

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

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HEADLINES:-

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present Union Budget 2024-25 in Lok Sabha today at 11 AM.
- Chief Executive Members of ten Autonomous District Councils from North East will meet Union Home Minister, Amit Shah in New Delhi today.
- Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein says state has potential to produce 40 percent of total hydro-power capacity of India.
- Supreme Court asks IIT Delhi to form expert panel to give its opinion on National Testing Agency's agency to treat two options as correct answer to Physics question in this year's NEET-UG examination.
- Government says around 11 crore 75 lakh tap water connections have been provided to rural households under Jal Jeevan Mission in last five years.

BUDGET:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget 2024-25 in Lok Sabha today at 11 AM. It will be the first Budget of the Narendra Modi-led government in its third term in office. Ahead of the Budget presentation, the Economic Survey 2023-24 was tabled in both Houses of Parliament yesterday, giving an overview of the economy's performance. The Economic Survey 2023-24 has projected a real Gross Domestic Product growth of 6.5 to 7 per cent in this Financial Year 2024-25. This will be Sitharaman's seventh consecutive Budget presentation as Finance Minister since taking office in 2019. During her pre-Budget consultations with several stakeholders, including experts and representatives from farmer associations and agriculture economists, trade unions, education and health sector; Sitharaman assured that their suggestions would be carefully examined and considered while preparing the Budget.

ADC-NE:

Chief Executive Members of the ten Autonomous District Councils from the North East will meet Union Home Minister, Amit Shah in New Delhi today. The delegation will meet Shah to impress upon the Central government to amend the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and empower the Councils with proper financial powers and land rights. The representatives of the ADCs from Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have been camping in New Delhi since Saturday and held a series of discussions on issues related to strengthening the Councils under the Sixth Schedule. Meanwhile, the CEM of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, Pyniaid Sing Syiem has been chosen as the new Convener of the ten ADCs. Syiem has been entrusted to convene another round of meeting to be held in Shillong next month.

POWER:

Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein said that the state has the potential to produce 40 percent of the total hydro-power capacity of India. He said that the state has the capacity to produce 58,000 MW of Hydro-power while replying to a question in the state assembly relating to Hydro-Power projects in the state. He said that Arunachal Pradesh as of today has an installed capacity of 1,200 MW of hydropower. He said that the state government has recently signed MoUs for 13 Hydro-power projects in the state with 4 CPSUs power developers.

NEET:

The Supreme Court has asked IIT Delhi to form an expert panel to give its opinion on the decision of the National Testing Agency to treat two options as the correct answer to a Physics question in this year's NEET-UG examination. The bench, headed by Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, directed the expert team to remit its opinion to the Apex Court's registrar by 12 noon today. The batch of petitions, alleging irregularities in the conduct of the NEET-UG exam, questioned the award of grace marks in respect of a contentious Physics question. It added that 44 candidates were able to secure full marks on account of the ambiguous question. They contended that the NTA's decision to award compensatory marks contradicts its own instruction, asking students to follow the latest NCERT textbooks. Meanwhile the Government asserted that there was no evidence of paper leaks in the last seven years and it is hiding nothing in the alleged NEET UG paper leak case. Replying to supplementary questions in Lok Sabha yesterday, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, the National Testing Agency has conducted 240 examinations since its formation and over 4 crore 50 lakh students have appeared in the examinations.

JJM:

The government has said that around 11 crore 75 lakh tap water connections have been provided to rural households under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the last five years. This was stated by Minister of State for Jal Shakti, V. Somanna in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha yesterday. He said, only 3 crore 23 lakh rural households had tap water connections when the Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in August 2019 but now over 77 per cent of rural households in the country have water connections. He also said that 55 litres per capita per day of prescribed quality is being provided through these connections.
