

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt. General K.T. Parnaik, has extended warm greetings and best wishes on New Year's Day to every citizen of the State. In his message, the Governor said that the year 2025 has been a truly progressive and eventful chapter in Arunachal Pradesh's growth story, marked by significant achievements and forward momentum. The governor urged to renew the resolve to move forward with the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, strengthen Arunachal Pradesh's journey towards contributing meaningfully to the national vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. General KT Parnaik met the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan on Wednesday. The meeting focused on key national security issues, with particular attention to Arunachal Pradesh, including the Vibrant Border Village Programme, the Agnipath scheme, and the implementation of Sadbhavana projects in border areas. Drawing upon his extensive experience in border management and counter-insurgency operations, Governor Parnaik emphasized the importance of joint commands and the continued strengthening of the operational and combat capabilities of the Indian armed forces.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India at the funeral of former prime minister Khaleda Zia and handed over to Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Tarique Rahman a letter of condolences from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In his letter, PM Modi exuded confidence that Zia's ideals will be carried forward by Mr Rahman and will continue to serve as a "guiding light" to ensure a new beginning and the enrichment of the deep and historic partnership between India and Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today visited the High Commission of Bangladesh in New Delhi, and signed the condolence book expressing the country's profound sorrow at the passing of former Bangladesh Prime Minister.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein has congratulated Chow Atabhol Namchoom on his promotion to the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) and to all 41 officers of the Arunachal Pradesh Police who have been promoted to the rank of DySP. Mr. Mein hoped that each of

them continue to uphold the highest standards of courage, integrity, and professionalism while serving the people of the State in the years to come.

A patrolling team led by Range Forest Officer Talo Dibo, Rilloh Wildlife Range, under Pakke Tiger Reserve, apprehended five persons in connection with illegal entry, camping, setting fire, illegal felling of trees and sawing of timber inside the Papum Reserve Forest, which also forms part of the buffer zone of Pakke Tiger Reserve. During the operation, the team seized two power chain saws, one mobile phone, three machetes and keys of a tractor. Considering the nature of the offence as compoundable, the Divisional Forest Officer, Dhawan Kumar Rawat, compounded the offence after realisation of a penalty amount of ₹50,000 (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) through e-Grass Challan.

As part of ongoing efforts to enforce tobacco control laws, the Enforcement Squad of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), Tawang recently conducted a raid in Tawang Township to check the illegal sale of tobacco products near educational institutions. The inspection revealed that 17 shops were violating COTPA Act 2003. Necessary action was taken against the violators as per provisions and shopkeepers were sensitized about the importance of complying with tobacco control laws to safeguard students and young people from the harmful effects of tobacco use.

Government has notified February 1 as the date from which additional excise duty will be levied on tobacco products and a new cess on pan masala. From February 1, pan masala, cigarettes, tobacco and similar products will attract a GST rate of 40 per cent, while biris will attract 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST). On top of this, a Health and National Security Cess will be levied on pan masala, while tobacco and related products will attract additional excise duty.

A mild earthquake measuring Magnitude 2.1 was recorded in Lower Subansiri district, Arunachal Pradesh, in the early hours of 1 January 2026, around 1 am. The tremor was minor in intensity. No reports of damage or casualties have been received so far. Such low-magnitude earthquakes are common in this seismically active region.

Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) Doimukh is conducting an Online Poetry competition for the Bonafide students of RGU, on the theme 'Evils of Child Marriage'. It is being organised under the aegis of Ministry of

Women and Child Development, Government of India. The last date of the submission is 15 January 2025.

The Centre has notified draft rules for the four new Labour Codes. These Labour Codes are – The Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. These draft rules are open for public consultation, and stakeholders have been invited to submit objections and suggestions within 45 days.

That's all, in this News Bulletin, Namaskar