

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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The Lok Sabha today passed the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill 2025. The bill seeks to amend the Manipur Goods and Services Tax Act 2017. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has introduced the Bill in order to have Manipur's GST regulation to be in line with the Centre's new GST slabs. The Second Amendment Bill also aimed to replace a subsequent ordinance promulgated in October 2025.

State Governor Lt. General retired KT Parnaik today participated in GeoSmart India 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The 4-day Conference cum Expo on the theme 'One Nation, One Map' *Advancing Space and Geospatial Infrastructure for Economic Growth and National Sovereignty* is being organized by Geospatial Media and Communications. Participating in North East Conclave section, the Governor said, *Geographic Information System (GIS) dashboards* will bring greater transparency to government projects, while mapping natural resources and renewable energy potential will guide long-term sustainability, making geospatial technology a critical foundation for State's future growth and good governance. The Governor, citing urgency on a State-specific AI application built around local needs and geographical realities, said such a unified platform will ensure faster decision-making, greater transparency, and more responsive governance for the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Governor Lt. General retired K.T. Parnaik has extended greetings to the citizens especially to the differently abled people on the special occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. In his message, the Governor said that the greatest barrier for any individual is often not physical limitation but the emotional and mental constraints imposed by society and circumstance. He urged everyone to commit in creating meaningful livelihood opportunities and sustainable avenues of growth for persons with disabilities.

Union Minister for Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia today clarified that the Sanchar Saathi App is completely democratic and fully voluntary. In a social media post, Mr Scindia said that digital security of every citizen of the country is government's topmost priority. He added

that Sanchar Saathi is both an app and a portal that enables citizens to secure themselves through transparent, easy-to-use tools.

The 19th Foundation Day of Arunachal Pradesh Literary Society (APLS) was celebrated today at State Banquet Hall in Itanagar. MLA Toko Tatung as Chief Guest said, the literature of Arunachal is the mirror and a blend of society, tradition and culture of Arunachalee communities. He lauded APLS's service in flourishing budding writers and developing conducive literary atmosphere in the state. On the occasion, Poet Dr. Ashok Kumar Pandey was conferred with Luminous Lummer Dai Literary Award, 2025. Further, 'Boh Ramo Bokar: Mastering Folklore and Language Skills' by Dr. Nasi Koje, and 'Yatra' Hindi translation of short stories of Y.D Thongchi translated by Inumoni Das Thongchi were also released.

In preparation for the smooth conduct of the Panchayat Election 2025, a series of training programmes were successfully conducted across Papum Pare District for Presiding Officers, Polling Personnel and Counting teams. The first training session was held at Kimin on 27th, second at Balijan on 28th, third at Sagalee on 29th of last month and the final session at Yupia today for Returning Officers of Batt Ganga, Borum and Doimukh. Speaking on the occasion, DC-cum-District Election Officer Vishakha Yadav emphasized, such capacity-building initiatives are essential to uphold the integrity of the democratic process and ensure efficient management during polling and counting.

Sri Lanka is battling widespread devastation in the wake of Cyclone Ditwah, as the death toll climbed to 410 while 336 people are still missing. Amid the mounting crisis, India has further intensified humanitarian assistance under Operation Sagar Bandhu. Indian Air Force helicopters delivered 2,000 kg of humanitarian aid to Mandaram Nuwara and evacuated 17 people. Another sortie airlifted 24 passengers.

The Arunachal Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ) and the Arunachal Press Club (APC) yesterday have elected a new team of office bearers at Arunachal Press Club in Itanagar. Senior journalist Dodum Yangfo, editor-in-chief of The Dawnlit Post was elected unopposed as president of APUWJ and Arunachal Times sub-editor Amar Sangno as APC presidency unopposed. Both are state gold medal awardees in journalism. Meanwhile, Sonam Jelly, sub-editor at The Arunachal Pioneer was elected as general secretary of APUWJ and NewsFy editor Damien Lepcha as general secretary of APC.

National Highways Authority of India, NHAI has signed an agreement with Reliance Jio to deploy telecom-based safety alert systems across national highways. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said that the initiative aims to strengthen road-safety by providing timely information to National Highway users, enabling them to adjust speed and driving behaviour well in advance.