

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 23.08.2025

HEADLINES:-

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi likely to inaugurate Bairabi-Sairang railway line in Mizoram on 13th September.
2. Union Minister of State for Home, Bandi Sanjay Kumar reviews implementation of Central schemes in Meghalaya.
3. Armed Forces to commence large-scale exercises at Dollungmukh Firing Range, near inter-state boundary with Arunachal Pradesh.
4. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Tizit, Nagaland announces ban on single-use plastics from 1st September.
5. All India seminar on solid waste management underway at Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Imphal East, Manipur.
6. Tripura takes step towards agricultural diversification by introducing cultivation of exotic fruits.
7. Meghalaya Health Minister Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh voices concern over growing drug menace in Shillong.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

RAIL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is most likely to inaugurate the 51.38-kilometre long Bairabi-Sairang railway line and railway station at Sairang/Sihhmui in Mizoram on 13th September, chief minister Lalduhoma announced yesterday. Aizawl has become the fourth state capital in the northeast to be connected with rail link. Addressing a conference of the Mizoram Police Service Association in Aizawl, the chief minister said the Mizoram government has decided to make Sairang a world class rail station with the service of Rajdhani Express from the outskirts of state capital Aizawl. Railway authorities said the new connectivity will cut transportation costs, ease passenger travel, boost trade, tourism, and employment, and accelerate socio-economic growth in Mizoram and the wider Northeast region.

REVIEW

Union Minister of State for Home, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, yesterday reviewed the implementation of Central schemes in Meghalaya during a high-level meeting in Shillong with senior state officials. The minister made key

observations and noted challenges in execution, including delayed fund release, tough terrain, and difficulties in reaching remote areas. The meeting focused on development and welfare programmes. Officials expressed hope that his observations would help streamline implementation and improve delivery of Central benefits to people across Meghalaya.

DRUG

Meghalaya Health Minister Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh has voiced concern over the growing drug menace in Shillong, stressing the need for better healthcare facilities for those affected. She admitted that the state's health centres are currently ill-equipped to handle the complexities of drug addiction treatment. Referring to a recent incident of a girl being allegedly injected by miscreants in the Jaiaw locality in Shillong, Lyngdoh termed the situation alarming and said the government is examining the case. Highlighting the DREAM Mission, Ms Lyngdoh said it presents a vital opportunity for Meghalaya to intensify its fight against drugs.

FIRING

The Indian Armed Forces will commence large-scale exercises at the Dollungmukh Firing Range, situated within the Dulung Reserve Forest in Assam's Lakhimpur district, near the inter-state boundary with Arunachal Pradesh. The training operations, to begin from 1st September and scheduled to continue till 31st December, will include live bomb detonations, rocket launches, and aerial firepower displays. The Lakhimpur district administration, in coordination with the Forest Department, has issued a strict order barring civilian access to the area throughout the duration of the exercises. Authorities have urged local residents to exercise caution, refrain from approaching the restricted zone, and remain alert to avoid potential harm to life and property.

PLASTIC:

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Tizit, Nagaland, Relise Sangtam, has announced ban on single-use plastics within the sub-division jurisdiction of Mon district, with effect from 1st September. All single-use plastic bottles, carry bags, irrespective of thickness, size, or colour, and plastic water bottles with a capacity of less than one litre will be prohibited. To ensure strict implementation, enforcement teams will conduct regular checking and inspections. Defaulters will face penalties of 10,000 rupees for the first offence and 20,000 rupees for the second offence, while repeated violations will lead to cancellation of trade licenses.

RELOCATION

Cabinet Minister and Laitumkhrah MLA Ampareen Lyngdoh has said the government will initiate the relocation of hawkers from the Laitumkhrah area in Shillong soon. Stressing the need for a calculated and humane approach, she assured that the government will act with utmost sympathy as

the matter concerns people's livelihoods. Refusing to comment further since discussions are still at an early stage, Ms Lyngdoh maintained that the government is working sincerely towards proper relocation. Following the successful shifting of hawkers from Police Bazar Khyndailad, the main commercial centre in Meghalaya capital Shillong, the government now plans to relocate vendors from Laitumkhrah, Civil Hospital and Motphran areas by November this year.

TRIPURA

Tripura has taken a fresh step towards agricultural diversification by introducing cultivation of exotic fruits such as mangosteen, rambutan and avocado. Agriculture Minister Ratan Lal Nath informed that the fruits are being grown on a trial basis at the Nagicherra Horticulture Research Centre. Mr Nath informed that 46 hectares have already been brought under avocado cultivation. If the experimental farming proves successful, farmers will be encouraged to take up large-scale production. The Tripura government has also set a target of becoming self-reliant in potato seed production by 2028–29. Farmers usually depend on seeds from West Bengal and Punjab, as locally available 'True Potato Seeds' are costly. To support areca nut farmers in Jampui Hills, the Tripura state agriculture department has distributed 40 battery-operated sprayers, pesticides and other essential supplies.

MANIPUR

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla launched a web/mobile-based application called "CMIS Employee Corner" and also the official website of Directorate of Management Information System at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal. The new digital service allows state government employees to securely access their pay slips, annual salary statements, service history and other personal details online via the Central Management Information System.

WASTE

A two-day All India seminar on "Solid Waste Management: Innovative Solutions for a sustainable future" was inaugurated at the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Imphal East yesterday. The seminar is being organised by the Institute of Engineers, Manipur State Centre and the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Manipur under the aegis of Environmental Engineering Division Board. As part of the inaugural programme, a souvenir was released, followed by technical sessions and paper presentations.

ARUNCHAL

In a significant stride towards civil–military fusion and nation-building, the Dao Division of the Indian Army signed a Memorandum of Understanding

with Bharti Airtel Private Limited to enhance mobile communication infrastructure in the forward areas of Dibang and Dau Delai Valleys, in Arunachal Pradesh. The agreement marks a significant step in bridging the digital divide in these strategically important yet geographically remote regions. This initiative will improve cellular network coverage, benefitting both the local populace and deployed troops by ensuring reliable communication facilities. This partnership will not only strengthen security and communication for troops safeguarding the nation’s borders but also empower local communities through access to better network services. It will support various facets of development, like education, healthcare, e-governance and entrepreneurship in these frontier districts.

VARTALAP

The Press Information Bureau, Shillong, in collaboration with North Eastern Hill University and the Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya, organized a Vartalap, on Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Meghalaya, and media workshop on Media Laws and Ethics, and Artificial Intelligence at Raj Bhavan, Shillong yesterday. Governor C.H. Vijayashankar emphasized the importance of effective utilization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, designed to benefit people. The present Union Government has placed particular emphasis on the Northeast, and Meghalaya is receiving due attention in agriculture, horticulture, and infrastructure, the governor said. Meghalaya Minister of Information and Public Relations, Health and Family Welfare, Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh said Meghalaya has been performing strongly in health through National Health Mission and PM-JAY, with over five lakh beneficiaries, as well as in agriculture through PM-Kisan. She stressed that Artificial Intelligence is a powerful tool, but if misused, it can be dangerous, and therefore, it must be responsibly handled for the benefit of the people.
