

## NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

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### HEADLINES:-

- Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inspects India's first Vande Bharat sleeper train
- Meghalaya records first full freight rake-loading in Mendipathar Railway Station
- Assam Government adopting multiple approaches to strengthen the health sector in the state, says Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Tripura sets a target to generate 500 megawatts of solar power by 2030
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Secretary Manish Gupta pays courtesy call on the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
- Manipur Police recovers arms and ammunition in Imphal East district
- Arunachal Pradesh's Subi Taba conferred with the Ramnath Goenka Sahitya Samman for Best Fiction 2025

### NEWS IN ORDER:-

#### MINISTER

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday inspected the nation's first Vande Bharat sleeper train. Talking to the media, Vaishnaw said that the train is designed for overnight and long-haul journeys. The Minister stated that the fully air-conditioned sleeper service will be flagged off in the second half of this month between Guwahati and Kolkata, marking a major upgrade in long-distance rail journeys under Indian Railways. He added that the Vande Bharat sleeper marks the next phase of India's semi-high-speed rail transformation, promising faster travel, better comfort and modern safety systems. Mr. Vaishnaw also highlighted that the train is equipped with state-of-the-art passenger amenities, including comfortable sleeper berths, automatic doors and modern toilets.

#### RAILWAY

The Mendipathar railway line is delivering significant benefits to Meghalaya. The state's only railway station marked its entry into freight operations on February 4 last year and has since shown steady growth, with 29 mini rakes and six full rakes—equivalent to 20.5 full rakes—unloaded between February and December 2025. The North East Frontier Railway (NFR) recently achieved a major milestone with the first-ever loading of a full freight rake at Mendipathar. A coal rake comprising 42 covered wagons was successfully loaded and dispatched to Jalalgarh within eight and a half hours. According to NFR, commencement of both freight loading and unloading at Mendipathar is expected to boost Meghalaya's local economy by enabling reliable, economical movement of goods, supporting regional industries, improving market access, and ensuring cost-effective transport of essential commodities, especially for hilly and remote areas.

## ASSAM

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said that the State Government is adopting multiple approaches to strengthen the health sector in the state. In his social media handle, the Chief Minister stated that the government's efforts are not confined to infrastructure development alone, but also focus on building a pool of well-trained human resources to effectively serve the public. Highlighting the progress made over the years, the Chief Minister said that significant emphasis has been laid on expanding medical education and improving healthcare delivery across the state. According to him, in less than a decade, the number of MBBS seats in Assam has increased substantially from 726 to more than 1,800, reflecting the government's commitment to addressing the shortage of doctors.

## POWER

Tripura Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath on Saturday said that development is not possible without electricity and that modern civilisation cannot be imagined in its absence. He was speaking at the Bhoomi Pujan ceremony of the Super ECBC building at the Power House Complex in Banamalipur in the State capital. The Minister informed that the proposed building will be a high energy-efficient Indian commercial building, significantly outperforming the baseline Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) standards. The total estimated cost of the project is 12.33 crore rupees. Nath said the government is working towards modernisation of the power sector to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply across the State. He added that Tripura Power Transmission Limited has taken initiatives to modernise the power transmission system with financial assistance from the Ministry of DoNER. He further stated that, as an alternative to coal and gas, the State has set a target of generating 500 megawatts of solar power by 2030.

## ARUNACHAL

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Secretary Manish Gupta paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. General K.T. Parnaik, at Lok Bhavan, Itanagar. During the interaction, the Governor shared his guidance on strengthening governance and service delivery across key sectors. He advised closer monitoring of developmental projects through the effective use of geospatial technologies, underscoring the need for transparency, timely execution, and evidence-based decision-making. The Governor emphasized the importance of enhancing productivity and competitiveness in both the manufacturing and services sectors. The Governor discussed the possibilities of exploring practical AI-driven solutions in governance and development, while also stressing the continued scaling and effective utilization of India's Digital Public Infrastructure to improve outcomes, expand access, and strengthening citizen-centric services across the State.

## HUMP

Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister, Chowna Mein visited the Hump, World War II Museum at Pasighat along with former Chief Minister, Mukut Mithi and other MLAs. The Deputy Chief Minister commended Mebo MLA, Oken Tayeng, for his initiative in establishing this World War II Museum, which preserves

valuable artefacts, including remnants of aircraft that crashed during the war. Chowna Mein said during the World War II, many tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh contributed as porters and supported the construction of the historic Ledo Road and to honour the legacy, a World War II Museum is also being constructed at Jairampur in Changlang district. Mein said that these efforts stand as a tribute to history and a reminder that the sacrifices made during World War II must never be forgotten.

## YOGA

Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha on Saturday inaugurated the four-day-long 69th National School Yoga Championship for the Under-17 Boys' category at the NSRCC in Agartala. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that the coming together of young talents from different parts of the country around the great Indian tradition of yoga is not merely a competition, but a reflection of India's cultural strength, physical capability and mental resilience. He expressed gratitude to the School Games Federation of India for entrusting Tripura with the responsibility of hosting the 69th National School Games in the Under-17 Boys' Yogasana category. Dr Saha informed that around 350 participants from several states across the country are taking part in the championship. The national-level yoga championship will continue till January 6.

## ARMS

Manipur Police in collaboration with other security forces conducted a search and combing operation in Lamlai Telou in Imphal East district on Saturday and recovered arms and ammunition. According to Manipur Police, the search operation was conducted after intelligence inputs were received about the hidden arms and ammunitions. During the search, two Pistol along with 91 live ammunition, 51 mm high explosive mortar and other arms and ammunitions were recovered. The combined force later sensitized the areas for public safety. A case has been registered and investigation has been initiated into the matter.

## AWARD

Arunachal Pradesh's Subi Taba has been conferred with the Ramnath Goenka Sahitya Samman for Best Fiction 2025 for her acclaimed work "Tales from the Dawn-Lit Mountains". Chief Minister Pema Khandu in a social media post said the prestigious recognition by The New Indian Express Group is a proud moment for Arunachal Pradesh and a significant milestone for contemporary literature from the Northeast.

## OLYMPIAN

Naga Olympian Chekrovolu Swuro, who currently serves as President of the Nagaland Archery Association, has been elected Vice-President of the Archery Association of India. The announcement was made during the recently concluded Annual General Meeting of the Archery Association of India, which was held in conjunction with the 2025 Senior National Archery Championship in Hyderabad. The Nagaland Archery Association has congratulated Swuro on her election to the

post, and has expressed its gratitude to the Archery Association of India for recognising and placing its faith in a most deserving candidate.

## DEBATE

In an innovative initiative aimed at building a drug-free society and curbing crimes against women, the Tripura Police of Kowai Police Station on Saturday organised a debate competition for students at Dasharath Deb Memorial College. The debate was held on the topic "Police can protect society from crimes against women and drug-related offences." Students of the college participated enthusiastically, presenting arguments both for and against the motion. In the competition, Shubham Shukla Das, a college student, secured the first position. At the conclusion of the event, certificates were distributed to all participating students by the police authorities.

## CAMP

In Manipur, the Assam Rifles conducted Yoga and Fitness Session Camp in Churachandpur district on the occasion of International Mind and Body Wellness Day. The camp was held with an aim to promote holistic health, stress management and mental wellbeing of the individuals. Around 70 individuals attended the camp

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