

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating its 40th Statehood Day, today. On February 20, 1987, Arunachal became the 24th state of India. Till early 70's, it was known as the North-East Frontier Agency. It gained the Union Territory status on January 20, 1972 and was renamed as Arunachal Pradesh. The Day was celebrated at Indira Gandhi Park, Itanagar. State Governor Lt General (Retd.) KT Parnaik, Chief Minister Pema Khandu and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. The Governor called upon the people of the State to reaffirm their commitment to preserving Arunachal's rich culture and heritage, safeguarding the environment, ensuring equal opportunities for youth and women, and eliminating corruption and opacity in public life. He emphasized that a 'Developed Arunachal' must be an integral part of a 'Developed India'. The day was also celebrated in Lok Bhawan of Jammu and Kashmir.

Joining the rest of Arunachal Pradesh, the 40th Statehood Day was celebrated at Aalo. West Siang Deputy Commissioner Mindo Loyi hoisted the National flag. In his speech, the DC narrated the evolution of Arunachal Pradesh as a state. He said that Aalo and the entire West Siang district has improved in all sectors including health, and road connectivity. The DC appealed to the public of West Siang to cooperate for overall development of the district. He discouraged drugs and anti-social elements. The day was celebrated with colorful Mega dance, and various cultural programmes.

Meanwhile, President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah today extended warm greetings to the people of Arunachal Pradesh on their Statehood Day. VP Radhakrishnan said that Arunachal truly reflects the spirit of harmony between nature and culture. PM Modi said that blessed with majestic landscapes and an extraordinary cultural diversity, Arunachal stands as a shining example of harmony between tradition and nature. He also said that the state's spirited and industrious citizens play a vital role in strengthening the nation's progress.

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt General (Retd) KT Parnaik conferred the State Gold and Silver Medals on distinguished individuals and organizations in recognition of their outstanding service to the State, at Lok Bhavan, Itanagar today. The State Gold Medal was awarded to Havildar & Honorary Naib Subedar Lekhi Passang (Retd) of the 2nd Battalion, Arunachal Scouts, Whistle-blower Late Gyamar Padang of the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission, and the Women Police Station, Pasighat. The State Silver medals were given to 14 individuals and two organizations- Deepsikha Trust, NGO, Navi Mumbai and Mountain Dwellers, SHG, Lileng Village, Boleng, Siang District. The Governor also presented the Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration.

An Integrated Mega Health Camp is going to be held on 22nd February at Pongchau in Longding district. It is being organised by the District Administration of Longding, in collaboration with the Department of Health & Family Welfare, District Health Society and partner organizations. Key highlights of the Health camp are - Specialist Services, Awareness Programs, Free Medicines & Lab Tests, Referral Services, Free Power Glass Distribution and Eye Screening, including others.

The 12th edition of the Ashtalakshmi Darshan: Youth Exchange Programme was inaugurated at Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills today. Two faculty mentors and 20 student delegates from both Jharkhand and Pondicherry are participating in the event. The programme is an initiative supported by the North Eastern Council under the Ministry of DoNER. It aims to strengthen cultural exchange, youth engagement, and mutual understanding among students and faculty from different regions of the country.

Under the initiative of Khelo India Tribal Games 2026, the Phase-II of the Football championship for men and women began today at Itanagar. Arunachal Pradesh is hosting the championship in two different venues - at Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium, Yupia for men's and Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Naharlagun for the women's. A total of 7 teams from the Northeast are taking part. The winners of the championship will progress to the final round, which will be played at Jharkhand.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will organize the Him-CONNECT from February 25-27, under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies, alongside the World Sustainable Development Summit 2026 in New Delhi. Waste-to-Wealth Value Chain Creation through Waste Pruned Tea Residues developed by NIT Arunachal Pradesh will be among the key innovations featured at Him-CONNECT. The initiative demonstrates the production of biomass pellet-based fuel and herbal by-products from residues of pruned tea plants, addressing both waste management and rural energy needs. The event will feature 24 innovators from premier institutions.

That's all, in this News Bulletin, Namaskar