

## **REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR**

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President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi today extended warm greetings to the nation on the festive occasions of Vaisakhi, Vishu, Bohag Bihu, Poila Boishakh, Meshadi, Vaishakhadi, and Puthandu Pirapu being celebrated across India on April 13th, 14th and 15th, 2025. President Murmu, in her message, emphasized that these harvest festivals symbolize India's unity in diversity and honor the hard work of our 'Annadata' farmers and encouraging preservation of nature and culture. She urged citizens to preserve nature and cultural heritage while contributing to national development. PM Modi, in a social media post, wished happiness, hope, and abundance to all, highlighting the festivals' spirit of togetherness, gratitude, and renewal. Meanwhile, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu in a social media post has extended Baishakhi greetings, expressing hope that the harvest festival brings peace, prosperity, and gratitude to every home, while strengthening communal harmony and renewing festive spirit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid homage to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, remembering their courage and sacrifice. Mr. Modi in a social media said that the incident was a dark chapter in India's history, but the indomitable spirit of the martyrs continues to inspire generations. He described their sacrifice as a significant turning point in the country's freedom struggle.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that the government will invest ₹10 lakh crore over the next two years to upgrade highways across India, with a strong focus on the Northeast and border regions. Speaking to media, Gadkari said that the aim is to transform India's infrastructure to global standards. He emphasized the need to boost connectivity in the Northeast due to its tough terrain and strategic location, revealing that 784 highway projects worth ₹3.7 lakh crore are planned across eastern states, covering 21,300 km. Specifically for the Northeast, projects worth ₹1 lakh crore are being undertaken this year.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening Arunachal Pradesh's agriculture and allied sectors to uplift farmers, empower SHGs, and promote women-led development. Speaking at an international conclave organized by

APEDA in collaboration with the state government, Mr. Khandu emphasized the importance of increasing agricultural exports, particularly of GI-tagged products like Khamti (Khaw Tai) rice, Mandarin orange, kiwi, apple, persimmon, yak cheese (churpi), and more to ASEAN and South East Asian markets. He urged buyers to tap into the state's untapped potential. He also invited both domestic and international buyers to invest in the state's rich but underutilized agri-potential. Meanwhile, speaking on the occasion, Agriculture Minister Gabriel Denwang Wangsu stressed the need to build awareness and capacity among farmers to help them secure fair prices in competitive markets, while Chief Secretary Manish Gupta called Arunachal a "powerhouse of organic," stressing the state's growing potential in global organic markets. APEDA Chairman Abhishek Dev advocated identifying farmer groups for global trade participation and assured continued support for export-focused initiatives.

The Calcutta High Court has ordered immediate deployment of central forces in Murshidabad district of West Bengal following violence over the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025. The order came after a plea by Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari citing statewide unrest. A special bench of Justices Soumen Sen and Raja Basu Choudhury stated that similar action can be taken in other affected districts to control the situation and restore normalcy. The forces will operate in coordination with the state administration. So far, 3 people have died in the clashes in Murshidabad and over 150 have been arrested in connection with the violence in Murshidabad. Meanwhile, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan has advised the state administration to closely watch other sensitive districts and assured all possible assistance to restore normalcy swiftly. So far five companies of CRPF from Ranchi, Jamshedpur, and the Rajarhat CRPF camp have been ordered to move to Murshidabad. Additionally, top BSF and police officials, are actively monitoring and assessing the situation, particularly in the Samsargunj area.

Naharlagun Police arrested two absconding fraudsters in separate operations from Kolkata and Guwahati with interstate cooperation. In the first case, Debashish Kar (55), a jeweller, operating from G Extension, Naharlagun was accused in August 2024 of cheating multiple customers by collecting gold jewellery for repair and fleeing with it. After months of surveillance, he was nabbed from Habra, West Bengal, with help from local police. He has been brought back to Naharlagun under transit remand for further investigation. In another case, Srinu Chekka (33) was

arrested from Guwahati for allegedly siphoning off ₹4 lakh from a woman's bank account. The arrest followed sustained technical tracking and coordination with Assam Police. He has also been brought to Naharlagun for further investigation. Meanwhile, SP Naharlagun, IPS, Mihin Gambo, applauded the teams for their swift and well-coordinated interstate efforts.

Government has invited nominations for the Padma Awards 2026, which will be announced on the occasion of Republic Day next year. Nominations are open until 31st July this year, and the nomination process began on the 15th of last month. The nominations and recommendations for Padma Awards will only be received online on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal.

A first-of-its-kind LGBTQIA+ sensitization and suicide prevention program was held at the Arunachal Press Club, jointly organized by AP QueerStation, Arunachal Press Club, and Mariwala Health Initiative. Under the theme "Narratives of Care," the event brought together journalists, mental health experts, and queer activists to promote inclusive media narratives. Speaking on the occasion, AP QueerStation founder Sawang Wangchha emphasized inclusive and respectful storytelling that respects the dignity and care of LGBTQIA+ narratives, while Rudrani from Xomonnoy shared best practices and pitfalls for accurate and respectful coverage of queer issues. Meanwhile Assistant Professor of Psychology, NERIST, Yuma Narrah addressed the mental health challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ individuals, urging sensitive reporting.