

MORNING HEADLINES

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- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurates academic building of women's university at Jorhat.
- Assam government constitutes 8th Pay Commission to revise salary structure of government employees.
- Tourists stranded in heavy snowfall near Tsomgo Lake in Sikkim, rescued.
- Budget Session of 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly to commence from 2nd March.
- Tripura registers significant decline in overall crime rate, Chief Minister Manik Saha says.
- Mizo women marrying outside community and their children to lose tribal identity, as per amended marriage bill.
- Women Self-Help Group membership in Meghalaya growing, says chief minister Conrad Sangma.
- Meghalaya has high HIV prevalence rate, health minister tells assembly.
- Arunachal Pradesh Women's and Men's Football Teams qualify for final round of first Khelo India Tribal Games.
- Over one lakh birds of 107 species recorded in latest survey at Assam's Kaziranga National Park.
- Nyokum Yullo festival of Nyishi Community of Arunachal Pradesh celebrated.
- Wreath laying ceremony organised by Assam Rifles in Chandel district of Manipur in honour of Late Naik Tek Bahadur Thapa.
- Review meeting on central schemes held under chairmanship of Union Minister of State Murlidhar Mohol in Tripura.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

ASSAM:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the newly constructed academic building of the women's university at Jorhat yesterday. The chief minister said that since its establishment in 2013, the varsity has secured NAAC accreditation, successfully implemented the National Education Policy and introduced 46 academic programmes across 17 departments. He appreciated the introduction of value-added courses rooted in Indian knowledge systems, along with foreign language programmes such as Spanish and Japanese. The chief minister said schemes such as 'Nijut Moina' have significantly increased enrolment of girl students in colleges. Greater participation of women in higher education,

including in medicine and engineering, reflects Assam's progress towards gender equality, he said.

SALARY:

The Assam government has constituted the 8th Pay Commission, 2026, for a comprehensive revision of the salary structure of its employees. The 8th Assam Pay Commission will be headed by former Additional Chief Secretary Subhash Chandra Das, and consist of seven other members, an order issued by the Finance Department stated. The last pay revision for Assam government employees took effect on 1st April, 2016, based on the recommendation of the 7th Assam Pay & Productivity Pay Commission. The 8th Assam Pay Commission will submit its report within 18 months.

SIKKIM:

Over 2,700 tourists stranded due to heavy snowfall near Tsomgo Lake in East Sikkim were rescued, officials said yesterday. Heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of Sherathang and adjoining areas led to road blockages, leaving 541 tourist vehicles stranded between 15th Mile and Tsomgo Lake. Through coordinated efforts, all vehicles with 2,736 tourists onboard were evacuated safely and systematically. The Sikkim Tourism Department has advised tourists and tour operators to strictly follow weather advisories and ensure that vehicles are properly equipped, including with mandatory snow chains, while travelling during snowfall.

NAGALAND:

The Budget Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly will commence from 2nd March in two phases. According to a provisional programme issued by the Assembly Secretariat, the first phase of the session will begin with the address of Nagaland Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. The State Budget for the financial year 2026–27 will be presented by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, who also holds the finance portfolio. The budget session will continue to till 12th March.

TRIPURA:

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has said that Tripura has witnessed a significant decline in the overall crime rate in 2025, with a reduction of 8.20 per cent compared to the previous year. Addressing the Tripura Police Week function at Arundhuti Nagar on the outskirts of Agartala yesterday, the Chief Minister said the state government would increasingly use modern technology to strengthen law enforcement and intensify cannabis destruction drives. Mr Saha expressed confidence that the Tripura police would continue to uphold excellence with dedication, integrity and professionalism in the days ahead. Paying homage to police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty, he highlighted the use of modern technology, enhanced community engagement and stringent measures against drug abuse.

MARRIAGE:

As per the Mizo Marriage and Inheritance of Property (Amendment) Bill, 2026, passed by the state assembly, women who marry outside the community will lose their recognised Mizo identity. Children born from such marriages will not be entitled to inherit their mother's tribal identity. The amended legislation, introduced by Mizoram chief minister Pu Lalduhoma, also prohibits a man from marrying more than one woman. Divorcees seeking to remarry will be required to produce a certificate as proof of legal separation. Also, leprosy has been removed as a recognised ground for divorce in Mizoram.

HELP:

Women Self-Help Group (SHG) membership in Meghalaya has been growing in leaps and bounds from 40,000 members eight years ago to 5.8 lakh now, with credit flows rising from under 100 crore rupees. This was informed by chief minister Conrad K Sangma in the state assembly yesterday. The number of SHGs in the state has grown from around 4,000–5,000 in 2018–19 to about 53,000 at present, covering nearly 90 per cent of households. It has been mobilizing close to 1,100 crore rupees in credit. Mr. Sangma also told the assembly that the government would explore formation of SHG for men.

DISEASE:

Meghalaya has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in India, with 10,293 infected persons in the state receiving anti-retroviral therapy (ART) as of January 2026. State health and family welfare minister Wailadmiki Shylla informed about this in the assembly yesterday. The government has already approved a 25-crore rupees five-year mission-mode programme to contain the alarming rise of HIV/AIDS cases, he said. The health minister said that stigma and fear remain major obstacles, with many people reluctant to come forward for testing and treatment. Despite these constraints, the health and family welfare department has intensified awareness and outreach programmes to improve early detection and treatment uptake.

GAMES:

Both the Arunachal Pradesh Women's and Men's Football Teams have qualified for the final round of the first Khelo India Tribal Games 2026. The Football Championship which began on 20th February saw participation of seven teams from the northeast. Arunachal Pradesh hosted the championship in two different venues, one at Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium, Yupia for men and Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Naharlagun for the women's championship. Both teams will progress to the final round, which will be played at Jharkhand.

BIRDS:

A total of 1,05,540 winged visitors belonging to 107 species were recorded in the latest water bird survey conducted at Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, officials said yesterday. KNPTR Director Sonali Ghosh said that the 7th Kaziranga Waterbird Count documented 1,05,540 water and wetland-dependent birds representing 107 species. She said that the synchronised survey, conducted from 4th to 11th January, covered 166 wetlands across 10 ranges under the Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Biswanath Wildlife Division, and Nagaon Wildlife Division. The survey reaffirmed Kaziranga's crucial role along the Central Asian Flyway, serving as an important habitat for migratory birds from Siberia and Central Asia, in addition to resident species, Ghosh added.

FESTIVAL:

The Nyokum Yullo festival of Nyishi Community of Arunachal Pradesh was celebrated yesterday. The word Nyokum has been derived from the combination of two words – Nyok meaning land (earth) and Kum meaning collectiveness or togetherness. The main prayer structure is made of bamboo, called the Yugwng (Altar). The festival has a close link with cultivation. During the festival, the Nyokum goddess, the goddess of prosperity is invoked for her blessings.

TRIBUTE:

A solemn wreath laying ceremony was organised by the Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) at Sehlon in Chandel district of Manipur in honour of Late Naik Tek Bahadur Thapa, Kirti Chakra (Posthumous) yesterday. Tributes were paid to the valiant soldier who made the supreme sacrifice during an intense

counter insurgency operation in Aizawl, Mizoram on 25th February 1983. The wreath laying ceremony commenced with the Commandant of the unit paying homage, followed by tributes from all ranks. A total of one hundred personnel of the battalion participated, laying wreaths and rendering a Guard of Honour.

REVIEW:

A review meeting on priority programmes of the Government of India was held at the Conference Hall of Kailashahar Circuit House yesterday under the chairmanship of Union Minister of State for Cooperation and Civil Aviation, Murlidhar Mohol. Addressing the media after the meeting, the Union Minister of State said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, development is taking place across the country, including the North-Eastern region. He stated that Unakoti district in Tripura is also witnessing steady progress as part of this overall development. During the meeting, detailed discussions and exchange of views were held regarding the implementation of various central government schemes, the progress of ongoing developmental works, and the challenges and facilities related to their execution.
