

REGIONAL ENGLISH NEWS BULLETIN

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In Arunachal Pradesh, repolling at 8 polling stations in the Arunachal West Parliamentary Constituency was conducted smoothly and peacefully today with a total voter turnout of 79.8 percent. The repollings were held at one polling stations each at Bameng and Nyapin assembly constituencies, two in Rumgong and four in Nacho Assembly constituencies. Earlier, the Election Commission of India had declared the polling held on April 19 this month at these polling stations for Parliamentary and Assembly elections void and fixed April 24 as the date of the repoll. Simultaneous elections for the two parliamentary constituencies and new Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh was held on April 19 in a single phase.

The Supreme Court today reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions seeking a cent per cent cross-verification of the vote count in Electronic Voting machines (EVMs) with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) paper slips. A Bench comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) about EVM functionality and security during the hearing. The ECI assured the court that EVMs are secure and tamper-proof, with built-in security features. They mentioned that over 41,000 random verifications so far, matching over four crore VVPAT paper slips. Meanwhile, the court expressed confidence in the ECI but hinted at potential reforms to improve the electoral process. However, it rejected the idea of returning to paper ballots.

President Draupadi Murmu today while addressing the convocation ceremony of Indian Forest Service Probationers at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun highlighted the pressing issue of climate change and underscored the critical role of forest conservation in combating its effects. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that mankind had deliberately made the mistake of forgetting the importance of forests. She stressed that humans were not the owners but the protectors of the earth's invaluable resource and encouraged probation officers to shoulder the vital duties of conserving, promoting, and nurturing forests. She also expressed confidence that they would wholeheartedly fulfil this crucial responsibility. During the convocation ceremony, as many as 99 probationers from the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, along

with two trainee officers from the friendly nation of Bhutan, graduated from the academy's 2022-24 Course.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today in a social media post extended his greetings to the nation on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Day. He praised grassroots workers for their efforts in transforming rural India and improving people's lives. Modi assured continued government support to strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions and empower people's aspirations. Meanwhile marking National Panchayati Raj Day, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj also held a one-day National Colloquium on Grassroots Government in New Delhi today.

Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General K.T. Parnaik, (Retd.) today has sent his warm festival wishes to the people of Arunachal Pradesh, especially to the Tangsa tribe, on the occasion of Moh Mol. He hopes this festival brings peace, harmony, and prosperity. The Governor expresses his wish for this tradition to continue, preserving the rich culture of the State and the Tangsa people in particular. Meanwhile the Governor also extended his warm greetings to the Puroik community on the festive occasion of Gumkum Gumpa. He hopes this celebration strengthens unity among them and other tribes. He emphasized the importance of education, health, and government benefits for the Puroik people. The Governor wished for harmony and stronger bonds during this festival, not only among Puroiks but for all the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the importance of resilient infrastructure for a better future at the 6th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure held at New Delhi today. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Modi underscored that disasters affect individuals, families, and communities beyond monetary terms and further urged for resilience to be integrated into new projects and post-disaster reconstruction. Stressing collective resilience among nations, he highlighted the global impact of disasters. The conference, held in New Delhi, commenced today and will run until tomorrow.

Padma Shri awardee Yanung Jamoh Lego upon her arrival to Pasighat was welcomed with warm greeting by the people of Pasighat yesterday. She received the prestigious Padma Shri award for her contributions to traditional healthcare from President Draupadi Murmu. Lego is the second Padma Shri recipient from the Adi community. Speaking on the occasion, she expressed gratitude and acknowledged the pressure of the recognition, vowing to work harder. Lego, a former Deputy Director of the State Agriculture Department, has been practicing herbal medicine and traditional healing for over three decades, serving not only the Northeast but also patients from abroad. Meanwhile East Siang Deputy Commissioner, Tayi Taggu has also congratulated Mrs. Lego for her achievement, further commending her as a testament to perseverance.

That's all in this news bulletin, Namaskar.