

## **REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR**

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The Union Budget 2026-27 will be presented on the 1<sup>st</sup> of next month, which falls on Sunday. The Budget Session of Parliament will begin on the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month with the address of President Droupadi Murmu to the Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and will continue till the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April with one break. The first phase of the Budget session will be held from 28<sup>th</sup> January to 13<sup>th</sup> February, and the second phase will take place from 9<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April. There will be 30 sittings during the session.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the combination of Digital India, startup growth, and youth participation is reshaping the country's future. Speaking at the final session of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi yesterday, Modi said the country is witnessing rapid growth across creative and technology-driven sectors, powered largely by young innovators and entrepreneurs. He said, Digital India has created a whole new community of creators and is driving the unprecedented rise of the 'Orange Economy', covering culture, content and creativity.

Governor Lt Gen (Retd) KT Parnaik met his Sikkim counterpart Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan, Gangtok on Monday and exchanged New Year greetings, conveying best wishes for peace, progress and prosperity for the people of both States. During the interaction, Parnaik highlighted Arunachal Pradesh's rich cultural heritage, ethnic diversity and vast tourism potential, including eco, adventure, spiritual and cultural tourism. He proposed structured exchange programmes for students, young entrepreneurs and officials, particularly in horticulture and allied sectors, to share best practices in organic farming, value addition and market linkages.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has called for urgent action to preserve tribal languages, expressing concern over the declining use of mother tongue among youth in Arunachal Pradesh. Speaking at the Golden Jubilee of the Sarok Festival of the Aka (Hrusso) community at Bana in Bichom district, he said it was alarming that only about 7-8 per cent of Aka youth speak their native language, a trend seen across many communities. Emphasising the role of families, elders and institutions, Khandu urged daily use of indigenous languages at home and in cultural activities.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu said the Arunachal Pradesh government is rolling out a robust, technology-driven Inner Line Permit (ILP) system to curb illegal migration and prevent misuse. The digitised platform will track overstaying, expired permits, travel patterns and real-time entry-exit data. Khandu said employers bringing labourers from outside must inform authorities for proper verification. He added that the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, would be further strengthened to protect indigenous rights, land and culture.

Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (APSCPCR) has submitted a Special Report to the State Government on the unnatural death of a minor student at Sainik School, Niglok, following an independent statutory inquiry. The report was presented to Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona by Chairperson Ratan Anya along with Commission members and officials. The Commission recommended urgent administrative and policy interventions to ensure child safety in residential schools. It proposed enactment of a comprehensive anti-ragging and bullying law titled the "HERO Act," along with ex-gratia compensation to the victim's family. They also suggested observing November 1 as "HERO Day" for child safety awareness. The education minister assured prompt action.

BJP corporator Likha Nari Tadar was sworn in as the first woman Mayor of Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC), with Tok Tabin Camdir taking oath as Deputy Mayor during the civic body's inaugural meeting on Monday. Attending the event, Urban Affairs Minister Balo Raja urged the new leadership to focus on sanitation, infrastructure, transparency and revenue generation. In Pasighat, PPA councillor Tagom Padung was unanimously elected Chief Councillor of the Pasighat Municipal Council, while Kamin Lego became Deputy Chief Councillor.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Monday flagged off Arunachal Pradesh's first-ever consignment of cut flowers to Guwahati, marking a milestone in the State's floriculture sector. The inaugural shipment of 2,000 Asiatic Liliium stems from Lower Subansiri district generated about one lakh rupees for local farmers. Under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), the department is promoting high-quality cut and loose flower cultivation suited to the State's agro-climatic conditions. The initiative is expected to expand access to major flower markets across India, opening new avenues for farmer income, sustainable agriculture and inclusive rural growth.

Governor Lt. Genertal (Retd) KT Parnaik extended warm greetings to the people of the State on the occasion of Magh Bihu, Makar Sankranti and Pongal, conveying his best wishes for peace, harmony and prosperity. Highlighting the cultural and spiritual significance of the festivals, he said Magh Bihu reflects gratitude and community living; Makar Sankranti marks the auspicious Uttar-ayana and draws devotees to sacred sites like Parasuram Kund, while Pongal celebrates the bond between nature, farmers and society.