

## **REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR**

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said, the situation in West Asia has created challenging times as the region is a key hub for India's energy needs. Addressing the nation in his Mann Ki Baat programme on Akashvani, Mr Modi expressed confidence that the nation will overcome the challenge as it did during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the Gulf nations for providing all kind of assistance to over one crore Indian diaspora during this time. He urged people not to be misled by rumours and trust the information given by the government. The Prime Minister praised the role of MY Bharat in engaging youth in nation-building. Further, the Prime Minister said with the onset of summer in several parts of the country, it is time to renew commitment to water conservation. The Prime Minister also highlighted mass participation in environmental efforts, noting that over 2.51 lakh saplings were planted at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh in one hour, creating a Guinness World Record.

Bhuvan Sareen, Assistant Director and Zonal Head (East India), and Kshird Kumar Saikia, Territory Head, Permanent Outreach Centre, Guwahati, of Lovely Professional University, Punjab, called on the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt General (Retd.) KT Parnaik, today. They briefed the Governor on the University's outreach initiatives. The Governor, who is the Chief Rector of RGU, underscored the value of inter-university exchanges to promote mutual understanding, unity in diversity, and a strong sense of national identity, along with global exposure. The Governor further advised joint exploring linkages with incubators, innovation hubs, and entrepreneurs to nurture job creators.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Pema Khandu, on Saturday emphasised the state's vast natural and resource potential, reiterating the state government's commitment to converting these assets into sustainable revenue through well-defined policies. Officials from the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, who accompanied the Chief Minister, said the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project is expected to generate 2,000 MW of power by December 2026, making it the largest hydroelectric project in the country. In a significant initiative highlighting both development and tourism potential, the Chief Minister, along with his state Cabinet, undertook a high-speed river journey covering around 45 km along the Subansiri river -- from the project site to the Sibe-Rite confluence.

In the Under-23 Tri-Nation Football Championship 2026, India has booked their place in the final, by beating Bhutan by 5 nil at the Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday. Further, India and Tajikistan will battle it out to win the Championship in the finals on 31st March at 7pm.

On the fourth day of the first Khelo India Tribal Games weightlifting men's section, Ruba Tadu of Arunachal Pradesh won gold in the 88 kilogram category, and Lalu Taku, also from Arunachal Pradesh, clinched gold in the 94 kilogram category. In Football section, Arunachal Men's and Women's Teams have reached the semi-finals, with one group match still remaining. In Medals tally, Arunachal is at fourth position with four gold medals. More than three thousand athletes from 30 states and Union Territories are participating in seven disciplines.

The Deomali Forest Division successfully rescued a stranded Himalayan black bear cub, estimated to be approximately one month old, from Borduria village under the Deomali subdivision, Namsai District, on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Ponpong Ruttum reported to the department and Wanghon lettey who found the cub informed the Forest Department. The cub was subsequently handed over yesterday, to Dr. Panjit Basumatary, Veterinarian, Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation, Pakke Tiger Reserve, for further care, treatment, and rehabilitation in the presence of forest officials of Namsai Forest Division at Namsai.

Khonsa Battalion of Assam Rifles organised a civic outreach programme for distribution of solar lights under the Assam Rifles Civic Action Programme on Saturday at Old Paniduria Village, Tirap District, Arunachal Pradesh. The project locations were identified in coordination with village authorities to ensure that assistance reached the genuinely deserving sections of the community.

Palm Sunday is being celebrated in various parts of the country today marking the beginning of Holy Week and commemorating the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ to Jerusalem ahead of his crucifixion.

In Football, the Indian U20 men's team finished as Group B toppers after playing out a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh in their second match of the SAFF U20 Championship 2026 at the National Stadium in Male, yesterday. The result was enough for India to stay on top of the group, having

already secured qualification for the semi-finals following their 3-0 win over Pakistan. India will now face Bhutan in the semi-final on Wednesday.