

## **REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR**

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Former Home Minister and Deputy Speaker, Takar Marde has passed away. Governor KT Parnaik and Chief Minister Pema Khandu have condoled his demise. The Governor, in his message, said that with the passing of Marde, the state has lost a compassionate and dedicated social activist who devoted his life to the upliftment of the downtrodden and worked selflessly for the welfare of society. In a social media post, CM Khandu said that the former minister will always be remembered for his leadership, wisdom, and dedication to public welfare.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu reviewed the potential of Inland Waterways in Arunachal Pradesh in a meeting with Transport Minister Ojing Tasing. They explored how the state's rivers can become engines of connectivity, eco-friendly transport, tourism growth, and local economic opportunities. The CM said harnessing waterways in a sustainable and strategic manner can open new dimensions of development for the State, especially in remote and riverine regions.

RIWATCH (Research Institute of World's Ancient Traditions, Cultures & Heritage) Governing Council members led by Chairman Dr Joram Begi and Executive Director Vijay Swami today met Chief Minister Pema Khandu. They discussed on upcoming activities and initiatives of the organisation aimed at strengthening and preserving the rich traditions and cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh.

The grand finale of Spelling Wizards – Chapter 2 was held on Tuesday at the DK Hall, Itanagar. It showcased exceptional talent, intellect, and linguistic excellence among young participants from across Arunachal Pradesh. Moshmi Rebecca Riba of Dera Natung Government College, Itanagar clinched the title and the cash prize of 1 lakh rupees. Kabiom Kanot Libang of VKV, Nirjuli, secured the Runner-Up position, earning 50,000 rupees.

Four houses were gutted in a fire accident at Parong-II Kinne under Riga Circle of Siang district on Tuesday. The incident site was visited by the Tayi Taggu, Deputy Commissioner, Siang District, Philip Jerang Additional Commissioner, Riga, and the Officer-in-Charge, Boleng Police Station to take stock of the situation and oversee relief measures.

Immediate relief was provided to the affected families as per norms. No casualties or injuries were reported in the incident.

Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has died in a plane crash at Maharashtra's Baramati this morning. The Civil Aviation Ministry informed that a Learjet 45 (VT-SSK) aircraft, operated by VSR, crash landed at Baramati airport earlier today. The Ministry added that there were five personnel on board, including the Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister with two more personnel and two crew members. Officials said that no one on board survived the crash. Further details are awaited. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, have expressed profound grief over his demise. Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu also extended his condolence. Two minutes of silence was observed at the State BJP's One Day State-Level Orientation Programme in Itanagar with newly elected ZPCs, ZPMs, and GPCs.

A coordination meeting with newly Elected PRI members -cum-District Level Monitoring Committee meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of the DC, Upper Subansiri District, Tasso Gambo. During the meeting, each Head of Department delivered detailed PowerPoint presentations highlighting the status of ongoing developmental work. The newly elected ZPMs and Panchayat members assured their full cooperation. ZPC, Upper Subansiri District, Jyoti Sikom, laid special emphasis on the urgent need to improve cleanliness and strengthen waste management systems in the district, describing it as a pressing concern requiring collective effort from all stakeholders. In response the DC, assured that all genuine grievances raised would be taken up personally by him with the concerned authorities.

The ICAR-National Research Centre (NRC) on Yak Dirang launched a Training-cum-Hands-on Practices Programme on Value Addition of Yak-Based Products, at its Dirang campus. A batch of 10 yak-rearing farmers from the Jang circle of Tawang district, representing villages such as Mago, Thingbu, Mukto, Rho, and Jangda, participated in the programme. The training programme will continue till 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Observing National Road Safety Month, the District Transport Office, Tawang, organised a Road Safety Awareness Programme at Old Market, Tawang. It was organised in collaboration with the District Administration and District Police. President, Taxi Union Tawang, Tashi Dondup, appealed

to drivers to keep snow chains ready, especially during winter months, to prevent accidents caused by black ice. As part of the programme, free helmets were distributed to selected riders.