

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Chief Minister Pema Khandu took on-ground inputs from hydropower companies NHPC Ltd., NEEPCO, and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), as part of wider consultations to strengthen the State's Relief & Rehabilitation Policy. The CM said their field-level implementation experiences help better understand practical challenges in project areas.

Rubu Daniel of Class 8, Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya in Oyan of East Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh secured a place among the Top 20 Best Innovations in India at Big Bang 2026. Over 700 innovative projects from 24 states were competing. VKV Oyan emerged as the only school from the North East to be featured in the Top 20, an achievement that brings immense pride to the entire region. This remarkable accomplishment reflects his creativity, scientific temperament, and dedication, and serves as an inspiration for young minds across Arunachal.

Kadaohum Bellai of 42 RR (Assam Regiment), Indian Army, was awarded the prestigious Sena Medal (Gallantry) on the auspicious occasion of the 77th Republic Day, 2026. Among the 44 brave Armed Forces personnel honoured with the Sena Medal (Gallantry) this year, Mr Bellai stands as the sole awardee from Arunachal Pradesh.

Nang Sujata Jenow and Kusum Kumari Mishra, students of Government Higher Secondary School Chongkham, Class XII – Science, were invited as the Special Guests of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog at the 77th Republic Day Celebration at Kartavya Path, New Delhi. Their innovative project on Plastic Management emerged as an exceptional performance at the School Innovation Marathon, showcasing the brilliance, creativity, and environmental consciousness of Arunachal's young minds.

The Deputy Commissioner, Tawang, Namgyal Angmo inaugurated a three-day AI Explorer Programme at the Computer Lab of Government Higher Secondary School, Tawang. The programme will be conducted by expert resource persons from Delhi-based Rancho Labs, who will provide hands-on AI training to 40 students from Government Town Secondary School and Government Higher Secondary School, Tawang. Yesterday, in her Republic Day address, the Deputy Commissioner began her speech in the Monpa dialect, which received warm applause from the gathered public.

In Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Rifles Company Operating Base (COB) came under fire from armed insurgents in Changlang district on 26 January, triggering a fierce exchange of fire. According to sources, the COB located at Ranglum village in Changlang district was fired upon from multiple directions. The remote border village lies close to the India-Myanmar border, near international border pillar number 168. Assam Rifles troops retaliated effectively, and the counter-insurgency operation is still underway, no injuries or fatalities have been reported so far from either side. Additional forces have been deployed in and around the area.

The new Abbot of Tawang Gaden Namgyal Lhatse Monastery, Venerable Phara Damey Tulku Shungrap Rinpoche, was formally enthroned to the sacred seat of Abbot. On the occasion, DC Tawang Namgyal Angmo, Vice Chairperson DoKAA Sange Chhodup and, Padmashree awardee Lama Thupten Phuntso along with officers of the district administration, monks, and members of the general public, offered Tendrel (felicitation) to the new Abbot.

The Arunachal Frontier Tribal Front briefed the media on its demand to scrap the 80:20 policy and make Scheduled Tribe and Permanent Resident Certificate mandatory in examinations conducted by the APPSC and APSSB. AFTF Chairman Tadak Nalo said the demands are aimed at safeguarding the rights and interests of indigenous tribal communities of Arunachal Pradesh. He stressed that recruitment policies must ensure fair representation. In this connection, the AFTF announced the launch of a Signature Campaign and Awareness Programme to mobilise public support. The programme will be held at the Tennis Court, Itanagar, on 28th January 2026.

A Cycle Expedition-2026 was organised at Pasighat, East Siang, under the leadership Commandant Dharmendra Kumar Singh, 186 Bn CRPF. SP Pankaj Lamba flagged it off from Gumin Nagar on the unit's 20th Raising Day. CRPF personnel, students & citizens joined. The event aimed at strengthening CRPF-public trust and promote fitness. Officers highlighted CRPF's readiness, discipline and public safety role. Schoolchildren were urged to follow these values for nation-building.

The 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav, International Theatre Festival of India 2026 is going to be organised at Itanagar from 30 January to 3 February, 2026. The Department of Art and Culture, Government of Arunachal Pradesh in collaboration with the National School of Drama, New Delhi is hosting the Mohotsav. This silver jubilee edition at Itanagar will

feature a total of five major plays, including a special showcase of three indigenous. The festival will begin with a grand inaugural at the D.K. Hall, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 30 January. The festival will shift to the D.K. Convention Centre, Itanagar, from 31 January.