

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Chowna Mein attended the Pre Budget Consultation meeting for the forthcoming Union Budget 2026-27, chaired by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman and co-chaired by Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in New Delhi. During the consultation, Deputy CM Chowna Mein highlighted that despite its remoteness and long-standing developmental constraints, Arunachal Pradesh has witnessed significant progress in recent years and continues to maintain fiscal discipline in line with the Arunachal Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act 2006, with timely fulfillment of all committed liabilities. He placed before the Union Government selected priority infrastructure requirements of the state. The Deputy CM also drew attention to the limited access of the State to Externally Aided Projects and emphasized the need for continued support from the Union Government. The Deputy CM reiterated the State Government's commitment to fiscal discipline and constructive engagement with the Union Government to accelerate inclusive and sustainable development in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. General K.T. Parnaik, extended his warm greetings to the people of the State, and especially to the Hrusso community of East Kameng district, on the auspicious occasion of the Sarok Festival. In his message, the Governor said Sarok is a vibrant expression of the Hrusso (Aka) tribe's rich cultural heritage, deeply rooted in tradition, faith, and harmony with nature. He hoped that this joyous celebration invokes the blessings of the revered deities for the well-being, peace, and prosperity of the community and society at large.

Arunachal Pradesh added two frog species to its biodiversity record- *Leptobrachium somani* and *Leptobrachium mechuka*. Identified after years of dedicated field research and advanced scientific analysis, these newly documented species highlight the rich and still unfolding biodiversity of the State. They reaffirm the ecological importance of Arunachal's forests and river ecosystems.

A two-day Regional Workshop on Wetland Conservation under the Sahabhagita Mission was held at Itanagar, attended by officials from eight North-Eastern states. The workshop focused on regional collaboration and sustainable use of wetlands.

Mass rally was held at Daporijo Township to mark the occasion of Samarth Bharat parva and national youth day celebration, which started from 25 December and will, culminated on 12 January on the eve of Swami Vivekananda birth anniversary across the world. Mass awareness campaign on drugs awareness and civic sense was also organised by the school authority. Rally was participated by several schools in the town under the initiative of VKV Kuporijo School.

Students from Government Higher Secondary, Mechuka, during their National Integration Tour visit to New Delhi, visited places of national importance as the Red Fort, India Gate, National War Memorial, Sansad Bhawan, Samvidhan Bhawan and Teen Murti Bhawan. These Landmarks are not only historical and modern marvels but also powerful symbols of India's Unity sacrifice and national pride. The students are on a National Integration Tour from 5 January till 16 January 2026.

Arunachal SARAS Fair 2026 is going to be held from 16–25 January 2026 at Dorjee Khandu Convention Centre, Itanagar. The Fair will showcase rural crafts, handlooms, and supporting women entrepreneurs, with exciting additions like K-Pop Fest, Cosplay, and Dance Battles, focusing on local talent and rural empowerment.

The 3rd edition of Papum Poma Veteran Football Tournament -2026 kicked off on Saturday, at the General Ground, Balijan, Papum Pare district. The inaugural match was played between the 2 time defending champions Tubung FC and Lenka Panchayat FC. The match ended in a draw with both the teams scoring a goal each (1-1). Boria Michael of Lenka Panchayat FC was adjudged Man of the Match for his excellent goalkeeping in the match. A total of 13 teams around the various circles of Papum Pare district are participating in the 3rd edition of the tournament.

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 has set a new participation record, with more than 4 crore registrations so far, surpassing last year's Guinness World Record tally of 3.56 crore. Organised annually by the Department of School Education and Literacy, the event brings participants together to interact directly with the Prime Minister on academic pressures, mental well-being and personal development. Registrations opened on December 1, 2025, through the MyGov portal and include students, parents and teachers from across the country.

Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia announced two new India Post services, Speed Post 24 and Speed Post 48, which will ensure delivery within 24 and 48 hours.

27 Indian citizens who were lured to Myanmar with false job promises but were instead forced to work illegally in cyber scam operations have been safely rescued and brought back to India. The rescued nationals arrived in Delhi.