

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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The Union Cabinet yesterday approved the Small Hydro Power Development Scheme for the period of 2026-27 to 2030-31 with an outlay of more than 2,584 crore for the installation of Small Hydro Power Projects of an approximate capacity of 1500 MW. This is likely to bring in 15,000 crore rupees of investment in the small hydro sector, giving a boost to the clean energy initiative and investment in remote and rural areas and creating significant employment opportunities. In a social media post, Chief Minister Pema Khandu lauded the move and said this is a big boost for the North East, especially Arunachal Pradesh, where rivers hold immense untapped potential. The enhanced financial support for hilly and border areas will help unlock clean, decentralized energy in remote regions.

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt General (Retd.) KT Parnaik, and Chief Minister Pema Khandu have condoled the demise of Talong Taggu, former Member of the Legislative Assembly of Liromoba-Rumgong. He stated that with the passing of Shri Taggu, who was elected to the Second Legislative Assembly, the State has lost one of its first-generation political leaders who contributed to shaping the early democratic foundations of Arunachal Pradesh.

Tingong Wangpan from Longding District won the Gold Medal in the Men's 100 metre T35 category, representing Arunachal Pradesh at the ongoing 24th Senior National Para Athletics Championship 2026, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Arunachal Pradesh Para Athletics Team departed for the Championships with a 22-members on 17 March. The event will continue till 21 March.

A specialized Medical and Surgical Outreach Programme began today at Todak Basar District Hospital, Lepa Rada district and will run till 21st March. Dr. Mohesh Chai, MLA Tezu -cum- Advisor to Minister of Health & Family Welfare, inaugurated the Mega Surgical Camp. It is an Initiative by MLA 29th Basar ST Assembly Constituency Nyabi Jini Dirchi, who had earlier urged the people of the constituency to take full advantage of this opportunity. The outreach programme is being organised in collaboration with District Health Society, Leparada, National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment, Naharlagun, Siang Health Mission. It is supported by August Women's Clinic & IVF Centre, Naharlagun, and

Aesculap-Einstein Vision. Specialist of Gynaecology, and eye will provide the services.

Indian football legend Sunil Chhetri will attend the inaugural ceremony of the Under-23 Tri-Nation Championship 2026 on March 25 at Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium in Yupia. Mr Chhetri will be visiting Arunachal Pradesh for the first time. He said it is a very special opportunity for him and he is really looking forward to experiencing the warmth, culture and incredible passion for football that the people of Arunachal are known for. The championship will feature three participating teams- India, Bhutan, and Tajikistan. The matches are scheduled to be played on 25th, 28th and 31st March 2026.

Vineet Longliju of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Tawang emerged as State Topper in the National Standard Examination in Biology 2025, ranking among the top 1 percent nationwide.

The District Labour and Employment Department successfully conducted an awareness programme on the Child Labour Act and the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act at Etalin, Dibang Valley district, yesterday. It aimed at promoting legal awareness and safeguarding the rights of vulnerable sections of society. Participants were encouraged to remain vigilant and promptly report any violations to the concerned authorities. The programme included interactive question-and-answer session, providing a platform for participants to seek clarifications and engage in meaningful dialogue.

Golden Jubilee Meritorious Students Award 2025 was conferred today by Deputy Commissioner Tawang, Namgyal Angmo, to the district toppers at a function held at Government Town Secondary School, Tawang. The event, was organized by the Education Department, Tawang. The Golden Jubilee Meritorious Students Award initiative was launched by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh in 2023 to promote quality education and recognize academic excellence.

A one-day departmental seminar on "Arunachali Lok Sahitya" was organized today by the Department of Hindi, Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assessment Cell at the college premises. Chief Guest of the occasion, Dr. Gindu Borang, Principal of Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat, stressed the importance of preserving folk culture, which can contribute to shaping the modern education system. Resource Person Professor Oken Lego, Dean of

Languages, Rajiv Gandhi University, in his address, elaborated on the folk literature of Arunachal Pradesh and explained its historical significance, stating that Lok Sahitya forms the basic structure of social formation.

Global crude oil prices rose today as Iran attacked energy facilities across West Asia in retaliation for Israel's strike on its South Pars gas field. Brent crude was trading over 5.2 per cent higher at 113 US dollars and 16 cents per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate crude was trading 0.6 per cent up at 97 US dollars and 12 cents per barrel, when reports last came in.