

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 18.02.2026

HEADLINES:-

- Political parties in Assam urge full bench of Election Commission of India to schedule Assembly election dates by keeping in mind Assam's Bihu festival.
- Mizoram Governor, Vijay Kumar Singh highlights state's crackdown on cross-border smuggling and narcotics trafficking during 2025–26, leading to seizure of drugs worth 1,047 crore rupees.
- Meghalaya is building New Shillong on four pillars: tourism, sports and culture, education and skilling and technology to become "engine of growth" and create 1.5 lakh jobs in future.
- Union Home Affairs Minister, Amit Shah will attend CRPF's 87th Anniversary Parade at Sarusajai Stadium, Guwahati on Saturday.
- Manipur Chief Minister, Y. Khemchand Singh launches DIGI-SAPNE 2.0 to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in North East.
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Pema Khandu launched RAKTA Rice – a premium organic indigenous red rice from Tawang district.
- Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma inaugurates Lengtekai bridge aims at improving connectivity with Tripura and neighbouring Bangladesh.
- Three-day regional Vedic conference begins at Eklavya campus of the Central Sanskrit University in Agartala.
- Dr. Yasum Litin of Yingkiong, creates history by becoming first Cardiac Anaesthesia superspecialist from Arunachal Pradesh.
- National School of Drama organises Meghalaya edition of 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2026 in Tura.
- Major General Anurag Vij, Additional Director General of NCC Directorate NER visits NCC Group Headquarters in Imphal.
- Arunachal's Tsering Lamu Shongmu of Kalaktang, West Kameng, conferred with Youth Icon Award at National Environment Youth Parliament-2026 in Nagpur.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

ASSAM ECI MEETING

The full bench of the Election Commission of India met representatives of recognised political parties of Assam in Guwahati yesterday. During the meeting, political parties suggested that the upcoming assembly elections in the state be held in either a single or a maximum of two phases. They also urged the poll panel to schedule dates keeping in mind the Bihu festival. The ECI team, headed by chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, is on a three-day visit

to Assam to review preparations for the assembly polls. The poll panel held meetings with BJP, Congress, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Aam Aadmi Party, All India United Democratic Front, Asom Gana Parishad, Bodoland People's Front and United People's Party Liberal. Political parties appreciated the conduct of special revision of electoral rolls in Assam.

SESSION-MIZORAM

Mizoram Governor, Vijay Kumar Singh yesterday said that the state has reported a significant crackdown on cross-border smuggling and narcotics trafficking during 2025–26, with law enforcement agencies seizing drugs worth 1,047 crore rupees. Addressing the inaugural sitting of the Mizoram Assembly's budget session, Singh said, the overall law and order situation in Mizoram during the current fiscal remained peaceful due to proactive policing and continuous monitoring by the state police. Singh stated that the menace of drug trafficking and substance abuse remained serious concerns for the government. The Governor also expressed confidence that with a clear and focused vision, Mizoram could emerge as a model of peace and progress. He also stated that the present administration is committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in governance. The Governor further highlighted initiatives aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and encouraging greater participation of young people in sports across the state.

NEWS SHILLONG

Meghalaya Chief Minister, Conrad K Sangma yesterday said that New Shillong is being built on four pillars: tourism, sports and culture, education and skilling and technology. Sangma informed the State Assembly that Shillong is growing rapidly and the New Shillong Township is being developed which will be Meghalaya's "engine of growth" creating 1.5 lakh jobs in the future. Replying to a short duration discussion moved by Mawryngkneng MLA, Heaving Stone Kharpran on developmental activities in New Shillong, Sangma said, the township is being built with a total investment of over 6000 crore rupees and over 915 acres of land procured from 1995 to 2017. With Shillong city's population now exceeding five lakhs, the Government has adopted a two-pronged strategy to address the present challenges in Shillong while building future opportunities in New Shillong.

AMIT SHAH-GUWAHATI

Union Home Affairs Minister, Amit Shah will attend the Central Reserve Police Force's 87th Anniversary Parade as the Chief Guest at Sarusajai Stadium, Guwahati in Assam on Saturday. For the first time, the CRPF is celebrating its Anniversary Parade in the North East, underscoring its deep association with the region and its continued commitment to peace, stability and national security. The occasion will honour the service and sacrifices of CRPF personnel and their contribution to national security.

DIGI-SAPNE

Manipur Chief Minister, Y. Khemchand Singh yesterday launched the DIGI-SAPNE 2.0 at the Classic Grande in Imphal. DIGI-Startup Acceleration Programme for North East, is an initiative supported by the Ministry of Electronics and IT to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the North East. The programme supports selected Startups with mentorship, market access, funding opportunities and financial assistance of upto eighty lakh rupees. Addressing the programme, the Chief Minister said, the nation has witnessed a remarkable transformation, from a job-seeking nation to a job creating nation over the past decades and DIGI-SAPNE 2.0 carries this national vision to the grassroots level in Manipur. He informed that Startup Manipur has

been recognized as a leader in developing a strong Startup ecosystem under the 5th Edition of the States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking.

RAKTA RICE

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Pema Khandu launched RAKTA Rice – a premium organic indigenous red rice from Tawang district. Produced and marketed by Rakta Organic, it is an initiative of Pema Tsewang from Grenchkar village of the Monpa community. Commending the initiative, Khandu said, this effort brings traditional high-altitude farming wisdom to a wider market. He also said that more than a food product, it represents preservation of traditional seed varieties and the agricultural heritage of people. Cultivated through zero-chemical, eco-friendly practices in the valleys of Tawang, the rice is naturally rich in antioxidants, iron and essential minerals.

BRIDGE

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma yesterday inaugurated the Lengtekai bridge, a key infrastructure project aimed at improving connectivity with Tripura as well as neighbouring Bangladesh. Constructed over the Tlawng River, the strategically important bridge has been built at a cost of 43.83 crore rupees with funding from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Officially named the 'Faith Bridge', the structure is designed to carry loads up to 385 metric tons, significantly improving transport safety and capacity in the western region of the state.

CONFERENCE

A three-day regional Vedic conference began at the Eklavya campus of the Central Sanskrit University in Agartala from yesterday. The program was inaugurated by Dr. Prakash Ranjan Mishra, Coordinator of the Vedic Karma Kanda Purohit Vidyashakha of the Eklavya campus. The conference features multiple educational sessions, discussions and presentations with the participation of eminent scholars from different parts of the country. The regional Vedic conference will conclude tomorrow.

SUPERSPECIALIST

Cardiac Anaesthesia superspecialist, Dr. Yasum Litin of Yingkiong, Upper Siang, has created history by becoming the first Cardiac Anaesthesia superspecialist from Arunachal Pradesh. She is also the first woman from North East India to achieve this milestone. She has completed her DM in Cardiac Anaesthesia from Goa Medical College.

DRAMA

In Meghalaya, the National School of Drama, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, yesterday organised the Meghalaya edition of the 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2026, the world's largest international theatre festival at the District Library Auditorium in Tura. KU'BILBAT MUNI (Nightmare of Using Mobile Phone), a devised play in the Garo language written and directed by Balsrame A. Sangma, was presented by A Chik Theatre Tura. The production explores the pressing issue of excessive mobile phone usage among children, reflecting contemporary societal concerns through an engaging theatrical narrative. The second play, THE WISE CREATURE, a multilingual play written and directed by Jyoti Narayan Nath, was presented by Anubhav, The Actors Guild, Guwahati, Assam. PTC

NCC CADETS

Major General Anurag Vij, Additional Director General of NCC Directorate NER yesterday visited NCC Group Headquarters in Imphal. He interacted with NCC officers, staff and cadets and reviewed the NCC activities in Manipur. Addressing the programme, the Major General said, NCC Imphal Group is the

best group in North Eastern Region and cadets of the groups are able to join Agniveer, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy. He further appreciated the officers, staff and cadets of the NCC Imphal Group for bringing medals and awards to different competitions.

ICON AWARD

Arunachal's Tsering Lamu Shongmu of Kalaktang, West Kameng, was conferred with the Youth Icon Award at the National Environment Youth Parliament-2026 organised by Students for Development in Nagpur.
