

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED: 04.03.2026

HEADLINES:-

- ◆ Mizoram government will scale up its operations against smuggling of areca nuts from Myanmar.
- ◆ Indian National Congress releases first list of 42 candidates for upcoming Assam Assembly elections.
- ◆ Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio suggests review by Select Committee of State Assembly on use of Vande Mataram in the state.
- ◆ Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet approves creation of fifteen posts under Arunachal Pradesh Finance & Accounts Service Cadre.
- ◆ Tripura Transport Minister, Sushanta Chowdhury chairs review meeting at State Secretariat to assess supply and pricing of essential commodities across the State.
- ◆ Second day of 8th session of 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly sees intense deliberations during Question Hour and discussions on Motion of Thanks to Governor's Address.
- ◆ Mizoram Home Minister, K. Sapdanga informs state Assembly that some refugees taking shelter in state engaged in illegal commercial activities.
- ◆ Hardcore cadre of ULFA (I) faction surrenders in Khonsa, Tirap district in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ◆ Two-day Youth Parliament 2026 concludes at District Auditorium in Tura after engaging debates, deliberations and critical reflections by participating students.
- ◆ Manipur Chief Minister, Yumnam Khemchand Singh expresses happiness as National Integration Tour represents integrated Manipur with participants belonging to various communities, Meitei, Kuki, Naga, and Meitei Pangal.
- ◆ NCC cadets from Tripura felicitated at Lok Bhavan in Agartala for participating during 2025-26 Republic Day Camp and Thal Sainik Camp.
- ◆ Major surgical milestone achieved at Zoram Medical College & Hospital in Mizoram as doctors successfully remove massive ovarian tumour weighing approximately 33 kilograms.
- ◆ Dol Utsav celebrated with traditional enthusiasm and fervour in Tripura.
- ◆ Festival of colours, Holi is being celebrated throughout the country today.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

ARECANUT SMUGGLING:

The Mizoram government will scale up its operations against smuggling of areca nuts from Myanmar. Home Minister K. Sapdanga informed the state Assembly that rampant illegal influx of the commodity from the neighbouring country over the past few years has caused severe economic damage to local cultivators and the rise of unregulated "black money" in the region. According to official data spanning from 2019 to 2025, authorities have registered a total of 468 cases related to the smuggling of areca nuts from Myanmar and the enforcement drive has led to the arrest of 292 people during the six-year period. The Home Minister reaffirmed the government's "zero-tolerance" policy, stating that it intends to continue the ban and strengthen border surveillance.

CONGRESS CANDIDATES:

The Indian National Congress has released the first list of 42 candidates for the upcoming Assam Assembly elections. Among the candidates, Congress State unit president, Gaurav Gogoi will contest the Assembly polls from Jorhat constituency. The party's leader in the Assam Assembly, Debabrata Saikia, will contest from Nazira, while former Rajya Sabha MP, Ripun Bora has been fielded from Barchalla. Mira Borthakur Goswami is the party candidate from Dispur, and Indraneel Pegu from Majuli constituency.

VANDE MATARAM:

Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio has suggested that a Select Committee of the State Assembly should review the use of Vande Mataram in the state. In his remarks during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address in Assembly, the Chief Minister described the matter as sensitive and of national significance. Emphasising that India's strength lies in its diversity, he said the constitutional position of the

National Song must be understood within the framework of fundamental rights, secularism and constitutional morality. Referring to the executive order from the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the National Song, the Chief Minister said, such directives must be examined in light of Nagaland's special constitutional safeguards. Earlier members of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly voiced objections to the playing of the National Song Vande Mataram on the first day of the 8th Assembly Session, citing concerns under Article 371(A) of the Constitution.

ARUNACHAL CABINET:

The Arunachal Pradesh State Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu has approved the creation of fifteen posts under the Arunachal Pradesh Finance & Accounts Service Cadre, besides the "Draft Arunachal Pradesh Press Accreditation Rules, 2025," to streamline accreditation for journalists and media professionals. Five major agendas relating to the Education Department were also approved. It also approved placing of five draft bills in the state assembly when the session starts from the 6th of this month.

FOOD SUPPLY:

Tripura Transport Minister, Sushanta Chowdhury yesterday chaired a review meeting at the State Secretariat to assess the supply and pricing of essential commodities across the State. During the meeting, discussions were held on ensuring the uninterrupted supply and stable prices of petrol, diesel, LPG cylinders, other petroleum products, and essential commodities throughout the state. The Minister directed officials of the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs to take strict measures to prevent black marketing of essential goods and prices of essential commodities must not rise above normal levels under any circumstances. He instructed officials to closely monitor the market to ensure that no artificial shortage of petrol, diesel, or essential food items is created to inflate prices through black marketing.

SESSION:

The second day of the 8th session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly saw intense deliberations during Question Hour and discussions on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address. During Zero Hour, MLA Achumbemo Kikon raised serious concerns over racial discrimination against the Northeast people. He asserted that citizens from the Northeast are equal and integral members of India's progress and strengthening of democracy, and stressed that such discrimination cannot be tolerated in a democratic country. Kikon also renewed his call to address human-elephant conflict through large-scale jatropa cultivation. The House was informed of the Governor's assent to three Bills including The Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (Validation) Bill, 2025. Later, the Motion of Thanks was adopted and the House was adjourned till the 9th of this month.

MIZORAM-REFUGEES:

Mizoram Home Minister, K. Sapdanga informed the state Assembly that some refugees who are taking shelter in the state engaged in illegal commercial activities, with some individuals already facing serious legal charges. Responding to questions in Assembly during the ongoing budget session, Sapdanga said, while the government has not received "official reports," it was aware that some refugees are covertly conducting small-scale businesses in violation of the law. Providing an update on the state's biometric enrolment process, Sapdanga informed that a total of 26,381 refugees from Myanmar have been enrolled as of February 5, while 1,974 people are yet to be registered.

ULFA (I):

A hardcore cadre of the ULFA (I) faction has surrendered in Khonsa, Tirap district in Arunachal Pradesh. Based on credible intelligence inputs from reliable sources regarding the presence of a hardcore insurgent belonging to the ULFA (I) faction in the general area of Horu Chinghan, a focused joint operation was launched by a team comprising Tirap Police, 36 Bn CRPF, and Khonsa Battalion, Assam Rifles at COB Noglo. The self-styled 2nd Lieutenant Bitul Baruha surrendered along with one .40 calibre pistol, a magazine and two live rounds of .40 calibre ammunition.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT:

In Meghalaya, the two-day Youth Parliament 2026, held at the District Auditorium in Tura, concluded yesterday after engaging debates, deliberations and critical reflections by participating students. Speaking as the Chief Guest, Rajya Sabha MP, Dr. Wanwei Roy Kharlukhi said that a society which neglects or hates its younger generation has no future. He emphasized that the future belongs to the youth and expressed confidence that one among the participants of the Youth Parliament would one day be at the helm of affairs in the State. Dr. Kharlukhi also reminded the youth that God has His own plans for every individual and encouraged them to remain patient and steadfast in their pursuits.

TOUR:

Manipur Chief Minister, Yumnam Khemchand Singh expressed happiness that the National Integration Tour participants represent an integrated Manipur as they belong to various communities, Meitei, Kuki, Naga, and Meitei Pangal. The Chief Minister shared his sentiment during the flagging off of the "National Integration Tour 2025-26" at the Assam Rifles, Keithelmanbi yesterday. The tour is expected to cover Imphal,

Thiruvananthapuram, Kanyakumari, Mumbai, Kolkata. Altogether twenty-four youths, six each from the four communities, are part of the tour.

NCC:

NCC cadets from Tripura who participated in the 2025–26 Republic Day Camp and Thal Sainik Camp were felicitated during a function at Lok Bhavan in Agartala yesterday. Governor Indrasena Reddy Nallu presented mementoes and certificates of appreciation to the cadets. Addressing the NCC cadets, the Governor said, patriotism, discipline and leadership are the core strengths of the NCC and congratulated them for bringing pride to Tripura.

SUCCESS:

In Mizoram, major surgical milestone was achieved at Zoram Medical College & Hospital, where doctors successfully removed a massive ovarian tumour weighing approximately 33 kilograms. The complex procedure was carried out through a collaborative effort between the hospital's Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Anaesthesiology at its Falkawn facility. Hospital officials described the tumour as the largest ever removed at the institution.

DOL UTSAV:

In Tripura, Dol Utsav was celebrated with traditional enthusiasm and fervour. The festival has been observed in the state since the royal era, and people from both tribal and non-tribal communities participate in the celebrations in keeping with long-standing customs. People take part in the festivities with colourful abir and gular, smearing one another with vibrant hues. In recent years, the demand for natural and eco-friendly colours has increased significantly across the state.

HOLI:

The festival of colours, Holi is being celebrated throughout the country today. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil and marks the onset of the spring season. Holi gives the message of equality and fraternity as all sections of society, irrespective of caste, creed, colour, age, and sex, celebrate it with great enthusiasm. On this day, people smear each other with colours, exchange greetings and savour sweets on the occasion.
