REGIONAL ENGLISH NEWS BULLETIN

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The Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh concluded last night with the final holy dip on the Mahashivratri. Over 66 crore 30 lakh devotees had taken the holy dip during the 45-day-long spiritual mega event. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Mahakumbh was a Mahayagya of Unity. In a blog, Mr Modi expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of the Mahakumbh, and thanked people for their hard work, efforts and determination.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, today, said that more than 16,000 trains were operated for the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj. Addressing the media at the Prayagraj Junction, Mr Vaishnaw said around 4 crore 50 lakh passengers commuted in and out of Prayagraj through trains. He informed that the Railways had worked on this for the past two and a half years and invested around 5,000 crore rupees.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has reiterated that the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religious Act 1978 is not against any religion. Participating in a Nyokum Festival at Chayangatajo in East Kameng District on Wednesday, Mr. Khandu said that the Act is only to safeguard the state's rich indigenous cultural heritage that gives each tribe a distinct identity, and to preserve traditions in its purest form. He urged people not to get confused. Mr. Khandu said, the Act came into being in 1978 and was without any rules. He added that, now with the High Court's direction the state government is working on it to frame the rules. The Chief Minister assured that no such rule is framed that will go against or in favour of any particular religion.

Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General (Retd) K.T. Parnaik has extended greetings to the people of the state, especially to the Buddhist communities on the occasion of Losar. In a message, the Governor said that Losar marks the beginning of a New Year, symbolizing renewal, prosperity, and hope. He prayed for happiness, prosperity, and good health to all on the occasion.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that against all the challenges globally, India is moving ahead with growth. Addressing a media conclave in New Delhi today, Smt. Sitharaman said, the global supply chain is where the concentration risks are posing challenges. She said India will have to keep its strategic requirements at the top of the agenda. The Minister said, there are many fundamental issues to address, to meet the aspirations of the growing middle class, poor, and entrepreneurial class.

An earthquake of magnitude five on the Richter scale jolted Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and other Northeastern states today morning. The tremors were felt in Guwahati and other parts of the state. According to the National Center for Seismology, the epicenter of the earthquake was near Morigaon in Assam. In Arunachal Pradesh, the capital city Itanagar experienced strong tremors in the wee hours causing many residents to rush out of their homes. However, no casualties or damage have been reported so far.

The Tawang District Enforcement Squad under the National Tobacco Control Programme, and the District Level Coordination Committee, have penalized over 35 shops in the Tawang Township for violating Sub-Section 6 (b) of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003. The Sub-Section 6 (b) of the Act prohibits the sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of any educational institution. The seized tobacco products from the shops were disposed-off at the designated dumpsite on Wednesday.

Wangtham Lamaty of The Assam Rifles has secured the 'Best Rider' title at the National Equestrian Championship 2025. The Championship was organised by Punjab Police in Jalandhar, Punjab. The competition featured top equestrians from across the country, with Lamaty shining in tent pegging. Wangtham Lamaty is a resident of Kheti village in Tirap district. Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein have congratulated Lamaty for his achievement. Mr. Khandu in a social media post said that by clinching the 'Best Rider' title, Lamaty has not only made Kheti village proud but also entire Arunachal Pradesh.

Nehru Yuva Kendra is organizing a three-day inter-district youth exchange program at Daporijo in Upper Subansiri District. The programme which started on Wednesday was inaugurated by Dumporijo MLA Rode Bui. Mr. Bui on the occasion advised the

youths to refrain from indulging in antisocial activities, especially drug addiction. As a part of the programme, different training session is being conducted for the all-round development of the youth.

And now, the weather forecast for Itanagar Capital Region and nearby areas. The Meteorological Centre, Itanagar, has predicted partly cloudy skies over Itanagar, Naharlagun, and surrounding areas in the next 24 hours. The maximum temperature recorded is 24.9 degrees Celsius, while the minimum stands at 14 degrees Celsius. No rainfall is expected during this period.

That's all, in this news bulletin, Namaskar