

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025 as reported by the Joint Parliamentary Committee has been moved in the Lok Sabha for consideration and passing today. Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju moved the bill saying that it has nothing to do with the religious practice of Muslim and it only deals with the properties related to Waqf Boards. The Minister termed this legislation a prospective saying that it is not retrospective and not intended to confiscate anyone's property. He further informed that as per the present bill, the Waqf Boards will have representations of different Muslim sects, women and non-Muslims and others. Initiating the discussion, Gaurav Gogoi of Congress accused the government of misleading the people on this bill. He said, this bill is against the constitution. Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, the bill has been brought after detailed deliberations by the Joint Parliament Committee as approved by the Cabinet.

The State Cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Pema Khandu today took several important decision including extending scope of the Chief Minister's Bal Seva Scheme and enhancement of pension under the Chief Minister's Social Security Scheme besides approving grant of 50% SGST reimbursement for the 1200 MW Kalai II Hydro Electric Project. The Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister's BAL SEVA Scheme will now provide support to all registered orphaned children of the state. In a landmark decision to bolster social welfare, the Cabinet has approved enhancements of pension amounts under the Chief Minister's Social Security Scheme. The pension amount for all three components of the scheme—old age pension, disability pension, and widow pension—has been increased by Rs 300 per month. Meanwhile, the Cabinet has approved a grant of up to 50% SGST reimbursement for the Kalai II Hydro Electric Project (1200 MW) to enhance its financial viability. Some other Cabinet approval includes assigning Deputy Director, Rural Development, to implement RD and CSS schemes in the districts.

The Guardian Minister for Lower Subansiri, Gabriel D. Wangsu, has urged the administration to embrace a problem-solving mindset and drive progress through innovative solutions. The Minister said this while attending the review meeting at Ziro yesterday. Wangsu, who is also the Guardian Minister of East Kameng, Pakke Kesang

and Lower Subansiri District conducted a comprehensive review meeting with all the heads of district departments in Lower Subansiri to evaluate the overall activities in the district. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Vivek H.P. presented a detailed assessment of the various state and central government schemes. The presentation was organized around the key thematic areas of Sashakt Arunachal, which include Sundar, Samridh, Shikshit, Swasth, Surakshit and Swachch Arunachal. This was Wangsu's maiden visit to the district as the Guardian Minister.

The Arunachal Pradesh Science Centre, under the aegis of Arunachal Pradesh State Council for Science & Technology, Dept of Science and Technology began the Summer Science Camp for children at Science Centre, IG Park, Itanagar yesterday. The objective of the camp is to inculcate scientific knowledge in the children through creativity and fun. The camp will include fun-filled activities such as Origami, Astronomy, Skill-development, science activities and fun games which are designed to educate children while indulging in play mode activities. The camp will continue till the 23rd of this month.

Arunachal Pradesh's Judoka, Khomdan Wanghop has brought pride to the state by securing a bronze medal at the Junior National Judo Championships 2024-25 held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand recently. In response to the achievement, The Arunachal Judo Association has extended its heartfelt congratulations to Khomdan Wanghop for his outstanding achievement and has lauded his hard work and perseverance. His success serves as an inspiration for aspiring judokas in the state, the AJA said. Judoka, Khomdan Wanghop hails from New Changnyak village in Tirap district.

The NSS Cell of St Claret College (Autonomous), Ziro successfully concluded the first phase of its NSS Special Camp yesterday at its adopted village, Lempia, Old Ziro. The three-day camp, held from March 28 to March 30 last aimed to promote social responsibility among students through various community service and awareness programs. A major highlight of the camp was a street play on 'Gender Equality', performed by the NSS volunteers.

The Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building, and Livelihood Programme PC-Hub, Arunachal Pradesh, successfully organized a Cleanliness cum Plantation Drive at Don Bosco College, Jollang, Itanagar yesterday. The initiative aimed to promote environmental awareness and sustainability among students and faculty members. Recognizing the vital role of a clean environment

and education in societal progress, the EIACP team, led by Programme Officer, Dr. Anjan Chamuah, engaged students in an interactive session on the importance of maintaining cleanliness for societal and economic well-being. He also emphasized the alignment of the initiative with Mission LiFE and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).