

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN
DATED:-24.04.2018

HEADLINES

- Centre removes Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act completely from Meghalaya, reduces to eight police stations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Union Minister for Development of North-Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh says India's "Act East" policy is crucial to entire South East Asia.
- Mizoram Pay Committee, 2017 submits its reports and recommendations to state Finance Minister Lalsawta on implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission.
- Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb calls for effective use of technology and assures to develop Tripura as the best state by using modern technology.
- Alliance Air successfully carries out test flight to Pasighat Airport in Arunachal Pradesh's East Siang district.
- Centre increases packages for surrendered militants in Northeast to 4 lakh rupees each, and monthly stipend to 6,000 rupees for three years.
- Manipur observes Khongjom Day to pay rich tributes to warriors who laid down their lives during Anglo-Manipur war of 1891.

NEWS IN ORDER

AFSPA:

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, AFSPA, that empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone anywhere without prior notice, has been removed completely from Meghalaya. There have been long demands from various organisations in the North East and Jammu and Kashmir to withdraw the Act. A Home Ministry official said, the Act was removed from all areas of Meghalaya from the 31st of last month. The decision was taken following significant improvement of security situation in the state. In Arunachal Pradesh, AFSPA has also been reduced from 16 police stations bordering Assam to eight police stations besides Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts.

DoNER:

Union Minister for Development of North-Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh said that India's "Act East" policy is crucial to the entire South East Asia. Speaking at a conference on "India-Myanmar Trade and Connectivity" organized by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations yesterday, Dr Singh said, Myanmar is one of the key pillars of India's "Act East" policy, since it connects via the North Eastern States with the South East Asian countries. He said, any meaningful trade or business engagement with Myanmar can be done primarily through the products and goods inherent to the North Eastern States bordering this country. In the last four years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Singh referred to a paradigm shift in the government's approach towards the Northeast.

PAY:

The Mizoram Pay Committee, 2017, constituted by the state government to study recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission, submitted its reports and recommendations yesterday to state Finance Minister Lalsawta. The committee headed by former finance minister, H Liansailova, recommended implementation of the 7th Pay Commission in the state. The committee's report would be placed before the state Cabinet for final approval. The Mizoram government will incur an additional expenditure to the tune of 563.24 crore rupees.

TRIPURA:

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb yesterday said that technology should be used to better lifestyle and to complete tasks within their timeframe. Speaking at the inaugural session of a five-day workshop on "Human Computer Interface" at the National Institute of Technology in Agartala, said that it is his dream to develop Tripura as the best state in country with the use of modern technology. He also warned against addiction to technology and said computer can help the society only if it is used in the right way.

ALLIANCE AIR:

Alliance Air, a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India, successfully carried out a test flight to Pasighat Airport in Arunachal Pradesh's East Siang district yesterday. The aircraft landed successfully at the Pasighat Airport from Guwahati with officers of the airlines on board. The airline operated an ATR-42 aircraft from Guwahati. Chief Minister Pema Khandu said, a new chapter in the history of Arunachal Pradesh has begun with the successful landing of the Alliance Air aircraft at the civil terminal of Pasighat.

BENEFIT:

Surrendered militants in the Northeast will get an immediate grant of 4 lakh rupees each against 1 lakh rupees earlier, and a monthly stipend has been raised from 3,500 rupees to 6,000 rupees for three years besides other benefits. Officials said yesterday that this policy was comprehensively revised from the 1st of this month to attract more youths into the mainstream away from militancy. The surrender-cum-rehabilitation policy for the Northeast was implemented in 1998 to wean misguided youth and hardcore militants away from the fold of militancy. Incentives for weapons/ammunition have been increased ranging from 1,000 to 1 lakh rupees, besides providing vocational training for self-employment to all surrendered militants.

DAY:

Manipur yesterday observed Khongjom Day to pay rich tributes to warriors who laid down their lives to safeguard the state in the battle field of Khongjom at Khebaching in Thoubal district during the Anglo-Manipur war of 1891. The main function was held at Khebaching where the Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh led the people to pay floral tribute at the memorial site of the Khongjom War. Floral tributes were paid to the statue of Major Paona Brajabasi, who led the Manipuri warriors from the front against the British forces. Ministers, MLAs, civil and police officials and the people in large number attended the function.
