

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Arunachal Pradesh will observe a day of State Mourning on January 30 to honour former Home Minister Takar Marde, announced the state government. The National Flag will be flown at half-mast tomorrow throughout Arunachal and at all State Government establishments located outside the state. During this period, all official entertainment programmes and celebratory government functions will remain suspended. As a specific mark of respect for the late leader in his home region, the State Government authorized the closure of all government offices, educational institutions, and private business establishments across the Upper Subansiri district. The final rites for the former home minister will be held tomorrow during which a Ceremonial Guard of Honour will be presented as a final salute to his contributions to the state.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has called upon elected PRI representatives to strengthen grassroots democracy through inclusive planning, effective implementation of schemes and close coordination with government machinery. He inaugurated the extended four-day State Level Interaction-cum-Orientation Programme for elected PRI representatives (2026–2030), was organised by the Department of Panchayati Raj. CM Khandu said Arunachal Pradesh is among the first states in the country to allocate 10 per cent of its state-owned resources directly to the Panchayati Raj system over the last five years, leading to increased grants as the state's economy grows. He also emphasized on the role of women and Self-Help Groups in strengthening the rural economy.

The statue of the endangered Mishmi Takin was unveiled at Anini town to promote eco-tourism. Anini of Dibang Valley District in Arunachal Pradesh is the natural habitat of the rare Mishmi Takin. The newly unveiled statue stands as a powerful symbol of the district's resolve to pursue development that goes hand-in-hand with the preservation of its rich ecology and biodiversity. The programme featured plantation of flowers along the Mishmi Takin Point. This was followed by an oath-taking ceremony, where officials and participants collectively pledged not to kill or consume wild meat and reaffirmed their commitment to protecting wildlife and nature.

Dr Taba Nitin from Doimukh has become the only second Head and Neck Oncology Superspecialist from Arunachal Pradesh. Following his

master of surgery in ENT, Dr Nitin completed an advanced post-MS fellowship at the State Cancer Institute, GMCH, Guwahati. His expertise now provides a vital bridge between complex ENT surgeries and advanced cancer care.

Coracles fishing craft for inland fisheries was introduced at Arunachal Pradesh's Ziro valley. It marked the first-ever introduction in the North Eastern region. It was introduced during a two-day training programme on "Introduction of Coracles and Sustainable Inland Fishing Systems". The event was organized by ICAR –Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, under its North Eastern Hill flagship component. A practical training session was conducted at the Integrated Aqua Park in the Tarin region of Ziro, where fishers were trained on the use of coracles and appropriate fishing methods. As part of the programme, ten coracles along with paddles and Fishing gear materials were distributed to Apatani tribal beneficiaries through the Fisheries Department of the district.

The Papum Pare District Tourism Promotion Council held a meeting to discuss the modalities for leasing out tourism assets under the Department of Tourism. Chairing the meeting, DC Vishakha Yadav expressed concern over the poor condition of the assets, particularly the Tourist Lodge (Holiday Inn) at Sagalee. It was decided that the Adventure Tourism Camping Site at Jote Poma, the Mini Resort and Adventure Tourism Camping Site at Huto, and the Tourist Lodge (Holiday Inn) at Sagalee, will be leased out through a transparent process by floating Tender/NIT. The DC stated that the Public-Private Partnership model would help revive these defunct assets. She further advised the District Tourism Officer to draft the lease agreements carefully to avoid any future complications.

The 3rd edition of the Arunachal Pradesh University Festival (APUFEST) 2026 has commenced at Pasighat, East Siang district. The event was inaugurated by Chief Minister Pema Khandu. In his address, the CM reiterated that Arunachal Pradesh University, the state's first state-owned university, remains a top priority for the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and assured sustained support for its infrastructure expansion, academic growth and institutional strengthening.

Swift action by the joint effort of the troops of spear corps, and Indian Airforce, contained a massive forest fire that broke out along the western ridge of the Lohit River in Anjaw district. No loss of life or property was reported during the incident.