

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 21.02.2026

HEADLINES:-

- Shillong MP Dr Ricky AJ Syngkon to be laid to rest today at Ri Bhoi district
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates the Joint Regional Official Language Conference at Agartala
- Former Assam Congress president Bhupen Borah meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Guwahati, likely to join BJP on Sunday
- Sikkim set to be connected with Railways as Sevok–Rangpo railway projects nears completion
- Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya visits Nagaland, asserts Centre's commitment to food security
- Retd. Major General (Dr.) Bipin Bakshi hosts a book discussion on Red Lines Redrawn: Operation Sindoor and India's New Normal in Shillong

NEWS IN ORDER:-

MP

The Shillong MP, late Ricky AJ Syngkon will be laid to rest today at Sumer Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Ri Bhoi district. The mortal remains of Dr Ricky AJ Syngkon was taken from Pohkseh to his Nongsder residence in Ri Bhoi district on Friday, escorted by top party leaders and supporters. Dr Syngkon, one of the founders of the Voice of the People Party (VPP), passed away at Dr H Gordon Roberts Hospital on Thursday evening, shortly after collapsing while playing futsal. VPP chief Ardent Miller Basaiawmoit, KHADC chief Winston Tony Lyngdoh, party MLAs, MDCs, and a large crowd accompanied the casket to the residence. Following the demise of the MP, the Meghalaya Government announced a holiday for all districts under the Shillong parliamentary constituency today to allow people to attend the funeral and pay their last respects. Earlier, the ongoing Budget session of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly was adjourned on Friday after the House paid its tribute to the MP.

HINDI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Joint Regional Official Language Conference (Rajbhasha Sammelan) for the Eastern, North-Eastern and Northern Regions at Agartala on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, Amit Shah asserted that Hindi shares no conflict with any Indian language, including Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, or Marathi while describing Hindi as the "Sister" of all Indian languages. Explaining the choice of Agartala as the venue for the conference, Shah said that the North Eastern region is the most appropriate place to deliberate on the development of Indian and official languages. During the event, departments that achieved excellence in the implementation of the Official Language policy were also honoured.

ASSAM

In a development that has intensified political churn in Assam ahead of the upcoming elections, former Assam Congress president Bhupen Borah on Friday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a meeting seen as a clear precursor to his formal entry into the Bharatiya Janata Party, scheduled for February 22. Sources said Shah called Borah for a meeting soon after arriving in Guwahati, where the Union Home Minister is scheduled to attend a series of programmes on Saturday. The meeting lasted for around 30 minutes and was attended by Assam Chief Minister

Himanta Biswa Sarma and MLA Manab Deka, indicating the political significance attached to Borah's induction into the ruling party.

NAGALAND

Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya has asserted Centre's commitment to food security under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing a reception at Padumpukhuri Public Ground in Chumoukedima in Nagaland, she said free rations are being provided to over 80 crore beneficiaries nationwide, terming it the world's largest food security programme. Praising Nagaland's natural beauty and rich culture, Bambhaniya expressed hope to introduce "Grain ATMs" in the state, citing similar initiatives in Gujarat. During her two-day visit to the hill state, she also inspected key welfare project sites and interacted with Self-Help Groups at Aoyimti and Padumpukhuri.

SIKKIM

In the mist-clad hills and deep valleys of Sikkim, a revolution is unfolding on steel tracks. What was once considered a distant terrain is now being threaded together with ambitious –Sevok–Rangpo railway projects signalling not just connectivity, but a new era of commerce, mobility, and integration for India's northeastern frontier. The 44.96 km Sevok–Rangpo line is under progress and targeted for completion by December 2027. The project once completed will provide Sikkim's its first railway connectivity. Mohinder Singh, Advisor of the Project informed media persons that the 44.96 km Sevok–Rangpo line is nearing completion as 90% of the project work is completed and the work for the First Tunnel station, Teesta Bazar is also on the verge of completion. The longest tunnel in this project spans almost 5300 meter and the shortest is 542 meters. The foundation stone for the project was laid in 2019.

MIZORAM

Mizoram marked its 39th State Day on Friday with greetings from the nation's top leaders, including President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The leaders praised Mizoram's pristine natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, high literacy rate and strong community spirit. They highlighted the state's contributions to national development, social harmony and sustainable growth, while expressing hope for its continued progress and prosperity. Meanwhile, Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day was also celebrated on Friday to mark the formation of the state. It was in 1987 when Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of India.

AGARTALA

The Foundation Day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram was celebrated at the Lok Bhavan of Tripura on Friday. Mizoram Governor Indrasena Reddy Nallu on the occasion felicitated the residents of these two states living in Tripura and performing duties. The Governor in his speech highlighted the clean natural beauty, people and culture of these two states. He said that the two Border States are getting importance as same as other states of the country now under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, adding that such programme to observe Foundation Day of several States at Lok Bhavan is an attempt to strengthen the unity of the country.

METERS

As part of the nationwide 'Smart Meter Pakhwada', the Department of Power in Nagaland has intensified its efforts to create awareness on the benefits of smart metering and dispel misconceptions among consumers. The campaign is being observed across the country from February 9 to 23 under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme and aims to build public confidence in the new metering technology. Chief Engineer (Distribution & Revenue) of the State Power Department said the department has undertaken several public outreach initiatives across the state. The department also urged citizens to visit the designated information kiosks for clarification on any queries or concerns regarding smart meters.

BOOK

A book discussion on Red Lines Redrawn: Operation Sindoor and India's New Normal was held in Shillong on Friday. The session featured the author, Major General (Dr.) Bipin Bakshi, (Retd.), Indian Army and Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies. The discussion brought together members of the strategic community, academia, civil society, media, and serving and retired defence personnel for an in-depth engagement on India's evolving security doctrine and the operational lessons emerging from Operation Sindoor.

MLA

The sitting MLA of Manipur Thanlon Assembly Constituency, Vungzagin Valte passed away on Friday at a Hospital Gurugram. The 62-year legislator was airlifted from Imphal to New Delhi on 8th of this month for advanced treatment. The BJP MLA sustained grievous injuries during the May 2023 ethnic violence in Imphal. Late Vungzagin Valte was elected as MLA from Thanlon as INC candidate in 2012 for the first time. Later he contested the State Assembly Election in 2017 and 2022 on BJP ticket and won both the elections and served as the Minister of Tribal Affairs and Hills, GAD and Transport, Government of Manipur.

ARUNACHAL

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt General (Retd) KT Parnaik conferred the State Gold and Silver Medals on distinguished individuals and organizations in recognition of their outstanding service to the State, at Lok Bhavan, Itanagar. The State Gold Medal was awarded to Havildar & Honorary Naib Subedar Lekhi Passang (Retd) of the 2nd Battalion, Arunachal Scouts, Whistle-blower Late Gyamar Padang of the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission, and the Women Police Station, Pasighat. The State Silver medals were given to 14 individuals and Two organization

KHELO

Under the initiative of Khelo India Tribal Games 2026, the Phase-II of the Football championship for men and women began at Itanagar on Friday. Arunachal Pradesh is hosting the championship in two different venues- one at Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium, Yupia for mens and Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Naharlagun for the women's championship. A total of 7 teams from the northeast are taking part. The winners of the championship will progress to the final round, which will be played at Jharkhand.
