday presented a deficit budget of Rs. 1,970 crores for fiscal year 2025-2026 in ongoing Budget Session of the State Assembly yesterday. Presenting the Budget the Chief M informed the House that the State Government expects to earn revenue of 25,627 crore rupees during the fiscal 2025-2026, while the State's expenditure during this same period is likely to increase to 27,597 crore rupees; leaving a deficit budget of 1,970 crore rupees. The Chief Minister also said that the interest payments for 2025-26 are estimated at 1,347 crore rupees and the pension payments at 1,824 crore rupees. During his speech the Chief Minister, Conrad K. Sangma also said that the fiscal deficit has been maintained below the permissible limit of 3.5%.

ADDRESS:

Replying to the Governor's address during the budget session yesterday, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma expressed his appreciation to all the members who took part in the discussion. He acknowledged the wide range of issues raised and noted that, while it would be challenging to address every concern in detail, he assured that all points would be carefully considered. Specific topics raised during the debate were addressed in his response. The Chief Minister emphasized that the MDA Government's various schemes over the years have always prioritized the welfare of farmers, a vital sector, as over 75% of the population is involved in agriculture.

ARTICLE:

Meghalaya Chief Minister Shri Conrad Sangma yesterday told the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly that the state Government has not discuss the Article 371 at any forum. Replying to the question posed by Opposition Member belonging to Voice of the People Party, Adelbert Nongrum who wanted to know about the state Government's stand on Article 371, the Chief Minister explained that since there has been no specific discussion, no committee has been formed on the matter. Hower, the Chief Minister said that if there is a demand or valid reason for a discussion, the Government will consider it. As of now, the state falls under the 6th Schedule of the Constitution of India, which has provisions to protect the culture, land, and other resources of the people of the state. He also added that there has never been a felt need to consider Article 371, but if it becomes a subject for discussion, the government is open to it.

COLLEGE:

Meghalaya Education Minister Rakkam Sangma yesterday told the state Assembly that the civil works for the College of Architecture and Urban Planning in Tura have been completed. Responding to the query by Leader of Opposition Dr. Mukul Sangma who wanted to know about the status of College, Rakkam Sangma that despite some delay, the Education Department will seek approval from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), as the online application portal for approval opens only once a year, in December.
