

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated the first Indian Consulate in historic French city of Marseille this afternoon. Earlier in the day, the two leaders interacted with the members of the Indian diaspora in the city. They also paid tribute to Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives during first and second World Wars at the Mazargues War Cemetery. Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri today said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron exchanged views on recent geopolitical developments in Europe, West Asia and Indo-Pacific during their talks. Briefing media in Marseille, he said that the leaders discussed a number of issues of global and regional importance.

State Governor Lt. General (retired) KT Parnaik met the Governor of Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel at Raj Bhavan in Lucknow today. They discussed mutual areas of development where Arunachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh can collaborate for the benefit of their people, emphasizing the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. During the meeting, Governor Parnaik highlighted the celebration of Uttar Pradesh Diwas at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar, underscoring the growing cultural and historical ties between the two States.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has termed government officers and officials, especially those in the districts as the real backbone of governance, while addressing a review meeting yesterday with officials of East Siang district in Pasighat. Khandu said the success of a particular government depends on the honesty, sincerity and efficiency of government employees. He also pointed out that, strengthening the districts is crucial for improving the last-mile citizen service delivery. Khandu informed that the government is introducing Bottom-up Planning - involving preparation of District-level Vision and Development Plans. Under it, the government-appointed Guardian Ministers and Mentor Secretaries will hold review meetings in allotted districts with all stakeholders and submit their reports to the government. Later, Khandu also reviewed all flagship schemes of the state and central government and other ongoing developmental projects in the district.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has congratulated six State Forest Service officers from Arunachal Pradesh on their promotion to the Indian Forest Service (IFS). The six officers are Aduk Paron, Bijoy Pradhan, Poosam Thanga, Millo Tamang, Nani Sha and Somkhim Mossang. In a social media post today, Khandu has appreciated their dedication, hard work & commitment and wished them success for their new roles.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein has extended his greetings on the auspicious occasion of Mai-Ko-Som-Fai to the Tai Khamti community and the followers of Theravada Buddhism. The Deputy Chief Minister joined prayers with revered monks at Kongmu Kham (Golden Pagoda) today in Namsai. Former MP of Bhutan Dupthob Yangstep and Padma Shri Dr. Rajnikant were also present among others.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed all agency banks to keep all their branches dealing with government business open on 31st March this year. RBI said that the Government of India has made a request to keep all branches of the banks dealing with government receipts and payments open for transactions on 31st March to account for all the government transactions relating to receipts and payments in the financial year 2024-25. The RBI also asked banks to give due publicity about the availability of the above banking services on that day.

To mark the occasion of World Radio Day tomorrow, a quiz competition for college students of Tezu was jointly conducted today by Bamboosa Library and Akashvani Tezu in Lohit district. The quiz was aimed to instil interest among the youth about the powerful contribution of Radio, through interesting events and personalities associated with the growth of Radio and the Akashvani. Besides it, the first prize was won by the B. Ed team, the second prize by another B. Ed team and the third prize by Commerce Dept team. Akashvani Tezu will broadcast the Radio quiz tomorrow on the occasion of the World Radio Day.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall or snowfall at isolated places in Arunachal Pradesh today. The weather department also said that parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya will experience thunderstorms accompanied and lightning today.

A monthly District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee meeting was convened yesterday at the DC Conference Hall, Yupia to address various aspects of drug abuse and strategies for its prevention. Deputy Commissioner Papum Pare cum Chairman of NCORD Jiken Bomjen recommended for various awareness initiatives to be undertaken by the district administration. ADC Sagalee Higio Yame proposed for forming sector-level committees for a more localized approach to tackle the issue. She also reiterated the significance of NGOs' involvement in awareness and rehabilitation programs. Meanwhile, DMO Dr. Reena Ronya informed about strict monitoring of prescription medications to prevent any misuse of it.

The Nehru Yuva Kendra Pasighat, East Siang district has successfully hosted an Inter-State Youth Exchange Program (ISYEP) at Balaji Mandir Conference Hall Pasighat from 07th to 11th of this month. About 25 youth delegates from five districts of Assam have participated in the program. Local MLA Tapi Darang, in his inaugural speech, encouraged the youths to be actively involved in the nation-building process.