

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 18.06.2025

HEADLINES:-

1. Sikkim government decides to replace its large 23-seater MI-172 helicopter with smaller 10-seater aircraft due to poor passenger response, high operational costs, and limited landing access.
2. Ministry of Home Affairs issues Red Alert for extremely heavy rain, thunderstorms, lightning, and squalls in Assam and Meghalaya for two days including today; Residents advised to take necessary precautions and remain vigilant.
3. Mizoram Governor, Vijay Kumar Singh calls for urgent need to adopt innovative strategies to combat urban congestion.
4. Digital India BHASHINI Division and Mizoram government sign landmark Memorandum of Understanding to promote multilingual governance and empower Mizo community through language technology in their native tongue.
5. Body of flight attendant, Lamnunthem Singson from Manipur is being flown today via Dimapur airport in Nagaland and will be laid to rest in Kangpokpi district on Friday.
6. Meghalaya Chief Minister, Conrad K Sangma attends 33rd Foundation Day of South Garo Hills district and inaugurates few projects in Baghamara and Dalu.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

HELICOPTER

The Sikkim government has decided to replace its large 23-seater MI-172 helicopter provided by Sky One Airways Pvt Ltd with a smaller 10-seater aircraft from some other aviation agency. The government has cited poor passenger response, high operational costs, and limited landing access as the main reasons behind the proposed replacement. Additional Chief Secretary, C.S. Rao, explained that the service with this model was introduced on 6th March, 2024, hoping that it was an all-weather aircraft, but the operational experience proved otherwise. The Government assumed the service would attract a sufficient number of tourists/passengers commuting from Siliguri to Bagdogra and vis-à-vis, but in reality, the response was remarkably poor, maybe six to seven passengers per shift for its exorbitant fare. The Sikkim government is in the process of selecting a smaller 10-seater helicopter, expected to be more economical and practical for the state's terrain and weather.

ALERT

The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a Red Alert for extremely heavy rain, thunderstorms, lightning, and squalls in Assam and Meghalaya for two days including today. An orange alert was also issued for tomorrow. In a statement, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority said that the weather pattern indicated heavy to very heavy rainfall in isolated areas across various districts over the next two to three days, potentially exacerbating waterlogging, impeding vehicular movement, and increasing the risk of localized landslides in vulnerable regions. Residents are advised

to take necessary precautions and remain vigilant and those in vulnerable areas are further advised to keep adequate stock of essential items such as medicines, candles etc. The contact numbers (0361-1070, 0361-1079, 0361-112) and DDMA (0361-1077) have been provided for assistance.

MIZORAM

Mizoram Governor, Vijay Kumar Singh has called for an urgent need to adopt innovative strategies to combat urban congestion. The Governor held a crucial meeting with officials of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, National Highways Logistics Management Limited and the State's Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation department to discuss about tapping potential ropeway projects in the state to improve connectivity under the Centre's ambitious National Ropeways Development Programme - Parvatmala Pariyojana. During the meeting, he emphasised the importance of advancing initiatives for urban decongestion. State Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation secretary, Lalmalsawma Pachuau had an insightful Power Point presentation outlining the comprehensive mobility plan, spanning 280 square kilometers, aimed at decongesting Aizawl city.

BHASHINI

In a significant move towards inclusive digital governance, the Digital India BHASHINI Division and the Mizoram government have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding to promote multilingual governance and empower the Mizo community through language technology in their native tongue. With this strategic partnership, Mizoram is set to adopt BHASHINI's innovative platform, reaffirming its commitment to preserving the state's linguistic heritage while ensuring digital access and participation for all citizens. The MoU signing ceremony took place at the MeitY Office, CGO Complex, New Delhi yesterday. This MoU marks a major milestone in Mizoram's efforts to promote native language access in governance, preserve regional languages, and empower tribal communities through digital inclusion.

BODY

The body of flight attendant, Lamnunthem Singson from Manipur is being flown today and will be laid to rest in Kangpokpi district tomorrow. The body is being transported via Nagaland and the aircraft is scheduled to land at Dimapur airport at 1 pm today. The 26-year-old's remains were released to her family yesterday after the DNA confirmation with her brother. Meanwhile the body another flight attendant from Manipur, and Singson's colleague, Kongbrailatpam Nganthoi Sharma is awaiting a DNA match in Ahmedabad.

CM

In Meghalaya, the 33rd Foundation Day of South Garo Hills district was commemorated in Baghmara yesterday. The event was attended by Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, along with other Ministers, MLAs and CEM of GHADC. In his address, the Chief Minister spoke at length on the government's commitment to develop South Garo Hills district and informed that since 2018, various projects worth 1400 crore rupees have been implemented, and an additional 400 crore rupees will be sanctioned under various scheme in the next 2-3 years. He also informed that as the State

gears up for the 60th year of statehood, the target is to ensure inclusive development. During his visit to Baghmara, he also inaugurated the newly constructed Prime Hub and visited the Baghmara Police Station, which has been revamped under the Police Infrastructure Development Fund. Meanwhile the Chief Minister visited Dalu in West Garo Hills district and inaugurated the newly constructed school building of Dalu Govt HS School, the Dalu Immigration Check Post and the newly constructed bridge at Dalu over Bakla river.
