

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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The winter session of Parliament began today with 15 sittings scheduled over 19 days. Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day following opposition protests over issues including the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Amid ruckus, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill 2025 to levy excise duty on tobacco products, and the Health Security and National Security Cess Bill 2025 to impose cess on goods such as pan masala. Earlier, Speaker Om Birla paid tributes to departed leaders. In Rajya Sabha, three members from Jammu and Kashmir took oath. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Vice President C P Radhakrishnan, calling his rise a reflection of India's democratic strength.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the Winter Session is not just a ritual, but it fuels efforts to take India towards development. Addressing the media ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament, Modi said, India's economic rise today is reaching remarkable heights. He said, this momentum gives renewed confidence to India to be on the path towards becoming a developed nation. The Prime Minister urged all parties that the winter session should not become a battleground for frustration born out of defeat, nor should it turn into an arena for arrogance born out of victory.

Ahead of the local body elections, more than 71% of the 8,182 Gram Panchayat (GP) constituencies and around 24% of the 245 Zilla Parishad (ZP) constituencies in Arunachal Pradesh have been won uncontested, according to the State Election Commission (SEC). SEC Secretary Taru Talo said 5,857 GP seats recorded a single nomination, leaving no contest. The ruling BJP won 62 seats unopposed, including four Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC) wards and 58 ZP seats, while the NPP secured one ZP seat uncontested. The Commission said, out of the total GP seats, 13 constituencies received no nominations, and in 14 constituencies, all nominations were rejected during scrutiny. The remaining seats will go to polls on December 15, with counting scheduled for December 20. Vacant seats will be filled through bye-elections later.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said that the people of Arunachal Pradesh have delivered a "sweeping verdict" even before polling for the Panchayati Raj Institutions by electing a large number of BJP candidates unopposed.

A meeting-cum-briefing for contesting candidates, election agents and political party representatives for the upcoming Panchayat Elections 2025 was held at the Tawang Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall. Chairing the session, DC-cum-District Election Officer (PR) Namgyal Angmo urged strict adherence to election dos and don'ts, maintaining peace and cooperation for free and fair polls. SP Dr DW Thongon briefed attendees on the Model Code of Conduct, while officials explained restrictions, ballot marking (including first-time NOTA for ZPM polls), sealing and counting procedures.

Indigenous Faith Day was celebrated today with devotion and cultural pride across Arunachal Pradesh, reflecting the rich spiritual heritage of the State's indigenous communities. In Khonsa, the programme at Khathak Rang Rangsom was graced by Khonsa West MLA Chakat Aboh and DC Liyi Bagra. Elders performed the sacred Rangtam ritual, while speakers including IFCSAP leaders highlighted the importance of preserving traditions, promoting mother tongue education through Gurukuls, and safeguarding ancestral customs. In Daporijo, the 26th Indigenous Faith Day was marked at the Indigenous Ground, with MLA Taniya Soki gracing the occasion as Chief Guest.

Arunachal Pradesh's literacy rate is rising rapidly under Chief Minister Pema Khandu's leadership, said Law, Legislative and Justice Minister Kento Jini. He was addressing the Silver Jubilee celebration of the All Kombo Welfare & Development Society (AKWDS) at Government Secondary School, Kombo in West Siang district on Sunday. He urged the youth to focus on education and assured that development of Kombo would remain a priority.

Ramakrishna Mission, Narottam Nagar, in collaboration with SPIC MACAY (Arunachal Chapter), SRF Foundation and the Department of Education, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh, successfully conducted a five-day workshop on Dhrupad and Sattriya Nritya from November 26 to 30. The Dhrupad sessions were led by Padma Shri awardee Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, while the Sattriya workshop was conducted by Usha Rani Baishya, Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar awardee.

As part of the event, performances and demonstrations were held at educational institutions in Deomali, Narottam Nagar and Khonsa, offering enriching exposure to Indian classical arts.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu congratulated Team Arunachal for its historic performance at the 2nd North East Para Games 2025 in Guwahati. The state finished Runner-Up in the overall medal tally, winning 84 medals – including 23 Gold, 31 Silver and 30 Bronze medals. Khandu said the achievement reflects the courage, talent and determination of the state's Divyangjan sportspersons. He also lauded the efforts of the athletes, coaches and the Paralympic Association of Arunachal (PAA) for the remarkable milestone, terming it a proud moment in the state's sporting history.