

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 23.04.2026

HEADLINES:-

- A total of 152 Assembly constituencies in West Bengal goes to the polls today in the first phase of Assembly elections
- Mizoram Governor, General Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd) calls for integrated governance approach
- Shillong Airport expansion works receives Environment Clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
- North East Frontier Railway reviews monsoon preparedness, strengthens safety measures along rail sections
- Several border road projects under PMGSY-III stalled in Meghalaya due to pending No-Objection Certificates from the BSF and CPWD
- Kanchanbari Panchayat in Unakoti district of Tripura declared country's best "Healthy Panchayat" by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Manipur observes Khongjom Day to honour bravehearts of 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War
- Various programmes organized across Tripura to promote environmental awareness on the occasion of World Earth Day

ELECTION:

A total of 152 Assembly constituencies across 16 districts of West Bengal will go to the polls today in the first phase of the state elections, marking a crucial start to a tightly watched contest. Around 3.6 crore voters are eligible to cast their ballots, deciding the fate of 1,478 candidates in what is expected to be a high-stakes electoral battle. The constituencies are evenly distributed across north and south Bengal, underscoring the geographical and political diversity that shapes this phase. The Election Commission of India has deployed a record number of about 2,407 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces for the first phase of polling. This time, a close contest is expected in at least 80 seats in this phase between the ruling Trinamool Congress and main challenger Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In some, a multi-cornered contest may be witnessed with the Left Front and Congress having parted ways and the entry of religion-based organisations.

GOVERNOR:

Mizoram Governor General Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd) has emphasised that national security goes beyond the strength of individual institutions, highlighting the critical need for effective coordination among them. Addressing participants of the Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration during his visit to the Indian Institute of Public Administration in New Delhi, the Governor reiterated that national security cannot rely solely on institutional capacity but must be supported by cohesive and well-coordinated efforts. He underscored that the

‘Whole-of-Government’ approach begins with a fundamental shift in mindset, moving away from siloed functioning towards an integrated governance model.

AIRPORT:

The High Court of Meghalaya was on Wednesday told that the proposed expansion of the Shillong Airport has received environment clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. In a fresh status report submitted on behalf of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the court was also informed that the expansion work has been awarded to KCC Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. Deputy Solicitor General of India Nitesh Mozika tendered the status report, which was taken on record. The court observed from the report that the green nod was received from the Ministry on March 28 for the expansion of the Shillong Airport runway, the terminal building, apron, and other allied works. The work order was awarded to the firm on April 1. According to Clause 6 of the work order, the firm has been allowed 18 months, including three months considered for rain, from the 10th day after issuance of the said letter to complete the project.

NFR:

The Northeast Frontier Railway has undertaken a comprehensive review of its ongoing safety drive and infrastructural preparedness, particularly in anticipation of the four-month-long monsoon season from June to September, officials said on Wednesday. NFR Chief Public Relations Officer Kapinjal Kishore Sharma stated that NFR General Manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava conducted an extensive inspection of the Bairabi (along the Assam-Mizoram border)–Badarpur and Badarpur–Patharkhola sections under the Lumding Division. According to the NFR, this exercise plays a crucial role in identifying potential vulnerabilities and ensuring the resilience of railway infrastructure against monsoon-related challenges such as waterlogging, soil erosion, and track instability.

ROAD:

Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong on Wednesday said that several border road projects under PMGSY-III are stalled in Meghalaya due to pending No-Objection Certificates from the BSF and CPWD. The issue was discussed during a joint meeting involving the state Public Works Department, BSF, and CPWD officials to resolve bottlenecks affecting construction in sensitive border areas. Tynsong highlighted a specific delay at Ranikor, where a road stretch falls under the overlapping jurisdiction of the CPWD and BSF. Although reconstruction has been sanctioned, work cannot proceed without formal NOCs from both agencies. The state has urged the authorities to expedite these clearances to prevent further delays. Another challenge involves road stretches in the Garo Hills that currently lie outside the border fencing. To resolve this, the BSF has recommended realigning the roads to bring them within the fenced perimeter.

DC:

Kolasib Deputy Commissioner, H Dolianbuaia on Wednesday inspected the Mizoram-Assam border areas, reviewing security arrangements and interacting with personnel stationed along sensitive stretches. During the visit, the DC met officers and personnel of Mizoram Armed Police and Indian Reserved police deployed at three critical fronts and discussed with them the security situation, operational challenges, and infrastructure requirements. At Sabual border outpost, a sensitive area along the inter-state border, the DC took stock of recurring challenges and ground-level difficulties faced by the personnel and assured them of measures to address their concerns.

AWARD:

Kanchanbari Panchayat in Unakoti district of Tripura has been declared the country's best "Healthy Panchayat" by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, among nearly 2.68 lakh panchayats. The Panchayat has also been selected for the Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satata Vikas Puraskar. The announcement has sparked enthusiasm among local residents. Located under Kumarghat block in Fatikroy Assembly constituency, the panchayat has 717 families with a population of 2,581. All residents have blood group cards, and maternal mortality is zero. Regular health check-ups for the elderly and nutrition support for children and pregnant women are ensured. BDO Dr. Sudip Bhowmik said the award was based on health, sanitation, safe drinking water, and community participation. Panchayat Pradhan Shelly Bhattacharya said the ₹1 crore award will be used for public welfare and rural development.

TRIPURA:

Tripura Governor, Indra Sena Reddy Nallu distributed ducklings to representatives of five self-help groups at a programme held at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday. He stated that such initiatives aim to strengthen the rural economy and encourage the work of self-help groups. As part of a pilot initiative, a modern hatchery has been set up to produce improved breeds of ducklings.

MANIPUR:

In Manipur, Khongjom Day is being observed today at Khongjom War Memorial Complex at Khebaching of Thoubal district. The day is observed every year on 23rd April remembering those gallant Manipuri warriors who made supreme sacrifice fighting against the British to protect the freedom of Manipur in the battle of Khongjom during the Anglo-Manipuri War 1891. The Governor of Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh will attend the observation today as they will lead the public in laying of floral wreaths at Khongjom War Memorial. This will be followed by a guard of honour, gun salute, offering tarpon at Khongjom river and staging Khongjom War drama. This year tight security measures have been placed around the function venue and national highways for the convenience of the general public.

TRIBUTE:

A large number of people at Tajang Village in Ziro gathered to commemorate the first death anniversary of Corporal Tage Hailyang. He was among the 26 people who lost their lives in the Pahalgam terror attack last year. Tage Tade, the Corporal's father, unveiled a bust statue of his son at the Rake memory site. The tribute continued at the Tage Dollo Jubilee Hall, where a large number of village elders and residents gathered in a powerful display of solidarity, and observed a two-minute silence. Speaking on the occasion, his father remembered his son and asserted that his life has inspired the youths of Ziro.

DAY:

On the occasion of World Earth Day, various programmes were organized across Tripura to promote environmental awareness. In Agartala, a tree plantation drive was conducted at Bani Vidyapith School by "Bidhan Shishu Udyan Medha Anvesha Social Organization." Officials of the organization, along with students of the school, actively participated in the plantation program. Speakers at the event emphasized the importance of expressing gratitude towards nature and spreading awareness about environmental conservation.
