REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of major infrastructure and industrial development projects worth over 18,000 crore rupees in Assam. The Prime Minister said India is on the mission of becoming Atmanirbhar in energy sector and is reducing dependence on foreign fuels. He inaugurated India's first bamboo-based bio-refinery at Golaghat district this afternoon. Modi also laid the foundation stone of a polypropylene unit at the refinery. Earlier in the day, the PM laid foundation stones of Darrang Medical College, Nursing College, and GNM School in Darrang district. The PM also virtually launched the construction of a new bridge over the Brahmaputra River, connecting Guwahati's Narengi and Darrang's Kuruwa and the Guwahati Ring Road project.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu said Arunachal Pradesh's hydropower journey continues to gain momentum. The 9th Steering Committee Meeting reviewing on hydropower was held on Friday at Itanagar. In his address, the Chief Minister said the focus was clear to accelerate execution, expand opportunities for local communities; and ensure these projects benefit people directly. Meanwhile, Khandu in his social media post informed, the 2000 MW Lower Subansiri Project is in near completion, the 2880 MW Dibang Multipurpose Project has surged ahead, and the 3097 MW Etalin Project has advanced through clearance. Across Dibang, Lohit, Kameng, Shi Yomi and Kamle districts, other projects are also progressing steadily with approvals and formalities.

Heavy earthquake tremors hit Itanagar Capital Region (ICR) and Naharlagun this evening. The 5.9 magnitude tremor first jolted Assam at 4:41 pm. Similarly, another tremor of 3.1 magnitude jolted Assam at 4:58 pm. The epicentre is 16 km from Udalgudi district.

Union Minister for finance Nirmala Sitharaman has said, the GST 2.0 was introduced before festive seasons to benefit every Indian. In her address at a joint conclave of Trade and Industries Association at Chennai today, she said, almost for a majority of 99 percent of goods, GST has been reduced from 12 to 5 percent and 28 percent GST to 18 percent. The Finance Minister said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi encouraged the finance ministry to come up

with a special package on GST; and the next gen GST was introduced after much consultation before being placed before the Council.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to renowned Assamese Singer-Composer-Director Bharat Ratna late Bhupen Hazarika at a centenary celebration in Guwahati, Assam yesterday. The PM called Hazarika, a symbol of unity and national integration. PM Modi said Hazarika's music united people across India and gave hope even in the hardest of times. He also unveiled a 100 Rupee commemorative coin and released a biography of Hazarika in 21 languages.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs yesterday organised National Level Conclave of Ministers of States/UTs for Minority Welfare at Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi. The conclave was presided over by Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju and attended by Ministers of 8 States including Arunachal Pradesh Law Minister Kento Jini. During the meeting, the Ministry presented its five-year roadmap for various schemes for the upliftment of minorities. Rijiju stated that with a new vision, there will be changes in policies and also will take forward earlier initiatives with greater speed especially for the benefit of minority youth, women and all communities.

The Meteorological Centre Itanagar (MC) has forecast that 20 districts in Arunachal Pradesh are in yellow alert zone. These districts will receive thunderstorm with lightning very likely at isolated places.

Upper Siang DC Talo Jerang today inspected the ongoing construction work of Panggo – Jorging Defense Road, a strategically important project aimed at improving connectivity of Line of Actual Control (LAC) under Migging Circle, Upper Siang district. He also inspected other construction sites and urged to maintain high quality work and timely completion of the projects. He also directed NHIDCL and the EPC Contractor to continue their efforts and appreciated the workers and officials for the progress achieved so far.

State Agriculture Minister Gabriel D Wangsu yesterday inspected the ongoing construction of State Agricultural Information Hub cum Farmer's Hotel in Naharlagun. In a social media post, he said, he is excited to witness the progress of this significant facility

that will provide valuable agri information, training and comfortable accommodation for the visiting farmers.

A cleanliness drive was held at Nirjuli as part of the nationwide 'Swachhata Pakhwada 2025' initiative on Friday. About 300 Students of NERIST along with faculties, Corporator of 19th IMC ward, and Nirjuli Market Welfare Committee took part in the drive focused on a specific stretch of road from Bage Tinali to Karsingsa Bridge.

The Nocte Chalo Loku Committee (NCLC) of Itanagar has felicitated Phamhoi Wangchu, Jamwang Lowang and Ejoy Ketok for clearing Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission Combined Competitive Examination (APPSCCCE) 2024 in a ceremony at DK Convention Hall in Itanagar on Friday.

In Men's Cricket, India will play with Pakistan in a Group A clash of the ongoing T20 Asia Cup tournament at Dubai this evening. The match will begin at 8 PM.