

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Amman on a three-nation visit to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman today. In the first leg of his visit, Mr Modi will meet King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein. In his departure statement, the Prime Minister said that he will hold detailed discussions with King Abdullah and the Prime Minister of Jordan, Jafar Hassan. Mr Modi will also meet the vibrant Indian community in Amman, who have made significant contributions to India-Jordan relations.

General elections to the Panchayati Raj institutions in Arunachal Pradesh and municipal bodies of Itanagar and Pasighat concluded peacefully today. Long queues were witnessed in the vote centres across the state. Out of the total 8,208 seats of Gram Panchayats in the state, 6,227 candidates have already been elected unopposed, and polling was held on 1,947 seats. State Election Commission Joint-secretary Tage Nipa said that so far, the election is peaceful. He also affirmed that booth capturing incident reported from a polling booth in Kamle District. He also informed that due to error in the ballot paper printing in two gram panchayat member election in East Siang District and Namsai will go for fresh election. However, final voter turnout figure is waited as the figures from the districts are yet to be received.

Three more bodies were retrieved on Sunday from the accident site in Anjaw district, where 20 labourers lost their lives after the truck they were travelling on plunged into a deep gorge while on their way to Chaglagam from Tinsukia in Assam on 8th December. With this, a total of 20 bodies has been recovered, while the lone survivor is undergoing treatment in Tinsukia. On Saturday, 11 bodies were retrieved, while six bodies were recovered on Friday. The search and rescue operation took considerable time due to the challenging topography at the accident site. The Search operation has been called off today morning after getting confirmation from Tinsukia DC about the number of people on board is 21 persons only..

In an open firing incident in Sydney Bondi Beach in Australia during the 'Chanukah by the Sea' event, which was organised to celebrate the first day of the Jewish festival, resulted in the deaths of 15 people on Sunday. One of the gunmen, 50-year-old Sajid Akram, was fatally shot by police during the attack, while his 24-year-old son Naveed Akram was wounded and is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital. Australia's Home

Affairs Authorities have said Naveed Akram is an Australian-born citizen. His father, Sajid Akram, arrived in Australia in 1998 on a student visa, which was converted into a partner visa in 2001 and later into a resident return visa.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted that solar power in the country has increased by 46 percent in the last 11 years. Briefing media on developments in the energy sector in New Delhi today. Mr Goyal said India is now the fourth largest refining hub of coal, highlighting more than one billion tonnes of coal production last year and a reduction in imports by eight percent. The Minister also highlighted that wind energy capacity has now increased to 53 Gigawatts. Mr Goyal underlined that since 2014, the government has only focused on outcomes, and the energy sector has undergone massive changes in the last eleven years.

Senior journalist from the Northeast, Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty, has been elected as the president of the Press Club of India. She is the first woman to hold the top post in the organisation's 68-year history. Hailing from Assam, Pisharoty is widely admired for her integrity, sharp analytical insight and fearless reporting, particularly on socio-political issues affecting marginalised communities. Her career stands as a testament to the highest standards of professional journalism. The Arunachal Press Club extended heartfelt congratulations to Pisharoty on her historic election as president of the PCI.

Three individuals, identified as Raj Pegu, Seniram Das and Beauty Das were arrested by the police in Papum Pare district on Saturday. During the operation, the prime drug peddler, Raj Pegu, was apprehended along with his accomplices Seniram Das and Beauty Das. Following a search, 22 vials containing suspected heroin were seized from their possession.

The Railways is on the verge of completing electrification on almost its entire broad-gauge network, with more than 99 percent electrification completed across 25 states and union territories. The Ministry of Railways informed that over 33 thousand route kilometres were electrified between 2019 and 2025. It added that the total distance electrified during this period alone is almost equal to the entire railway network of Germany, showing the country's scale of expanding clean and efficient rail traction.