

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 21.03.2026

HEADLINES:-

- Meghalaya Governor CH Vijayashankar summons special session of Garo Hills Autonomous District Council next week.
- Candidates begin filing nomination papers for upcoming Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council elections.
- Eid-ul-Fitr being celebrated today.
- Tripura government taking strict action against trafficking of narcotics through railway network.
- Meghalaya becomes first state with 86 per cent of schools certified tobacco free.
- Assam Rifles and Mizoram Police seize contraband tablets on India-Myanmar border.
- Northeast Frontier Railway continues making strides towards use of green energy through solar power.
- Helpline provided for LPG consumers in Capital Itanagar Region in Arunachal Pradesh.
- District Magistrate, Itanagar Capital Region, orders immediate ban on earth cutting to avoid landslides.
- Manipur Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department organise Media Dialogue on Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission.
- Chapchar Kut, Mizoram's spring festival celebrates indigenous Mizo culture.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

COUNCIL:

Meghalaya Governor CH Vijayashankar has summoned a special session of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council next week to discuss the Assam and Meghalaya Autonomous District Rules that allow participation of non-tribals in the council elections. The move follows last week's violence in the Garo Hills region against participation of non-tribals in elections to the tribal council. The two-day session will be held on 23rd and 24th March. The special session has been convened after the state government decided to extend the tenure of the current GHADC by another six months.

NOMINATION:

Candidates of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and other parties on Thursday filed their nomination papers for the upcoming Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council elections across various subdivisions of Tripura. Party leaders, workers, and supporters accompanied the candidates in rallies to the

respective Returning Officers' offices, where the nominations were formally submitted.

EID:

Eid-ul-Fitr is being celebrated in various parts of the country today. The festival marks the culmination of the fasting month of Ramzan. Dressed in traditional attire, the faithful are offering Eid prayers at Eidgahs and mosques. People exchange greetings and visit relatives and friends, sharing sweets along with warm wishes. President Droupadi Murmu has extended greetings to the people on Eid-ul-Fitr. In her message the President said, the festival gives the message of self-control, charity and compassion for the underprivileged. It also conveys the message of love, brotherhood, peace, and mutual harmony.

RAIL:

Tripura Chief Minister Professor Manik Saha has asserted that the State government is taking strict action against trafficking of narcotics through the railway network. Speaking in the State Assembly on the 6th day of the budget session yesterday, the Chief Minister said that the State police, Railway police, and the Anti-Narcotics Task Force have achieved significant success in apprehending drug traffickers. Mr Saha emphasized that the government has been conducting large-scale, continuous anti-drug operations across Tripura. These measures are particularly important due to the harmful effects of widespread drug use among students and young people.

SCHOOLS:

Meghalaya has become the first state where 86 per cent of schools have been certified as Tobacco Free Educational Institutions, the highest percentage recorded nationwide. A state government official noted that this achievement is particularly crucial as Meghalaya records nearly 8,000 tobacco-related deaths annually. Additionally, 47 per cent of adults aged 15 and above consume tobacco in some form, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (2017). Recognising that prevention must begin early, the Meghalaya government launched the Tobacco Free Educational Institutions programme three years ago under the National Health Mission. The programme is being implemented with the objective of ensuring that all schools across the state become tobacco-free. Every year, nearly 10,000 schools across Meghalaya actively participate in anti-tobacco rallies, signature campaigns, and awareness drives, fostering a statewide environment that discourages children from falling prey to addictive tobacco products.

DRUGS:

The Assam Rifles, in coordination with the Mizoram Police, seized highly addictive methamphetamine tablets valued at over 23.72 crore rupees during a joint operation along the India-Myanmar border yesterday. The contraband was recovered from an abandoned truck in Champhai district, close to the border with Myanmar. The vehicle, bearing an Assam registration number, was also seized. Police suspect that the banned tablets were smuggled from Myanmar for onward transport to Bangladesh or other parts of India through Assam or Meghalaya. The operation underscored the sustained efforts of the Assam Rifles and Mizoram Police to curb cross-border drug trafficking and safeguard the youth of Mizoram.

SUMP:

In Arunachal Pradesh, about 39 residents of Komkar village, presently residing in various parts of Upper Siang and other districts have tendered their support for Pre-Feasibility Report survey of proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project. The list of new supporting residents was formally submitted by Oyang Boko on behalf of

the villagers to Deputy Commissioner, Upper Siang District, Talo Jerang during a programme held at Conference Hall of the DC Office in Yingkiong on Friday. DC Jerang appreciated the people of Komkar village and assured his commitment to ensure transparency, awareness and community participation throughout the Pre-Feasibility Report process.

SOLAR:

The Northeast Frontier Railway continues to make significant strides in its commitment towards green energy and sustainability, with substantial progress achieved in solar power installation across its divisions and units. A senior railway official noted that solar energy generation reflects the railways' focused approach toward reducing carbon footprint while optimising energy expenditure. The ongoing solarisation efforts not only contribute to environmental conservation but also ensure long-term economic benefits through reduced energy costs. The Northeast Frontier Railway, headquartered at Maligaon near Guwahati, operates across the Northeastern states as well as in seven districts of West Bengal and five districts of north Bihar.

LPG:

In Arunachal Pradesh, District Magistrate, Capital Itanagar, Toko Babu has allotted a helpline number '986202499' for public interest to monitor and regulate Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants supplies, in view of current international energy supply chain situation. The public have been requested to report any activity of hoarding, black marketing and price manipulation of LPG cylinders. Citizens have been urged to share photos and videos of such acts via Whatsapp on helpline number or by email at icrdfeso@gmail.com. The identity of the complainants shall be kept strictly confidential.

ORDER:

In Arunachal Pradesh, District Magistrate cum-Deputy Commissioner, Itanagar Capital Region, Toko Babu has ordered an immediate ban on all earth cutting activities due to rising concerns over landslides and public safety. The administration has directed all individuals and government agencies to stop earth cutting with immediate effect until further orders. Officials including ADCs and COs have been tasked with strict enforcement, while police will be deployed as required.

MANIPUR:

The Manipur Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, organised a Media Dialogue based on IEC Programme for Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) in Imphal yesterday. The programme was mainly held to promote awareness and dialogue with media representatives on the provisions and impact of VB-G-RAM-G and to strengthen public outreach and information dissemination. It guarantees 125 days of wage employment per rural household for adults willing to do unskilled manual work. Along with employment, it focuses on creating strong and lasting rural infrastructure through four priority verticals.

PROGRAMME:

A seven days' Entrepreneurship Development Program, organised by the Manipur Planning Department concluded at the City Convention Centre in Imphal yesterday. The program provided structured training on key entrepreneurial skills, including business development, financial planning and digital tools along with practical insights through startup case studies.

MIZORAM:

Chapchar Kut, Mizoram's spring festival, is a celebration of Mizo culture, featuring traditional dances, music, art, and cuisine. Held in March, it brings communities together to honour their heritage through performances, crafts, and festivities. Addressing a massive gathering that included Governor VK Singh and Art and Culture Minister C. Lalsawivunga, Chief Minister Lalduhoma, who was the "Kut Pa" (Father of the festival), emphasized that the heart of Mizo identity lies in the ability to reconcile. The Chief Minister stressed that Mizo traditional values, such as respect for elders, selfless service, mutual understanding, and helping one another in times of need, are fundamental to maintaining social harmony and unity. Tourists from foreign countries, different parts of India, as well as ethnic Mizo people from neighbouring states, attended the grand celebration in Aizawl.
