

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 20.02.2026

HEADLINES:-

1. Union Home Minister Amit Shah to launch Vibrant Villages Programme-II in Cachar district of Assam today.
2. Member of Parliament from Shillong, Mr Ricky Andrew J. Syngkon, passes away.
3. Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand stresses on bridging relationship between two warring communities.
4. Arunachal Pradesh celebrating 40th Statehood Day today.
5. One student dies and others grievously injured after truck hits school bus on NH-27 in Meghalaya.
6. Sikkim Government delegation participates in Chintan Shivir at Nalanda University, Bihar.
7. Union Minister of State Ram Nath Thakur, visits ICAR-KVK in Longleng district of Nagaland.
8. Union Minister of State Suresh Gopi chairs review meeting on Aspirational District Programme at Namsai in Arunachal Pradesh.
9. Tripura Governor Indrasena Reddy Nallu says Vedic education focuses on holistic development.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

HOME

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch the Vibrant Villages Programme-II in the Cachar district of Assam today. The programme focuses on improving border villages and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, fostering secure border communities in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The programme is to be implemented across 15 States and two Union Territories across the country through a saturation-based and convergence-driven approach. By strengthening these villages, the programme also aims to enable residents to act as the eyes and ears of the nation, thereby contributing significantly to border security, preventing cross-border crimes and strengthening internal security. The Union Home minister will also visit the BSF's Natunpur border outpost along the India-Bangladesh border and review the security arrangements and progress of border fencing. Mr. Shah will visit Agartala in Tripura and return to Assam in the evening. He will attend the Joint Regional Official Language Conference for the Eastern, North-Eastern and Northern Regions at the Indoor Hall of Hapania International Fair Ground in Agartala.

ELECTRIC

Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar informed the Assembly yesterday that no State funds were sanctioned for the Ride Shillong initiative. Replying to MLA Adelbert Nongrum, he said 20 electric cycles were rented under a project supported by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and implemented by the Tourism Department. Shillong's narrow roads lack dedicated cycling lanes, though new areas like New Shillong Township include such provisions, he said. Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma clarified that external collaboration funded the initiative and around 1,600 users have utilised the bicycles so far.

MP

Member of Parliament from Shillong, Mr Ricky Andrew J. Syngkon, passed away last evening after suffering a massive cardiac arrest. He was 54. A prominent leader of the Voice of the People Party, Mr Syngkon had represented Shillong in the Lok Sabha and was widely regarded as a strong and articulate voice for Meghalaya in national politics. The incident occurred while he was playing futsal at Mawiong, where he suddenly collapsed on the field. He was immediately rushed to Gordon Roberts Hospital for emergency medical treatment. Despite efforts by doctors to revive him, he was declared dead at around 8:42 pm. His sudden demise has sent shockwaves across Meghalaya, with leaders and well-wishers expressing deep condolences over the loss of a prominent public representative. Condolences by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said Mr Syngkon was a dedicated and compassionate leader, with deep enthusiasm for public service.

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MANIPUR

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand said, bridging the relationship between the two warring communities and removing the existing trust deficit is the Government's top priority. He made the statement at an interaction program with internally displaced persons who were rendered homeless due to the conflict in Manipur beginning 23rd May, 2023. The displaced people urged the Chief Minister to expedite the rehabilitation of the families affected by the conflict at the earliest. The chief minister assured his government's commitment to bridge the trust deficit so that rehabilitation is successful. Internally displaced persons from other districts also joined the function via video conferencing. From Churachandpur, they highlighted the challenges faced in matters of education and health. The Chief Minister assured fool security to the Kuki-Zo community who want to travel to Imphal for treatment. The chief minister also released 33 crore rupees for the internally displaced persons through direct benefit transfer.

ARUNACHAL

Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating its 40th Statehood Day. On 20th February, 1987, Arunachal became the 24th state of India. Till 1972, it was known as the North-East Frontier Agency. It gained the Union Territory status on 20th January, 1972 and was renamed as Arunachal Pradesh.

TRAINING

The district administration, in collaboration with civil defence authorities, conducted the third phase of the Yuva Aapda Mitra Volunteers Training Programme in Ri Bhoi District. The seven-day programme equips students with skills to respond to earthquakes, floods, house collapses and other disasters. Addressing participants, Assistant Commissioner Akash R. Marak urged them to remain prepared to safeguard lives in their communities and share disaster response knowledge with others.

ACCIDENT

One student died and seven others were grievously injured after a school bus collided with a truck in on National Highway-27 in Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya yesterday. The bus, of Mount Zion Secondary School, 15 Mile, Byrnihat, was heading to pick up students from 17 Mile when a clinker-laden truck, reportedly rammed into it while manoeuvring to unload cargo. Following the incident, Police from Byrnihat reached the scene and initiated an investigation.

SIKKIM

A Sikkim Government delegation, led by Minister of Social Welfare, Samdup Lepcha, participated in the two-day Chintan Shivir held on 18th and 19th February at Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar. Mr Lepcha expressed sincere gratitude to the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs on behalf of the Government of Sikkim for sanctioning several health and educational projects. These have significantly strengthened the healthcare and education systems for the benefit of minority populations in Sikkim, he said.

AI

A high-level delegation from State Information Technology Department participating in the AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi. The Sikkim delegation explored AI applications in governance, healthcare, education, agriculture, disaster management, cybersecurity, and smart infrastructure. Opportunities for collaboration and partnerships that could support Sikkim's digital transformation initiatives were assessed.

NAGALAND

On the second day of his two-day Nagaland visit, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ram Nath Thakur, visited ICAR-KVK in Longleng district yesterday. He reviewed ongoing agricultural development programmes aimed at improving livelihoods for farmers. During interactions with officials and famers, he emphasized the need to modernize traditional jhum cultivation by adopting climate-resilient and location-specific technologies, while preserving indigenous knowledge. The Minister encouraged entrepreneurship development among women farmers, to create sustainable self-employment

opportunities. Mr Thakur reaffirmed the central government's commitment to scientific support and inclusive agricultural growth in remote and tribal regions.

DISTRICT

Union Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Tourism, Suresh Gopi, chaired a comprehensive review meeting on Aspirational District Programme at Namsai district in Arunachal Pradesh. He said that Government of India has significantly prioritized 'Nari Shakti' by placing a strong focus on women's health. Reviewing the education sector and noting the low learning outcome of the district, he recommended assessment and training of teachers. In the agriculture sector, the minister advised the promotion of millet cultivation as a nutritious alternative crop.

TRIPURA

Tripura Governor Indrasena Reddy Nallu said that Vedic education is a fundamental system that focuses on holistic development physically, intellectually and spiritually with the aim of creating ethical, self-reliant individuals. He said this while addressing the concluding day of the three-day Regional Vedic Conference at the Central Sanskrit University, Eklavya Campus. He said it emphasizes on character building, moral values and practical skills through the Gurukul system. It is relevant for modern times through discipline, critical thinking and sustainable living, he said.
